



## Pahalgam Attack Fallout: LA Special Session

# Pahalgam terror attack was not done for us but done against us: J&K CM addresses special Assembly session

Says, 'Not In My Name': Every Kashmiri rejected terrorism out rightly: CM

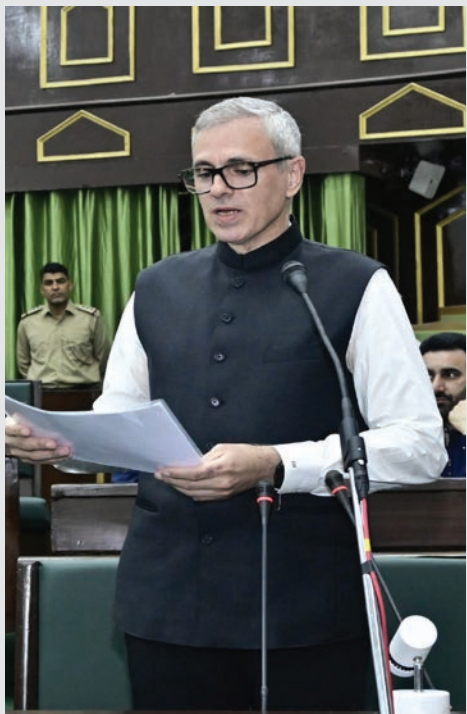
■ HT News Network/ (UNI)

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today delivered an emotional and powerful address, expressing profound grief, condemning terrorism and calling for unity and resilience in wake of killing of 26 civilians in Pahalgam terror attack.

The Chief Minister was speaking during a special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened after the tragic Pahalgam terrorist attack that claimed 26 innocent lives.

Beginning his speech, the Chief Minister reflected on the painful circumstances that brought the House together. "It is hard to believe that just a few days ago, we were engaged in vibrant debates in this very House — over the Budget and many other important matters. We had hoped that we would meet again in normal conditions. None of us could have imagined that we would be meeting in such tragic and painful circumstances," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for convening the special session and emphasized the significance of the Assembly to understand



the gravity of this tragic loss of innocents. "No other Parliament or Assembly can understand the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Have Faith In PM Modi, Pahalgam Terror Attack Will Be Avenged: LoP In J&K Assembly

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR

28: Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Monday asked the people to have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asserting that he will not remain silent and the Pahalgam terror attack will be avenged.

Speaking on a resolution passed in the J-K Assembly here to condemn the terror strike, the BJP leader paid homage to



TURN ON.....PAGE 02



### Nothing achieved, nothing will be achieved by terrorism: Dy CM

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday stated that neighbouring country has gained nothing from decades of violence in Jammu and Kashmir and will continue to fall in its designs.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Choudhary, as

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### J&K Legislative Assembly unanimously passes resolution condemning Pahalgam attack

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution condemning the recent heinous terrorist attack at Baisaran Pahalgam.

The resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, was

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Govt bans 16 Pakistani YouTube channels

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28 (UNI) The government has banned 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for disseminating provocative, false and misleading content against India, government sources said on Monday.

The decision to ban the Pakistani channels was taken after the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The Pakistani channels were disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Pahalgam Attack: Rajnath Singh Briefs PM Modi On Security Situation

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, APRIL 28, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the residence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He went to provide an update on security readiness after the Pahalgam attack. This comes just a day after he met Chief of Defense, Anil Chauhan.

On April 27, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi. This was to address critical military strategies concerning the Pahalgam incident.



Additionally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed his commitment to impose the harshest penalties on terrorists and their supporters, assuring the families of the victims that justice will pre-

vail. During the 121st episode of his radio show 'Mann Ki Baat', he highlighted the remarkable growth in Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, particularly in tourism and youth opportunities, Jammu and Kashmir has grown a lot. He stated that the Pahalgam attack was a desperate effort by adversaries to hinder the region's development.

The attack on April 22 resulted in the deaths of at least 26 individuals, primarily tourists. This marked it as the deadliest incident in the Valley since the revocation

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Not Balakote, nation wants beyond, says Dr Farooq on Pahalgam attack

'Will never accept two-nation theory'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 28: National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday said that they are never going to accept the two-nation theory and that the nation wants an action beyond Balakot that will end Pahalgam like incidents forever.

Talking to the reporters here, Abdullah, as per the news agency—, said that they regret that the neighbour doesn't understand that it has murdered humanity. "We will never go with Paki-



stan in 1947. If they think that we will go with them by doing such actions then they have misun

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Congress backs anti-terror measures

G A Mir calls for national unity, protection of J&K residents

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 28: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Monday said they were fully supportive of the central government's anti-terror efforts in the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed over two dozen lives last week.

Mir, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while



addressing the special session of the Legislative Assembly called in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror

attack, condemned the attack in the strongest words and called for unity across political, regional and religious lines to defeat the divisive agenda of terrorism.

Stressing that the tragedy must not be politicised, Mir said, "Today, there is no election. We have to respond in one voice, beyond any party interest."

The Congress leader lauded the government's

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Declare officially Pahalgam victims as Martyrs: Parra to Govt

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 28: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and MLA Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rahman Parra Monday pitched for the Pahalgam victims to be accorded the status of martyrs.

Parra, as per the news agency—Correspondent, described the attack as not just an act of terrorism but a "communal act" specifically targeting a particular community. "This was not just a terrorist act but a communal act — a particular community was

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Terrorists have no religion, Kashmiri Muslims have faced brunt of terrorism: Tarigami

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 28 Member of Legislative (MLA) Kulgam, Muhammad Yusuf Tarigami Monday said that the terrorism has no religion and Muslims in Kashmir have borne the brunt of terrorism for a long time. He also criticized the government for bulldozing the houses of people, whose family members have



joined the terrorists. In his speech during the special Assembly session today, the Kulgam legisla-

tor, as per the news agency—said that they had not even thought to meet again in the House so soon to mourn the loss of innocent lives in Pahalgam.

Terming the killings unfortunate and brutal, the CPI (M) leader said that the terrorists have thrust an agenda of dividing the people with an attack. "Hundreds of people have

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Pahalgam Carnage Triggers Social Stigmatization of Violence in Kashmir for the First Time: Sajad Lone

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Peoples Conference chairman and MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone said the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 25 tourists and a local, had sparked a historic awakening against violence in Kashmir, ending what he called the "social sanctity" that violence once held in the Valley.

"In the past 35 years, we have not witnessed an incident like the one that happened in Pahalgam. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) correspondent, Lone stated in his speech, "Someone from outside came and martyred them on our land. They

were tourists who came to enjoy the beauty of Kashmir, who stayed in our hotels, and who travelled with our taxi drivers," Lone as per the KNO correspondent said while speaking during the special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly here on Monday.

Calling it a watershed moment, Lone said that while Kashmir had witnessed bloodshed for decades, the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack was different. "It was not just a street, not a lane, not a city, not a village where people did not come out in anger and go against this violence. This has never happened in the last 78 years. This happened for the first time," he said.



He hailed the families of the victims for preventing an eruption of hatred.

"The fire that could have been lit, they [families of victims] put it out and created an atmosphere of love. In the whole of India, the face of that Kashmiri was seen — the Kashmiri who gave his life to save a tourist," Lone said, recalling accounts of locals carrying injured tourists on their shoulders for over an hour through jungles to get them medical help.

Expressing his deep gratitude, Lone added, "We should be thankful to their relatives. After such a big loss, they demonstrated humanity when others might have turned to anger."

The PC chairman also made a request

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Pakistan violates LoC ceasefire for fourth consecutive night

■ HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, APR 28: S (UNI) Pakistan Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir's Kupwara and Jammu's Poonch sectors for the fourth consecutive night, the Army said.

The Indian Army said that they responded swiftly and effectively to the firing.

"During the night of 27-28 April 2025, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across LoC in areas opposite Kupwara & Poonch districts. Indian troops responded swiftly and effectively," Army said.

Ever since the Pahalgam terror attack, the Pakistan Army has violated the ceasefire agreement across the LoC in Kashmir for the last four days, but Sunday night was the first time that violations took place in the Poonch sector.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### CM

pain of these 26 innocent lives lost, as much as this House does," he stated.

Reflecting on the personal losses among legislators themselves, the Chief Minister recalled the sacrifices of members like Shagun Parihar, Sakina Itoo and Sajad Lone, and the horrors of the October 1, 2001, Assembly attack. He asserted that perhaps no Assembly can understand this grief better than theirs.

On behalf of the House, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the terrorist attack and expressed solidarity with the victims' families. "This was not just an attack on people from one state — it was an attack on the very soul of India," he declared.

He highlighted that the victims hailed from across India, from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat, from Kerala to Jammu and Kashmir, symbolizing a national tragedy.

Omar Abdullah lamented that despite hopes that terrorism was a chapter of the past, the brutal attack marked the tragic return of terror involving death of so many civilians after 22 years. Remembering his own presence at the police control room to pay last respects, he spoke of the profound helplessness he felt facing the bereaved families. "What apology would ever suffice?" he asked.

The Chief Minister acknowledged that although security responsibilities no longer rested with the elected government, he, as Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, bore responsibility for having invited the visitors and ensuring their safe return — a responsibility he felt he had failed to uphold.

Narrating the heart-wrenching words of a newly wed young woman who had lost her husband in the attack, the Chief Minister underscored the senselessness of the violence. "But who amongst us can ask for such violence? No one in this House or outside it, would ask for blood to be spilled ? No!" he stated emphatically.

Despite the deep wound inflicted by the attack, the Chief Minister identified a glimmer of hope: the spontaneous, widespread public condemnation of the attack across Jammu and Kashmir. From Kathua to Kupwara, ordinary citizens raised banners and placards reading "Not In My Name," distancing themselves from terrorism without any political prompting.

"This attack was not done for us — it was done against us," he stressed, adding that true and lasting peace would only be achieved when the people stand firmly with the forces of peace and governance.

He cited a significant moment of mourning at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, where a two-minute silence was observed after Friday prayers — an act that, he said, carried profound meaning for every Kashmiri.

The Chief Minister also narrated stirring examples of humanity shown by ordinary Kashmiris like a ponywala risking his life to save tourists, a humble fruit seller on Dal Lake offering free meals to stranded visitors despite meagre earnings and taxi drivers, hoteliers, and boatmen opening their hearts and homes to guests.

These acts, he said, represented the true spirit of Kashmiri hospitality, even in the darkest of times.

Acknowledging the support extended by various state governments to Kashmiri students and residents outside J&K in view of harassment to them in the aftermath of Pahalgalam attack, the Chief Minister announced efforts to strengthen response mechanism for quick response during emergencies in future so that Government acts immediately to ensure safety and security of students and others caught up in difficult situations. However, he warned sternly against the spread of false and fake information through news, noting that while most information shared is true, even a small percentage of misinformation can cause significant harm. "We will not tolerate it," he asserted firmly.

Reiterating that security responsibilities in Jammu and Kashmir are not under the elected government, Omar Abdullah made it clear that he would not use the tragedy for political advantage. "I have too much respect for the sanctity of these 26 lives to indulge in petty politics. I will not exploit their martyrdom to raise demands for statehood or any other political gain today," he declared.

He assured the Assembly that discussions around governance, rights, and aspirations would take place at an appropriate time, but today was a day solely for grief, solidarity and resolve.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister called upon all Members to pass a unanimous resolution condemning the barbaric attack and expressing solidarity with the bereaved families.

The House later unanimously passed a resolution condemning the inhuman terror attack on tourists at Pahalgalam.

The names of 26 persons who lost their lives were read out and made part of the obituary reference made by the Speaker.

### LDP

the 26 people, mostly tourists, killed in

the April 22 incident and lauded the people for "frustrating terror conspirators" who wished to divide the nation on communal lines.

"Though it took us 36 years to unite against terror, it also brought us on the same page with the nation. The conspiracy was also to divide us, but we made it clear that no conspiracy can divide us," he said.

"We should have full faith in our Prime Minister who is running a government which has a strong will and has demonstrated it time and again..."

"We must be rest assured that that 26 lives snatched from us will be avenged. The person who had made India proud is not the one who can stay silent," the LoP said.

Sharma said the entire humanity has been shattered by this inhuman act and the whole country is in grief and shock.

He appreciated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his outreach in the aftermath of the attack and said the all-party meeting convened by him sent a strong message that "we are standing united in this hour of grief".

"A united voice in this difficult time is necessary to make these nefarious designs of terrorists unsuccessful," he said, adding no words can compensate for the loss of victim families but the House wants to convey to the nation that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are badly hurt by this incident and share their sympathies with all the victim families from across the country.

He said the 90 elected legislators have a responsibility to ensure that no evil eye should harm the unity demonstrated by the people, irrespective of their religion.

Asking people to refrain from using language that can hit the morale of the security forces and the government, he said Pakistan fully understands that it can never win in a conventional war against India and is, therefore, plotting such conspiracies to disturb peace and incite polarisation. (Agencies)

### DYCM

per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that Pakistan must realise that it has gained nothing from its decades-long interference in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Words fall short to condemn the terror attack in Pahalgalam. We equally share the grief of the families who lost their loved ones. Our guests were killed, and it is a matter of deep sorrow for all of us," he said.

He said that even after more than 35 years of attempts to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has achieved nothing and will continue to fail in the future—(KNO)

No ifs or buts, we support Govt, says Karra

'Never spoke about dialogue with Pak' Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Apr 28 (KNO): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hamid Karra Monday said that he strongly condemned the idea of dialogue between India & Pakistan and added that the Congress party fully supports any action of the central government against Pakistan.

Speaking to media persons, he said that the Congress had condemned the issue in the strongest terms and that there were no ifs or buts in their stand.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he added that whatever Rahul Gandhi had stated was supported by the entire nation and the Congress stood firmly with the government.

Karra said that his remarks were being misinterpreted and that he had only reiterated what Rahul Gandhi had stated.

He added that wars had always brought devastation to both India and Pakistan and clarified that he had not spoken about dialogue.

He further said that the Congress party fully supports whatever action the Government of India considers appropriate and that they stand united on the issue—

### ASSAMBALLY

put to voice vote by Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather and subsequently passed unanimously.

The resolution read, "This House unequivocally condemns the heinous, cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. Such acts of terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values enshrined in our Constitution and the spirit of unity, peace and harmony that have long characterized Jammu & Kashmir and our Nation.

This House stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families. We extend our deepest condolences to those who have suffered irreparable loss and affirm our collective resolve to share in their grief and support them in their hour of need.

This House salutes the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who, while bravely attempting to save the tourists, laid down his life. His courage and selflessness embody the true spirit of Kashmir and shall serve as an enduring inspiration for future generations.

This House commends the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their extraordinary display of unity, compassion and resilience in the

aftermath of the attack. The peaceful demonstrations across the towns and villages and the spontaneous outpouring of moral and material support towards the tourists, reaffirm the people's steadfast commitment to peace, communal harmony and the rule of law. This House endorses the diplomatic measures announced by the Union Government on 23rd April 2025, after the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security.

This House is mindful of the sinister designs behind the selective targeting of the victims of this attack. It appeals to all the sections of the society and in particular the media to not fall victim to this sinister plot by irresponsibly inflaming passions. The need to remain united in the face of this attempted division cannot be overemphasized.

This House earnestly appeals to the Governments of all the States and Union Territories of India to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of Kashmiri students and citizens residing or traveling outside Jammu & Kashmir, taking necessary measures to prevent any incident of harassment, discrimination or intimidation.

This House calls upon all the political parties, religious and community leaders, youth organizations, civil society groups and media houses across the nation to maintain calm, reject violence and divisive rhetoric and work collectively to uphold peace, unity and constitutional values".

The resolution further read, "The Legislative Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens and resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir".

Speaking on the resolution, Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, while paying homage to the victims of Pahalgalam attack, said that J&K is a paradise on earth, where people come to spend joyful moments of their life. He said that entire humanity has been shattered by this inhuman act and the whole country is in grief and shock.

Sharma said that a united voice in this difficult time is necessary to make these nefarious designs of terrorists unsuccessful. He added that no words can compensate for the loss of victim families of this horrible tragedy but the House wants to convey to the nation that people of Jammu and Kashmir are badly hurt by this inhuman incident and share their sympathies with all the victim families from across the country. He also said that J&K people have given befitting reply to the terrorists by exhibiting brotherhood and unity while condemning this heinous act.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that J&K people are short of words to denounce this cowardly act. He added that Kashmiris are known for hospitality and communal harmony across the country and globe.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir, while condemning the attack, said that people from every walk of life and every corner of J&K showed that these kinds of acts are despicable. He added that we need to remain united in this difficult time and send a strong message across the world that we will not let these nefarious designs of terrorists succeed.

Sajad Gani Lone said that people from every area and section condemned this cowardly and brutal act. He added that acceptance of this kind of violence has been completely negated by the people of Kashmir valley.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said such a heinous act cannot be explained in words saying that terrorists have no religion.

Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo) strongly condemned the attack saying that Pahalgalam is known as one of the peaceful areas of Kashmir. He said that after 25 years such an incident has happened in Pahalgalam and words are less to condemn this brutal act. He added that people of Kashmir, especially Pahalgalam, need to be appreciated for providing selfless services and care to the injured tourists and others.

Muzaffar Iqbal Khan said no words are enough to condemn this cowardly act which has affected the whole humanity.

Waheed ur Rehman Parra said that this is a crime against humanity and not only a terrorist act. He added that people from all walks of Kashmir condemned it and showed that we are against terrorism through a series of peaceful rallies and candle light marches. He also sought martyr status for the victims of Pahalgalam attack.

Shabir Ahmad Kullay also condemned this inhuman act in strongest words and paid glowing tributes to the victims of Pahalgalam attack.

Sheikh Khursheed, while paying homage to the victims, said that memorials for victims should be established in Pahalgalam. He requested all the MLAs to contribute for this memorial out of their salaries.

Mehraj Malik also condemned the gruesome attack and said that we need to be united and not let just four persons disturb the social fabric of our country.

The house was later adjourned sine die by the Speaker. Rupees to the family of Syed Adil Hussain, who lost his life in the Pahalgalam terrorist attack while trying to save the lives of tourists. According to News Service, Associated.

### RAJNATH

of Article 370 in 2019.

"During the night of April 27-28, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara and Poonch districts," said the Indian Army in a statement, also adding that they had responded "swiftly and effectively".

In the meantime, on Monday, China called upon India and Pakistan to demonstrate restraint. This is following reports from New Delhi's military indicating that troops from both nations engaged in gunfire. This happened in the contested region of Kashmir for the fourth consecutive night.

"China hopes that the two sides will exercise restraint, meet each other halfway," properly handle relevant differences through dialogue and consultation and jointly maintain regional peace and stability," said China's foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun

### YOUTUBE

Army and security agencies in the backdrop of the tragic Pahalgalam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.

Among the banned YouTube channels are Dawn News, Samaa TV, Ary News, Geo News, BOLNEWS, Umar Cheema Exclusive and Uzair Cricket.

It may be mentioned that 26 tourists were killed in a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam on April 22.

### DR FAROOQ

derstood. We didn't go with Pakistan by throwing the two-nation theory into the water. We are not going to accept the two-nation theory," he said, adding that the Hindu, Muslim, Sikhs are one and will give them a befitting reply.

Also, he rejected the dialogue with Pakistan, saying that how will we reply to those who lost their family members in the attack.

The NC President further added that not Balakote as the nation this time wants a reply, which will put an end to these attacks—

### MIR

initial steps taken after the attack, including the convening of an all-party meeting.

He said that the Congress Party was committed to supporting all efforts aimed at restoring peace and ensuring security for citizens. "The entire country stands united with the government. There is no place for politics in this moment of grief and determination," Mir said.

However, Mir also flagged concerns regarding security lapses.

Mir also criticised the aftermath of the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, questioning the effectiveness of the steps taken post-reorganisation in curbing militancy. "Seven years have passed, but incidents continue," he said.

Mir, in his address, also appealed for the protection of Jammu and Kashmir residents living across the country, stating that innocent Kashmiris should not face discrimination or hostility in the aftermath of the attack.

He urged both the Centre and state governments to ensure the safety of Kashmiris studying, working, and living in different parts of India. "Our people should be seen with the same trust and humanity that the locals in Pahalgalam showed during the attack, carrying the injured, providing shelter, and standing tall in the face of adversity," Mir added.

Praising the local people and hoteliers of Pahalgalam for their humanity and bravery, Mir noted how they carried injured tourists to safety without any hesitation.

Mir said that the 'terrorists' real agenda was not just physical destruction but to sow communal hatred between Hindus and Muslims.

"We must send a strong message from this house that India will not be divided. Jammu and Kashmir will not bow to terror," he said. He also questioned the security 'lapses', stating that Pahalgalam was being considered a highly secure zone, especially during the Amarnath Yatra season. "Where did the terrorists come from? Who supported them? Why were precautionary measures lacking," he asked. Appealing to the media, Mir, during his address, also cautioned against sensationalism that could vitiate the national atmosphere. "Media must act responsibly. Amplifying the terrorist agenda by giving communal colour to the tragedy will only serve the enemies of peace," he said—

### PARRA

targeted. I urge the government to officially recognize the victims as martyrs," Parra said in his address.

"The 'Resolution of the People of Kashmir' — from every corner of Kashmir, the voice that perhaps for the first time in six months we are hearing in this House whenever we have convened — we fought. One thing that has united us today is, somewhere, the sacrifices of Pahalgalam or the martyrdoms of Pahalgalam," Parra said while speaking during

the special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly convened to condemn the Pahalgalam killings that claimed 26 civilian lives on April 22.

The PDP leader stressed that Kashmir was, for the first time in decades, mourning alongside the rest of India. "Whether it was Pulwama, the Mumbai attack, or Kargil — never during the 30 years of violence did Kashmiris and the rest of the country mourn together. But today, for the first time, Kashmir is mourning alongside the entire nation," Parra said.

Citing instances of solidarity across Kashmir, he said, "Whether you heard the voice of the Mirwaiz at the Jama Masjid — he supports this resolution; whether in Lal Chowk, where Mehbooba Mufti held the first protest — she supports this resolution. Omar Sahib [Abdullah] held an all-party meeting — the aim of that was to show that we stand with the nation."

Parra also acknowledged the remarks made by BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma. "Sunil Sharma Sahib said that the response of Kashmiris is being acknowledged across the country. Every nation faces trials. A nation's mettle is not tested in victory or joy. Every nation's testing times come during crises, and perhaps for this country, Pahalgalam was a great test. Today, the entire country — India — was being tested, and the patience shown by Hindus across India needs to be acknowledged," Parra said.

He praised the restraint shown by communities across the country in the face of provocation. "The response of Kashmiri Muslims — they said, and because there were civilian casualties and the attack was not on armed forces but on ordinary bathing people — I would say, Sir, that perhaps a nation's real test is how it deals with a crisis. And during this crisis, the entire country behaved in a way that made us feel we were acting as a nation, trying to behave with patience so that those who carried out this attack — whose aim was to provoke riots, Hindu-Muslim tensions — could not succeed."

Parra reiterated his demand that those who lost their lives in the Pahalgalam attack be recognized as martyrs and urged authorities to address the hardships faced by the local population. "I again request all honorable members that those who died in Pahalgalam should be given the status of martyrs, and also, with regard to the hardships faced in Kashmir — as many people's homes were destroyed — that should also be acknowledged that alienation increases due to such actions. When you talk about ending terrorism, you have killed terrorists for 30 years, but every time, every year, you still have to do it again. You kill a terrorist, you do not end terrorism. The only time when there is action against terrorism is this moment when people of Kashmir have rejected terrorism," Parra said—

### SAJAD LONE

to the House: "We have not written their names in the resolution. Otherwise, it becomes just a statistic. When the name

### TARIGAMI

been killed so far, many massacres have taken place. Let me ask which sect and religion they belonged to. Muslims in large number have been killed. Former speaker Wali Muhammad Yatoo, many political leaders have been killed so far, even my father-in-law was killed. This is the issue of every single home," he said.

He added that the terrorism has no religion, saying that many Muslim clerics including Mirwaiz Farooq, Qazi Nisar and others have been killed as well. "The sole aim and religion of the terrorists is to spread terror. They have nothing to do with any religion," Tarigami said.

Tarigami also criticized some media houses for giving it a colour of Hindu-Muslim.

"We need to introspect from top to bottom to see the gap somewhere which led to the Pahalgalam incident," he said.

Furthermore, the Kulgam legislator said that the real victims are people of Jammu and Kashmir, they should not be alienated. He added that the people need to be taken on board to fight against the terrorism and eliminate it.

He also said that though the session has been called, those who have the security apparatus in their hands should have been also called so that they could have been questioned over the incident.

Tarigami said that the security and safety of students from J&K presently studying outside stands the responsibility of every single individual. However, he said that "if we fail to do so, then the terrorists will succeed in their mission."

Meanwhile, Tarigami reacting to the demolition of the houses in Kashmir, said that the people who have been claiming in the parliament and other places that the ecosystem of terrorism has completely collapsed now, then how has it revived. "The answer needs to be given in this regard."

He said that the right to shelter is everyone's right and if a son is guilty or a father is guilty, the family cannot be blamed for his wrong doings. "Several houses have been bulldozed; their neighbours have also faced damage.





# Pahalgam Attack: Passenger traffic at Srinagr airport records sharp decline

Tour operators report mass booking cancellations; Authorities ramp up security at tourist hotspots

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 28 (: Passenger traffic at Srinagar International Airport has witnessed a steep decline following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Anantnag. According to data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the number of passengers travelling through Srinagar Airport fell noticeably over the past few days, beginning April 23, soon after the Pahalgam attack. It says, on April 23, a total of 17,653 passengers travelled through the airport across 112 flights with 6,561 arrivals and 11,092 departures. However, from the very next day, the numbers started dropping. On April 24, the airport handled 15,836 passengers on 118 flights including 4,456 arrivals and 11,380 departures. The downward trend continued on April 25, with 14,041 passengers travelling on 100 scheduled flights, in addition to a few additional flights that carried minimal numbers—24 arrivals and 794 departures on four extra flights. Similarly, on April 26, Srinagar Airport witnessed 14,783



passengers travelling through 106 scheduled flights, with an additional three flights carrying 28 arriving and 351 departing passengers.

Airport officials told KNO that while flight operations have remained largely unaffected in terms of the number of flights, the load factor (passenger occupancy) has

fallen. "The fear triggered by the attack has led to a dip in tourist arrivals, affecting the overall air traffic," an official said. He said that the security situation continues to be monitored closely and that all flights are operating normally, but the immediate aftermath of the attack has definitely impacted air travel demand. Meanwhile, travel industry stakeholders, especially those associated with tourism, said they are worried about the declining footfall and its potential impact on Kashmir's tourism season. "April to June is our prime season. Such incidents severely dent the confidence of tourists. The dip in air traffic is already reflecting this," said a travel operator in Srinagar, adding that most of the bookings have been cancelled. Meanwhile, the authorities have assured enhanced security measures in and around tourist hotspots to ensure the safety of visitors. Notably, the attack in Pahalgam claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists and was widely condemned. Security has since been heightened across South Kashmir and other tourist areas—(KNO)

## PIL Filed in Supreme Court Over Pahalgam Terror Attack.

HT News Network

New Delhi, India – A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under the title Fatesh Kumar Sahu & Ors. vs. Union of India & Others, in response to the recent terrorist attack on tourists in the Pahalgam area of Jammu & Kashmir. The petition has been moved by advocates from Jus Front Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi, represented through arguing counsels Advocate J. M. Junaid and Fatesh Kumar Sahu, and filed through AOR Krishna Kumar Gupta. The PIL raises grave concerns regarding the failure of state and central authorities to ensure adequate security for tourists in sensitive regions, despite prior intelligence warnings. The petition urges the Hon'ble Supreme Court to undertake a thorough investigation into these security failures and issue the following directions: Protection of Tourists- Recommend stringent security measures to safeguard tourists and hold authorities accountable for lapses. Compensation for Victims- Direct authorities to provide adequate compensation to victims' families and enforce existing Supreme Court judgments on yatra and tourist protection. Media Responsibility- Address concerns regarding certain press reports that may disrupt communal harmony, urging immediate judicial intervention to uphold unity and integrity. Student Safety- Establish safeguards for the students belonging to the UT of J&K who are studying outside the UT. Further, it seeks directions upon the Union Government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the attack and fix accountability in a time bound manner amongst other things.

## Life returning to normal in Pahalgam; tourists start visiting, say locals, hoteliers

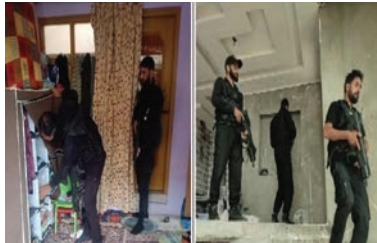
HT News Network

Pahalgam, Apr 28 (: Approximately one week after the tragic killing of 26 people, life in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district is beginning to return to normal. Local residents informed the news agency—that despite the shocking incident, tourists continue to visit Pahalgam, albeit in smaller numbers. Locals initially feared it would take a lot of time to restore tourism, but they are encouraged by the steady flow of visitors. Zakir Ahmad, a hotelier in the area, said that while many bookings were cancelled following the attack, fresh reservations have started to emerge. "Last night, out of my 12 rooms, six were occupied, and for tonight, five rooms are already booked. We expect these numbers to increase in the coming days," he said. Shakeel Ahmad, another hotelier, said Pahalgam was nearly empty for about four to five days, but a noticeable increase in tourists is now underway. "Although there is still grief among the locals, the return of tourists is promising, and we anticipate a peak in visitor numbers soon," he added. Residents are encouraging tourists to continue visiting Pahalgam to show that they remain undeterred by recent events. They said Kashmir, known for its hospitality, will continue to welcome guests warmly—

## Srinagar Police conduct searches at residences of terrorist aides

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 28 In its continuing persistent action against terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police on Monday continued searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terror-supporting infrastructure in the district. Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences of Javid Ahmad Najar son of Gh Qadir Najar resident of Zaibakadal involved in case FIR No. 210/1999 U/S 7/27 IA Act of PS M.R.Gunj, Srinagar, 86/2006 U/S 147,341 RPC of PS Kothibagh, 07/2007 U/S 13 ULAP of PS Safakadal, 04/2007 U/s 307 RPC, 7/27 IAA of PS Nigeen, 32/2007 U/S 302 RPC, 7/27 IAA of PS Soura, 73/2019 U/s 148,149,152,336,427,307 RPC, 13 ULAP of PS Soura, 35/2023 U/S 353, 332,506 IPC of PS M R Gunj, Adil Ahmad Sofi son of Mohammad Ayoub Sofi resident of Rathpora Eidgah involved in case FIR No. 11/2024 U/S



13,39 ULAP Act of PS M.R.Gunj, Shabir Ahmad Ganie son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din resident of Ganai Mohalla New Theed involved in case FIR No. 24/2019 U/S 18, 20 UA(P) Act of PS Harwan, Sheikh Faisal Rashid son of Abdul Rashid Sheikh resident of Firdous Colony Sadipora involved in case FIR No. 08/2023 U/S 307, 427, IPC 7/27 IA Act, 13, 16 ULAP Act of PS Sangam Srinagar, Momin Javari Gori son of Javid Ahad Gori resident of Shalimar Colony Sadipora involved in case FIR No. 08/2023 U/S 307, 427 IPC 7/27 IA Act of PS Sangam, Rayees Ahmad Najar son of Mohd Yousaf Najar resident of Kalaldoori Naidkadal and Ehitsham Bilal son of Bilal Ahmad Sofi resident of Sumkishbal Khayar and Amir Sedeeq Najar son of Mohd Sedeeq resident of Kalaldoori Nidekadal both involved in

case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16,19,20,39 UAPS Act of PS Khanyar, Mubashir Rashid son of Ab Rashid Khosa resident of Jogilankar and Muzamil Khurshid son of Khursid Ahmad resident of Beroni Kathidar-waza and Mehnan Ah Khan S/o Meh-raj u din Khan R/o Syedpora Khawajapora both involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 20, 39 UAPA Act of PS Khanyar, Ashiq Hussain Bhat son of Abdul Rehman resident of Darbagh involved in case FIR No. 95/2021 U/S 307 IPC, 7/21 IA Act, 13,16, 18 UA(P) Act of PS Harwan, Farooq Ahmad Dar resident of Bhagwanpora involved in case FIR No. 11/2024 U/S 13, 39 ULAP Act of PS Safakadal, Burhan Ahmad Shah son of Reyaz Ahmad Shah resident of Zampakadal Srinagar involved in case FIR No. 156/2023 U/S 7/25 Arms Act 13, 23, 39 UAPA Act of PS Safakadal. The others include Altaf Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Abdullah Dar resident of Malikpora Barthana and Mohd Asif Nath S/o Mohd Younis resident of Malikpora, Barthana both involved in case FIR No. 127/2022 U/S 7/25 Arms Act, 13, 16, 18, 39, ULA(P) Act of PS Parimpora.

## Wildlife Deptt Kashmir warns against sale/purchase/ possession of Scheduled birds Guilty to be handed-over imprisonment, fine punishments

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: Wildlife Department Kashmir has warned against the sale, purchase, or possession of Scheduled birds, calling it a criminal offense under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. As per an official communication issued from the office of Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir, Srinagar it has been informed that any individual or bird vendor found engaging in such activities will be subject to legal action. As per Section 51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, any person who contravenes the provisions of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or with a fine up to Rs. 01 lakh, or both. If the offense involves a bird specified in Schedule I, the punishment shall be not less than three years and may extend to seven years, along with a fine of at least Rs. 25000. If the offense involves a bird specified in



Schedule II, the punishment shall extend up to three years, along with a fine of at least Rs. 25000. It has come to the notice of Wildlife authorities that some of the Birds listed under Schedule I & Schedule II are being traded by the vendors or possessed for bird keeping which is strictly prohibited.

Individuals who are currently in possession of any of the Scheduled birds are urged to surrender them voluntarily at the nearest wildlife facility to avoid legal consequences. The authorities will ensure proper rehabilitation and care of the surrendered species. For list of all the Scheduled birds and

further details refer to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. General public may contact Range Officer Lakes, Wetlands Division, Kashmir Hokersar, Zainakote, Srinagar, 190012 on Mobile No. 9906614750, 9906565121. If the offense involves a bird specified in Schedule II, the punishment shall extend up to three years, along with a fine of at least Rs. 25000. It has come to the notice of Wildlife authorities that some of the Birds listed under Schedule I & Schedule II are being traded by the vendors or possessed for bird keeping which is strictly prohibited. Individuals who are currently in possession of any of the Scheduled birds are urged to surrender them voluntarily at the nearest wildlife facility to avoid legal consequences. The authorities will ensure proper rehabilitation and care of the surrendered species. For list of all the Scheduled birds and further details refer to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. General public may contact Range Officer Lakes, Wetlands Division, Kashmir Hokersar, Zainakote, Srinagar.

## Woman Dies After Setting Herself Ablaze Over Alleged Family Dispute in Hazratbal

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 28, : A woman lost her life after setting herself on fire following a family dispute in the Hazratbal area on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. According to officials, the woman, originally from Shalimar and married in Hazratbal, sustained critical burn injuries after dousing herself in kerosene. She was immediately shifted to JLNH Hospital Rainawari but succumbed to her injuries during treatment. Soon after the incident, SDPO Zakura, SHO Nigeen, and DO Hazratbal rushed to the scene to take stock of the situation. A police official confirmed the woman's death, adding that she was a mother of two. Police have taken cognizance of the matter and further investigations are underway.

## GDC Ganderbal organised programme on Intellectual Property Rights

HT News Network

Srinagar: Institution Innovation Cell of Government Degree College Ganderbal on Monday organised a lecture on Intellectual Property Rights to commemorate the World Intellectual Property Rights Day. Prof. Sameera Siraj, Convenor IIC briefed the audience about the importance of the day. Prof Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the college Ganderbal formally welcomed the guests. Sabeel Kawoosa, Public Prosecuting Officer was the resource Person of the session. She spoke about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights and why it is important to protect one's innovation. Further she discussed various types of intellectual properties and their legal aspects. Dr. Tahira Naqvi presented the formal vote of thanks. Dr. Uzma Ashraf and Dr. Mansha Nisar acted as Rapporteurs for the session. Farhana and Mehak, students of 6th and 4th semester, conducted the proceedings of the session.

## Don't subject people to collective punishment: MLA Langate

HT News Network

Jammu, Apr 28: Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) legislator Sheikh Khursheed on Monday raised serious concerns over the recent civilian killing in Kupwara and the Bandipora operation, urging the government to initiate thorough investigations to uphold public trust. Speaking during a special session of the Assembly, AIP MLA, as per the news agency—said that following the Pahalgam terror attack, a civilian, Ghulam Rasool Magray, was killed during a late-night incident in Kupwara. He appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to order an inquiry and ensure that compensation is provided to the victim's family. Sheikh, an MLA of Langate constituency also questioned the recent security operation in Bandipora, noting that serious concerns have been raised across social media platforms. "For the larger cause of restoring faith among people, it is imperative that an impartial inquiry is conducted," he said. He also expressed sorrow over the prevailing situation in Kashmir, noting that while the valley had united in grief after the Pahalgam attack, civilians must not be subjected to collective punishment.

EDITORIAL

What about this sort of terrorism?

In the aftermath of the Baisaran-Pahalgam terror attack that left 25 tourists and a civilian dead, all the stakeholders chipped in and did their best to facilitate the return of tourists to Srinagar and other places. People offered free food, free transport, free lodging and other logistical support to the tourists so as to give them confidence that the people of Kashmir are with them in the testing times of distress and trouble.

Since many tourists decided to cut short their Kashmir visit and return to native places one was expecting that the airlines would come to their rescue as well, but that was not to be. Instead of slashing the price of tickets for different destinations from Srinagar most of the private airlines operating their services resorted to unprecedented hikes in the same. As a result of this the stranded tourists had to pay extra bucks as air fare in order to reach their respective places from Srinagar.

Over the past few days a lot of talk has been going on about terrorism and terrorist attacks but very few people have talked about the terrorism in the form of an unprecedented hike in air fare. No one in the government has dared to take on the owners of the private airlines and the higher-ups of the airlines are dictating terms to the people. Not to talk about this the civil aviation ministry has failed to issue a statement in this regard and at the end of the day it seems the government has surrendered before the private airlines.

The central government needs to act tough against the owners of private airlines and they need to be taken to task. Once some action is taken against such people then the prices of air tickets would be regulated and people would not be forced to pay extra bucks so as to reach their desired destinations whether normal or tourist destinations. As such the air travel would be affordable to all the people across the country and travelling in air would not be a dream anymore.

The hike in air fare is more witnessed to places which have been dubbed as tourist destinations across the country. This issue needs to be taken up on priority so that the people don't feel any distress in reaching the tourist destinations of their own choice while travelling in a plane. Sooner this is done better it will be for the people in general with the tourism players also heaving a sigh of relief.

The Myth of conquest: Why Gaza will never be subdued by Israel

RAMZY BAROUD

To conquer a place is to fundamentally subdue its population. This must be clearly differentiated from 'occupation', a specific legal term that governs the relationship between a foreign "occupying power" and the occupied nation under international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention.

When Israeli forces were ultimately compelled to redeploy from the Gaza Strip in 2005, a direct consequence of the persistent resistance of the Palestinian population there, the United Nations resolutely insisted that the Gaza Strip remained an occupied territory under international law.

This position stood in stark contradiction to that of Israel, which conveniently produced its own legal texts that designated Gaza a 'hostile entity' - thus, not an occupied territory.

Let us try to understand what appears to be a confusing logic:

Israel proved incapable of sustaining its military occupation of Gaza, which began in June 1967. The paramount reason for Israel's eventual redeployment was the enduring Palestinian Resistance, which rendered it impossible for Israel to normalize its military occupation and, crucially, to make it profitable - unlike the illegal settlements of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Between 1967 and the early 1970s, when Israel began investing in building illegal settlement blocks in the Strip, the Israeli military under the command of Ariel Sharon relentlessly strove to suppress Palestinians. He employed extreme violence, mass destruction, and ethnic cleansing tactics to subdue the Strip.

Yet, at no juncture did he achieve his ultimate and comprehensive objectives of complete subjugation.

Subsequently, he invested in his infamous, but failed 'Five Fingers' plan. At the time the head of the Israeli army Southern Command - which included Gaza - Sharon stubbornly believed that the only way to defeat the Gazans was by severing the contiguity of the Strip, thus hindering organized resistance.

In pursuing this aim, he sought to divide Gaza into so-called security zones where the main Israeli Jewish settlements would be built, fortified by massive military build up. This would be joined by Israeli military control of key routes and the blocking of most coastal access.

However, this plan never fully actualized, as creating these 'fingers' required that Palestinians on both sides of the 'security zones' would have to be pacified to some extent - a condition that reality on the ground



never delivered.

What did actualize was the building of isolated settlement blocks: the largest was in the southwest of the Gaza Strip, near the border with Egypt, known as the Gush Katif, followed by the northern settlements, and finally the central settlement of Netzarim.

Housing a few thousand settlers, and often requiring the presence of a far greater number of soldiers assigned to protect them, these so-called settlements were essentially fortified military towns. Due to the limited geography of Gaza (181 square miles or 365 square kilometers) and the stiff resistance, the settlements had limited space for expansion, thus remaining a costly colonial endeavor.

When the Israeli army emptied the last illegal settlement in Gaza in 2005, the soldiers snuck out of the Strip in the middle of the night. At their heels were thousands of Gazans who chased the soldiers until the last of them fled the dramatic scene.

That singular and powerful episode alone is more than sufficient to allow one to assert with unwavering certainty that Gaza was at no point truly conquered by Israel.

Though Israel withdrew its permanent military presence from the main population centers of the Strip, it continued to operate within so-called buffer zones, which were often significant incursions into Palestinian territory, far beyond the armistice line. It also imposed a hermetic siege against Gaza, which starkly explains why the majority of Gazans have

never stepped a foot outside the Strip.

Israel's control over airspace, territorial water, natural resources (mostly Mediterranean gas fields), and much more readily led the UN to its immediate conclusion: Gaza remains an occupied territory.

Unsurprisingly, Israel vehemently opposed this reality. Tel Aviv's true desire is absolute control over Gaza, coupled with the convenient and self-serving designation of the territory as perpetually hostile. This twisted logic would grant the Israeli military an endlessly exploitable pretext to initiate devastating wars against the already besieged and impoverished Strip whenever it deemed convenient.

This brutal and cynical practice is chillingly known within Israel's military lexicon as 'mowing the grass' - a dehumanizing euphemism for the periodic and deliberate degradation of the military capabilities of the Palestinian Resistance in an attempt to ensure that Gaza can never effectively challenge its Israeli jailors or break free from its open-air prison.

October 7, 2023, ended that myth, where Al-Aqsa Flood Operation challenged Israel's long-standing military doctrine. The so-called Gaza Envelope region, where the late Sharon's Southern Command is based, was entirely seized by the youth of Gaza, who organized under the harshest of economic and military circumstances, to, in a shocking turn of events, defeat Israel.

While acknowledging the UN designation of Gaza as occupied territory,

Palestinians understandably speak of and commemorate its 'liberation' in 2005. Their logic is clear: the Israeli military's redeployment to the border region was a direct consequence of their resistance.

Israel's current attempts to defeat the Palestinians in Gaza are failing for a fundamental reason rooted in history. When Israeli forces stealthily withdrew from the Strip two decades ago under the cover of night, Palestinian resistance fighters possessed rudimentary weaponry, closer to fire-works than effective military instruments. The landscape of resistance has fundamentally shifted since then.

This long-standing reality has been upended in recent months. All Israeli estimates suggest that tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed, wounded, or psychologically impaired since the start of the Gaza war. Since Israel failed to subdue the Gazans over the course of two relentless decades, it is not merely improbable, but an outright absurdity to expect that Israel will now succeed in subduing and conquering Gaza.

Israel itself is acutely aware of this inherent paradox, hence its immediate and brutal choice: the perpetration of a genocide, a horrific act intended to pave the way for the ethnic cleansing of the remaining survivors. The former has been executed with devastating efficiency, a stain on the conscience of a world that largely stood by in silence. The latter, however, remains an unachievable fantasy, predicated on the delusional notion that Gazans would willingly choose to abandon their ancestral homeland.

Gaza has never been conquered and never will be. Under the unyielding tenets of international law, it remains an occupied territory, regardless of any eventual withdrawal of Israeli forces to the border - a withdrawal that Netanyahu's destructive and futile war cannot indefinitely postpone. When this inevitable redeployment occurs, the relationship between Gaza and Israel will be irrevocably transformed, a powerful testament to the enduring resilience and indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people.

-Dr. Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of six books.

His latest book, co-edited with Ilan Pappé, is 'Our Vision for Liberation: Engaged Palestinian Leaders and Intellectuals Speak Out'. His other books include 'My Father was a Freedom Fighter' and 'The Last Earth'. Baroud is a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA). His website is www.ramzybaroud.net

This is a magnum opus that Gods created for human eyes!

Dhana Shahstar is a place which is a spectacle that has to be enjoyed! Why doesn't the J&K Tourism Department work on it?

BY M S NAZKI

This is a place located at a higher elevation than the nearby plain or what we can call as the valley of Poonch. Hill stations in India were established for a variety of reasons. One of the first reasons in the early 1800s, was for the place to act as a sanatorium for the ailing family members. Other factors included anxieties about the dangers of life, among them fear of degeneration brought on by too long residence in a debilitating land. These places were meant to reproduce the home country for example Poonch, such beautiful rain, such delicious mud, such beautiful people, such beautiful

trees in a virgin environment. In this piece I will personify Dhana ShahStar as a beautiful majestic lady sitting atop a hill and wondering what exactly it is to see the landscape and far distant horizons. Not a poet exactly but I will still give it a try to present the spectacle on the blue hills of the district. "Today, she is sitting at the top of a mountain and appreciating the majestic panoramic view of mesmerizing Himalaya. As a kid, she used to look up in the sky and wish for wings to fly up to the mountains. And now after a long wait of many years, she is sitting here and living her dream. It's the moment when she can't believe her eyes because what she always dreamed of has come alive. She looks with amazement as if she's witnessing a miracle. It is the moment of her life. She just wants to feel it. There are beautiful clouds below her and there are snow clad mountain peaks emerging from those clouds. The white peaks shining in blue sky among white clouds look like glittering diamonds to her. The view of the large lush green meadow surrounded by mountains under blue sky with a rainbow circling the horizon has put her in a state of tranquility. As the sun starts drowning in the horizon, the sky begins to boast his



mystical colors. The beautiful mix of pink, orange and red looks like creating a twilight saga. She opens her both arms and takes a deep breath to entwine with nature. The glimmering rays of the moon are paying tribute to her by kissing her warm cheeks and her eyes twinkle in bright moon light'. That is Dhana Shah Staar for you all, perched up the hill, wanting to be visited and haunted by the people as and when they decide to go atop the hills and enjoy themselves in mountain zephyrs.

The place is 30 Kilometers away

from Mendhar just near Jaran Wali Gali. From the road head the track goes up hill and it's a walking distance and when you reach the locale be rest assured that you would be awe struck. Such is the magnetic attraction of the place and the impact it leaves on the psyche is simply mesmerizing. The first sight that catches the attention is a mosque made of stones clearly indicating the locals are the ones who visit this place on regular basis. What is the history of the mosque is not known but the architecture says that it is quite

ancient. Then there is a sprawling flushing meadow which makes you remember the more famous tourist spot in Shahstar If this meadow is developed it can be a great tourist attraction since there are many other spots that are real beauties.

A big fruit grove is there and is known in local dialect as Khor Wala Tallah. A fruit grove basically with a variety of fruits available. This definitely has been grown but by whom is not known yet it is very symbolic to the place. To relax there is sitting enclosure known as Baithak an innovated four walled structure for those who visit do sit here and enjoy the surroundings along with having the grub which they carry along. If developed, this can become a great picnic spot. I talked about the meadows, they are lush green wide open and expansive interspersed with water Khuls where cool water flows very soothing for parched throats.

There are several view points from where you can run round your eyes to have a great pastoral view. The far horizons of the massive Pir Panjals, the serpentine curves of the Mughal road, Bufiaz, Loren, Mandi, Surankote and Poonch, oh its awesome!. The entire view is sumptuous and if you plan to stay for a night then carry

your pup tents, mattresses and sleeping bags in your haversacks, food items and enjoy the breezy night under the moon and the stars. Such beautiful places cannot be allowed to remain desolate. If developed by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department this can become a great place on the tourist circuit in Rajauri and Poonch. Starting from Peer Badesar, Dharnidar Fort, Girgan Valley, Shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah, Nagali Sahab, Dhanna Sha staar and ending with Noori Chhamb! A deeper thought to it would definitely be more productive.

But I would point out that there is another and still more important function of this place in the hills- the culture not of athletic faculty alone, but of that intellectual sympathy with untamed and primitive nature which our civilization threatens to destroy. This place is something more than a thing to climb. To the many who, on a fine summer day, swarm up places in the laps of the hills in J&K by the well-worn pony-paths for a pure holiday experience. This place also wants to be the part of the list of places where people can come and enjoy their holidays. For posterity it is going to be great if we start thinking now about it!

# Kashmir: The cradle of Indian civilization

PATIAL RC  
rcpat311@gmail.com

Kashmir is not merely a region; it is “The Cradle of Indian Civilization”, deeply embedded in its rich history, folklore, cultural contributions, particularly its role in shaping Hinduism, its intellectual traditions and spiritual fabric of India.

Attempts to redefine its identity through outdated metaphors such as “Kashmir is Pakistan’s jugular vein” serve only as political rhetoric—rallying cries a National Rallying Cry holding no legal, historical, or moral weight. Designations like IHK (Indian Held Kashmir) or IOK (Indian Occupied Kashmir) or IOJK (Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir) are political inventions that ignore centuries of cultural and civilizational continuity. These labels are not recognized by history or by the people of India, and they only serve to mislead and perpetuate conflict.

Kashmir is, was, and will always be an inseparable part of India. This is not just a matter of territorial integrity—it is a matter of civilizational truth. Pakistan needs to move beyond slogans and metaphors, and focus instead on peace, development, and mutual respect grounded in reality.

Kashmir is India’s Heart and Soul

To those who still parrot the outdated slogan “Kashmir is Pakistan’s jugular vein” – let’s be clear. Kashmir is not a bargaining chip, nor a poetic metaphor. It is the living heart and soul of the Indian civilization – culturally, historically, and constitutionally. And “Not Your Jugular Vein. “Slogans like “Indian Held Kashmir” or “IOJK” are propaganda tools, not facts. They serve only to mislead people and justify a false narrative.

Kashmir: Integral part of Indian



## Millennia Civilization

Kashmir has been an integral part of India’s civilizational history for millennia—home to great scholars, saints, and spiritual traditions. Misleading metaphors such as “Pakistan’s jugular vein” or politicized terms like “Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK)” are rhetorical constructs lacking historical, legal, and ethical grounding. Coming to Hard Truth and Facts:

### Sanskrit and Scholarly Heritage

Kashmir was a major center of Sanskrit learning, particularly between the 5th and 12th centuries.

Great scholars like Abhinavagupta, Vasu Gupta, grammarians like Patanjali and Kalhana (author of Rajatarangini, the oldest historical chronicle of India) and countless others shaped metaphysics, aesthetics (like the theory of Rasa), and philosophy came from Kashmir.

Shaivism, especially the Kashmir Shaivism school, is one of the most sophisticated and profound expressions of Hindu philosophy and mysticism. One of the most profound non-dualistic philosophical schools in Hinduism.

### Philosophy and Literature

The region nurtured deep traditions of Nyaya (logic), grammar (Panini school), aesthetics (Rasa theory), and Tantra.

Texts written in Kashmir were widely studied in Nalanda, Takshila, and even in Southeast Asia.

### Cultural Influence

The art, sculpture, and architecture of Kashmir influenced other parts of India.

It has long been a Melting Pot of Vedic, Buddhist, Shaiva, and Sufi traditions. Buddhism from Kashmir even spread into Central Asia and China.

### Language and Linguistics

Sanskrit flourished there; Kashmiris helped refine grammar and literary traditions for centuries. The Kashmiri language itself has deep Sanskrit roots, and many classical Sanskrit works were preserved and commented upon in Kashmir.

It acted as a bridge between Sanskrit and other Prakrits (Pali, Magadhi, and Maharashtri) and vernacular languages that evolved across the subcontinent.

Why Pakistan Clings to a Claim Kashmir

It’s a combination of political opportunism, religious identity politics, and geostrategic goals:

## Two-Nation Theory

Pakistan was founded on the idea that Muslims and Hindus are distinct nations. Since Kashmir had a Muslim majority, claiming it helped reinforce Pakistan’s very reason for existence.

### Symbolic Leverage

Kashmir became a rallying point to unite a fragmented new country under a single cause.

### Strategic Depth

Geographically, controlling Kashmir would have given Pakistan military advantages.

### Identity Politics

Over decades, Pakistan built a national mythology around “Kashmir Banega Pakistan” (“Kashmir will become Pakistan”) to fuel domestic nationalism.

### Global Diplomacy

Keeping Kashmir in dispute gave Pakistan leverage on the world stage especially the Muslim world.

Pakistani claim isn’t based on Kashmir’s civilizational history, because if it were, they’d have to admit it’s thoroughly Indian. Their claim is based on religious demographics and modern political ambitions, not on cultural or historical legitimacy.

### Key Historical Moments

Let’s walk through (the author

has literally walked through the valley and especially Pahalgam in the 1990s, the latest hot spot of Terror target of the innocent tourist Hindus) the key historical moments that show how Kashmir was naturally a part of India’s civilizational and political fabric even before 1947:

Ancient Kashmir: Part of Indian Civilization

Kashmir is mentioned in ancient Hindu scriptures like the Mahabharata, the Puranas, and Buddhist texts.

The famous text Nilamata Purana describes Kashmir as the “Land of the Gods.”

Medieval Kashmir: Flourishing with Indian Traditions

Kings like Lalitaditya Muktapida (8th century) ruled a powerful kingdom linked closely with the rest of India.

Even after the Islamic conquest in later centuries, Kashmir retained a distinct syncretic tradition (for example, Rishi-Sufi culture where Hindu and Muslim mystics respected each other deeply).

Sikh and Dogra Rule (19th Century)

After the fall of the Mughal Empire, Kashmir came under Afghan rule (which was brutal and unpopular).

Then Sikhs under Maharaja Ranjit Singh took control in 1819, integrating Kashmir into the Sikh Empire – which was very much a part of greater Indian political life.

After Ranjit Singh’s death, the British made a deal with Gulab Singh, a Dogra Rajput, through the Treaty of Amritsar (1846) – Kashmir officially became part of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir under Dogra rule. General Zorawar Singh the Dogra General extended the territory into Tibet in December 1841 where he died fighting in the battle at Taklakot near Kailash Mansarovar.

The 1947 Moment: Accession to India

In 1947, British India was divided into India and Pakistan, and princely states were given the choice to join either.

The Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, wanted to stay independent initially. But when Pakistan sent tribal raiders (Pashtun militias backed by its army) into Kashmir in October 1947 to forcibly take it, Hari Singh formally signed the Instrument of Accession to India on October 26, 1947.

The Governor-General of India (Lord Mountbatten) accepted it, and Indian troops were airlifted to defend Kashmir.

The slogan ‘Kashmir is Pakistan’s Jugular Vein’ was once used to forge a national identity in the wake of Pakistan’s creation in 1947, during a time when the young nation was searching for a unifying theme a National Rallying Cry. Such expressions have so far served only to inflame tensions and obscure the region’s true heritage. India’s sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir is both constitutional and civilizational. Pakistan needs to shift from rhetoric fake emotional slogans to respectful dialogue rooted in historical truth and mutual understanding and ditch the drama to face the real facts. Clinging to such slogans has not propelled the country forward. It is time for Pakistan to leave behind these outdated narratives and move ahead as a modern, forward-looking nation, built on principles of innovation, development, and global integration.”

Kashmir therefore is rightly called “The Cradle of Indian Civilization” a Mother of Indian Spiritual, Intellectual, and linguistic traditions. It’s not just geographically beautiful; it’s also a jewel of Indian heritage.

# A Woman’s Journey Through Adversity

KOUSAR AHMED RATHER  
kousarrather34@gmail.com

My heart aches for the woman who has endured such profound and relentless hardship. From a life-threatening autoimmune disorder to the devastating diagnosis of high-grade serous carcinoma, her journey has been marked by unimaginable trials. The loss of her potential to bear children, the changes to her body, and the shattering of her lifelong dreams have understandably left her feeling lost and without hope, now passively at home.

Her early years were filled with joy and abundance. She wanted for nothing and envisioned a continuation of this happiness into her married life. Indeed, her husband proved to be a loving and devoted partner, bringing joy to her and her family. However, this happiness was tragically short-lived. Within a year of marriage, she experienced the heartbreak of three consecutive miscarriages due to non-viable pregnancies. Investigations revealed the cause: a life-threatening autoimmune disorder, DVT and Lupus, leading to blood clots in her right leg that compromised the blood supply to her developing fetuses.

Yet, this brave woman did not surrender. She and her supportive husband tirelessly consulted gynaecologists and rheumatologists, clinging to the hope of having children. Their immense efforts, however, did not yield the desired outcome. After many years of trying, they turned to In Vitro Fertilisation, a path inspired by the success stories of other couples. As they both produced their own gametes, it was a viable option, a new beacon of hope.

But fate dealt another cruel blow. Abdomi-

nal pain led to blood tests and an ultrasound, revealing swollen lymph nodes. Subsequent CT scans, endoscopy, and colonoscopy confirmed the devastating truth: ovarian cancer, further verified by a lymph node biopsy. This diagnosis plunged her into the deepest despair. Overwhelmed, she wept, cried, and felt as though her life was over.

Her husband and family, including her supportive siblings, rallied around her, emphasising the advancements in cancer treatment available in India. Together, they decided to seek care at the Tata Memorial

Hospital in Mumbai. There, she underwent six gruelling cycles of chemotherapy, each lasting 21 days. For seven long months, she, her sister, and her husband made Mumbai their temporary home.

Following the intensive treatment, hope flickered within her that she might finally feel better and perhaps still become a mother. However, the final stage of her treatment, the surgery, brought another wave of profound loss. To prevent the recurrence of the cancer, the doctors had to remove her entire gynaecological system, including her uterus. This irreversible procedure extinguished

her deepest hope and became a source of immense grief.

Now, while physically recovering, she is emotionally shattered. The question of “why me?” echoes in her mind. She is consumed by hopelessness, constantly reminiscing about her idyllic childhood, detached from the present world, and often speaks of her lost dreams. Confined to her home, she takes her medication and weeps over the profound losses she has endured.

The writer is a teacher at Higher Secondary School, Nehalpora, Pattan

# From Chanser to glory: The Chain Singh Story



Chain Singh’s name, now widely known, From Chanser’s fields, his fame has flown.

With every victory, a story told, Of a village where dreams turn bold. In the soil of Chanser, his roots remain, A bond unbroken, in joy and pain. Through his triumphs, the world could see,

The strength of a village, proud and free. With steady hands and a focused eye, He aimed for the stars, reaching high. From humble beginnings, his dreams took flight, Carving a path through day and night. In Doda’s hills where silence sleeps, And Chenab in quiet rhythm weeps, A boy once walked with farmer’s stride, Dreams tucked deep, nowhere to hide. The rifle found him, not by fate,

But duty’s call at army’s gate. Subedar now, but first a spark, A mountain soul who hit his mark. Steel in eyes, calm in breath, He faced the range like life and death. From Incheon’s bronze to Buenos’ flame, The world would rise to chant his name. From mountain trails to victory’s skies, Chain Singh’s aim never denies. With 107 medals shining bright, He carved his name in glory’s light. Where pine trees bow and valleys sing, That’s home for shooter Chain Singh. No palace walls or city lights, Just crisp air and star-filled nights. He doesn’t boast, he doesn’t shout, His rifle speaks, it leaves no doubt. For every shot he’s ever fired, A thousand young hearts are inspired. So here’s to grit, to dream, to aim To rising silent into fame. From Doda’s earth to world acclaim, Forever echoes Chain Singh’s name.



Army blood and mountain dust, Honor, fire, calm and trust. He stood not loud, but stood so tall, One man’s focus can shake them all. Chain Singh—like the morning mist, Soft of voice, but never missed. His home? Not marble, not a throne, But hills where birds and wind have grown. Back home, the Games of National fame, Bowed down before his burning flame. Gold rained like fire from Indian skies, As crowds beheld those sharp eagle eyes. Rio called him, proud and clear, To Olympic halls he drew near. Though fate did not grant a podium place, He stood with honor, full of grace. Now youths look up to Singh and dream, To chase the mark with laser beam. He proved what strength and duty bring This is the saga of Chain Singh. At India’s National Games, he stood tall,

With two golds, one bronze, he answered the call.

A record set, his skill on display, A mark that still echoes to this day.

In the South Asian Games, he claimed six gold,

A shooting star, his story was told. With each target hit, his legend grew,

A true warrior in the field he knew.

So rise, like Chain, and set your aim, Success is born from heart and flame.

In every setback, find your spark, For you, too, can leave a mark.

But it was in 2025, a moment so sweet, In Buenos Aires, his fate did complete.

A bronze medal placed, a hard-earned crown, Chain Singh’s triumph, lifting his renown. His rise from the dust of a forgotten land, A story of perseverance, a saga so grand. From the heights of his village, to the world’s grandest stage, He’s written his story, a hero of the age. Chain Singh, the shooter, the soldier, the man, A symbol of India’s unyielding stand. His journey reminds us to aim and to fight, For victory is earned through courage and might.

Written by POET AND AUTHOR MUZAMIL ARIF BHALESSI A WELL KNOWN WRITER whose work delves into the complexities of human nature and society. With a keen eye for detail and an inquisitive mind, he tackle(s) the issues that matter most in today’s world



# Public demands, dev. priorities discussed at District Capex planning meet at Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 28: In order to discuss the formulation of the District Capex Budget Plan for the financial year 2025-26, a meeting was today jointly chaired by Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Bandipora, Ab Gani Bhat, and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora. The meeting was attended by Vice Chairperson DDC, Kousar Shafeeq; DDC Members, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), District Officers of various departments, and other concerned. During the meeting, various proposals and public demands were put

forward by the Chairman, Vice Chairperson, and DDC Members for incorporation into the District CAPEX plan including sector-specific developmental needs aimed at enhancing infrastructure and public welfare. The meeting also discussed the physical and financial progress achieved under the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2024-25. Chief Planning Officer presented the status of works completed, ongoing projects, and fund utilization. Addressing the participants, DDC Chairman highlighted the importance of grassroots participation in the development process. He emphasized to ensure that elected representatives are actively involved at



every stage of planning and implementation to ensure transparency and impact-driven development. Deputy Commissioner took stock of achievements and shortfalls, and stressed the importance of removing bottlenecks to ensure better implementation of District Capex Plan 2025-26. Qadri emphasized the need to focus on asset creation, public service delivery, and employment generation in the Capex plan. He stressed prioritizing the completion of spill-over and ongoing projects to ensure effective utilization of resources. DC also directed all departments to ensure timely completion of works and take strict action, including imposing penalties, against contrac-

tors who cause unnecessary delays or hamper project execution. Deputy Commissioner took stock of achievements and shortfalls, and stressed the importance of removing bottlenecks to ensure better implementation of District Capex Plan 2025-26. Qadri emphasized the need to focus on asset creation, public service delivery, and employment generation in the Capex plan. He stressed prioritizing the completion of spill-over and ongoing projects to ensure effective utilization of resources. DC also directed all departments to ensure timely completion of works and take strict action, including imposing penalties, against contrac-

## Dr Tasaduk granted RCPE Membership

■ HT News Network

Srinagar April 28: Kashmiri doctor and columnist has been granted the prestigious Associate Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE). The esteemed membership highlights Dr Ito's dedication as a medico and alignment with the college's values and standards. The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is a prestigious institution that promotes excellence in medical practice and education. Dr Ito's multifaceted career as a medico, educator and medical writer has not only impacted the lives of many individuals but has also contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge and healthcare in his community. Currently, serving as a doctor at Narayana Health, Dr Ito is also a distinguished Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium).



## Awareness campaign on water conservation, rain water harvesting held across Kupwara school

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 28: In line with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, a week-long awareness campaign on Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting was successfully conducted across all High and Higher Secondary Schools of District Kupwara. The programme featured a range of engaging and educational activities, including seminars, workshops, debates, painting competitions, and expert talks, aimed at sensitizing students and the wider community to the critical importance of water conservation.

CRESCENT CAREER INSTITUTE			
Faculty List:			
S.No	Name of Teacher	Subject	Qualification
1	Younus Ahmad Bhat	Physics	M.Sc, B. Ed
2	Waseem Rasool	Chemistry	M.Sc, M. Ed
3	Showkat Ahmad Tantray	Botany	M.Sc, B. Ed
4	Ashiq Hussain	Zoology	M.Sc, B. Ed
5	Mohd Ashraf	Mathematics	M.Sc
Fee Details of complete course			
9 <sup>th</sup>	20000/=		
10 <sup>th</sup>	20,000/=		
11 <sup>th</sup>	36000/=		
12 <sup>th</sup>	36000/=		
Address: Bus Stand Tral, Contact: 979781504			

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 GH MOHD WANI S/O GH AHMAD WANI R/O RESHIPORA BANGDARA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/02/1969 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	

**Office of the Principal**

**United School Of Excellence**

Hyderbagh Pattan Kashmir 9149560210

**Free Structure Class wise 2025**

S.no	Class	Monthly Tution Fee	Annual Charges
1	5 <sup>th</sup>	580	1000
2	4 <sup>th</sup>	580	1000
3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	580	1000
4	2 <sup>nd</sup>	580	1000
5	1 <sup>st</sup>	570	1000
6	UKG	570	1000
7	LKG	570	1000
8	Nursery	550	1000

**Principal**

**Office of the Principal**

**United School Of Excellence**

Hyderbagh Pattan Kashmir 9149560210

**Free Structure Class wise 2024**

S.no	Class	Monthly Tution Fee	Annual Charges
1	5 <sup>th</sup> `	580	500
2	4 <sup>th</sup>	580	500
3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	580	500
4	2 <sup>nd</sup>	580	500
5	1 <sup>st</sup>	570	500
6	UKG	570	500
7	LKG	570	500
8	Nursery	550	500

**Principal**

اطلاع عام  
متویر طاہر ولد طاہر احمد ساکنہ پورناگ تحصیل کپوارا ضلع کپوارا کو اپنی بیٹی، طاہرہ متویر کی تاریخ پیدائش 10/03/2016ء سے اس باب سے اسے پیش کی تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ نہ لانی مطلوب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر تحصیل آفس کپوارا/BDO آفس میں پیش کرے معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
المستہر  
تنویر طاہر  
ولد طاہر احمد ساکنہ بو برناگ تحصیل کپوارا

از دفتر ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ  
درج اول ماگام  
مضمون: بحصہ فرید دختر فرید احمد خان ساکن سراج پورہ بابت تاریخ پیدائش 27/06/2008  
اشتہار بغرض آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان الصدر کہ نسبت درخواست سال/ سالہ کی دفتر حذایں زیر سماعت ہے سال/ سالہ کی تاریخ پیدائش پر فلکیٹ مطابق کاڈ 27/06/2008 ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر دفتر حذایں پیش کریں مبعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ماگام

PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is hereby notified that my DAUGHTER'S Name and DOB, instead of the actual name Rahilha Zainab D/O, Ashiq Hussain Dar, R/o. Mirgund, Tehsil, Singpora, District Barmulla, has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card No. 771572065058 due to unknown error. while the correct DOB is 14/07/2013. I have applied for the correction in school record's also, if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at concerned authority / Tehsil office Singpora within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.  
Name: RAHILHA ZAINAB  
DOB: 14/07/2013 D/O , Ashiq Hussain Dar  
R/o. Mirgund , hsil, Singpora, District Barmulla.

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 AHMAD BIN ISHFAQ S/O ISHFAQ AHMAD HAJAM R/O ODORA Tehsil NARVAW Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 23/12/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained  
Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

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 MOHAMMAD AATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/07/2014 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

## IUST inaugurates "Training of Trainers" Programme on Optical Fibre Communication

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, April 28: Islamic University of Science and Technology inaugurated a week-long "Training of Trainers" programme aimed at advancing expertise in Optical Fibre Communication technologies. The programme, organized by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering in collaboration with the Kalam Academy of Skill and Training (KAST), was formally launched by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor. The intensive skilling initiative is designed to upskill trainers and professionals in crucial areas such as fusion splicing mastery, advanced connectorization and termination techniques, setup and management of Optical Distribution Frames (ODFs), patching methodologies, and various other critical domains of optical fibre technology. Eminent external experts from academia and industry will deliver hands-on sessions and lectures throughout the week, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. In his inaugural address, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo underlined IUST's strategic vision of transitioning into a Skill, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship-oriented university, aligning with the evolving needs of the global economy. He said that there is an ever-growing demand for highly skilled human resources in emerging sectors, and IUST is proactively responding to this challenge. By establishing Centres of Excellence such as C414 (Centre for Industry 4.0), with support from the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR TANGMARG  
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)  
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is hereby notified that the applicant MANZOOR AHMAD SHAH S/O GULL SHAH R/O SHIRPORA Tehsil TANAGMAR Distt. Baramulla had applied for the issuance Birth certificate of his SON namely DANISH MANZOOR SHAH The applicant intends to register the DOB of his SON as per the School record which is 04/03/2008 . if anybody having 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 TANGMARG

PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is inform to all general public through the medium the medium of notice that i Gh mohammad bhat s/o mohd safder bhat r/o diver yakmanpora that my daughter namely Aasiyah mohammad is born is 06-05-2009 now i want to obtain dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is inform to all general public through medium of notice that i jamsheed ahmad malik s/o Ab Razak malik R/o singpora colony that my daughter namely aysha jan is born on 07-03-2017 now i want to obtain dob certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days.  
Jamsheed ahmad malla  
S/o ab Razak malik  
R/o singpora

PUBLIC NOTICE  
It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i bashir ahmad dar s/o gh mohd dar R/o Harinara that my father namely Gh mohd Dar is passed away on 16-03-1990 now i want to obtain death certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of death certificate he she the context of bdo singpor with in period of seven days  
Yours faith fully  
Bashir ahmad dar  
S/o gh mohd dar  
R/o Harinara





# DC Ganderbal Reviews NTEP Progress; District achieves 98% TB Mukht Panchayat Coverage

## HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in District Ganderbal. During the meeting, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) delivered a detailed presentation on the current status of NTEP activities across the district. It was highlighted that Ganderbal has achieved TB Mukht Panchayat status in 123 out of 126 Gram

Panchayats, registering an impressive 98% coverage. It was informed that out of 123 Panchayats, 31 Panchayats have been recognized under the Bronze category and 92 Panchayats under the Silver category, reflecting consistent efforts and community engagement. It was further informed that Panchayats maintaining TB-free status are being symbolically honored with bronze (one year), silver (two year), and gold (three year) statues of Mahatma Gandhi based on the number of consecutive years they sustain TB-free status. Appreciating the district's com-



mendable achievements, DC assured full support towards further strengthening TB elimination efforts, emphasizing the importance of early detection, continuous community engagement, and enhanced diagnostic infrastructure. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, District Tuberculosis Officer Ganderbal, Nodal Officer NTEP Ganderbal, and Programme Coordinator NTEP Ganderbal besides others. It was informed that out of 123 Panchayats, 31 Panchayats have been recognized under the Bronze category and 92 Panchayats under the Silver category, reflect-

ing consistent efforts and community engagement. It was further informed that Panchayats maintaining TB-free status are being symbolically honored with bronze (one year), silver (two year), and gold (three year) statues of Mahatma Gandhi based on the number of consecutive years they sustain TB-free status. Appreciating the district's commendable achievements, DC assured full support towards further strengthening TB elimination efforts, emphasizing the importance of early detection, continuous community engagement.

## DC Kupwara finalizes arrangements for conduct of NEET Exam

### HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 28: To finalize the arrangements for smooth conduct of NEET-2025 scheduled to be held on 4th May-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office, here. On the occasion, DC took a detailed feedback from the concerned officers regarding various arrangements put in place by the District Administration for conduct of the NEET examination in the district. The arrangements discussed involved security measures, availability of transport, electricity, ambulances, fire tenders and other facilities for the aspirants. She also directed the concerned to ensure availability of adequate number of wheelchairs at the designated centres to facilitate the physically challenged candidates appearing in the test. DC enjoined the officers to work in tandem to ensure a conducive and secure environment for the aspirants for transparent and smooth conduct



of the examination in the district. She impressed upon them to ensure that all the guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA) are strictly followed for proper conduct of the test. The meeting was attended by ACR Kupwara, Principals of GDCs, CEO,

CMO, Executive Engineers of KPDCI Kupwara/Handwara; Dy.SPs of Kupwara/Handwara; ARTO, NEET Coordinator, Centre Superintendents, besides, officers from Traffic, Fire & Emergency and other concerned stakeholders were also present in the meeting.

## Kupwara Killing: BJP's Ravinder Raina Calls for End to Bloodshed, Assures Support to Victim's Family

### DR.AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, Apr, 28: Senior BJP leader and former Jammu & Kashmir state president Ravinder Raina on Monday visited the residence of Ghulam Rasool Magray, who was recently shot dead by unknown gunmen at his native village in the Kandi area of Langate, in district Kupwara. Raina was accompanied by party senior leader Javid Qureshi and Kupwara district president Syed Rafiq Shah. Expressing deep grief over the killing, Raina strongly condemned the ongoing cycle of violence in the Kashmir Valley. "For the last 30 years, every household in Kashmir has suffered due to this senseless game of gun and grenade. It's high time to put a permanent end to this bloodshed and work collectively towards peace, prosperity, and a better future for our people," Raina said while interacting with the bereaved family. Raina made a heartfelt appeal to both the J&K administration and the central government to extend all possible support to the victim's family. He highlighted the plight of Magray's



elderly mother, who is completely visually impaired and has now lost her only son and caretaker. "Our security forces, especially the Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kupwara, are actively investigating this case and working to identify and bring to justice those responsible for this heinous act. I have full faith that justice will be delivered to this poor and shattered family," Raina added. The BJP leader also took aim at Pakistan-based terrorist groups, accusing them of repeatedly disturbing the peace in the region. "History is witness to the peace and prosperity that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed over the last seven years. But it's unfortunate

that terror outfits from across the border continue their bloody games to destabilize our region. The recent Pahalgam attack and now this tragedy in Kupwara are part of the same conspiracy," Raina stated. He added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, cutting across party, region, and community lines, have unanimously condemned these cowardly acts of violence and stand together in the fight against terrorism. The visit by Raina and other BJP leaders was seen as a gesture of solidarity with the grief-stricken family and a reaffirmation of the party's commitment to restoring peace and normalcy in the region.

## Rs 29k fine imposed on erring FBOs under FS&SA at Handwara

### HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi who is also Adjudicating officer Handwara today imposed a fine of Rs 29000 on various erring Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violation of various provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA) 2006. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and Sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&S Act-2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer

## J&K Hajj Committee notifies schedule for collection of Travel documents for intending Hajj Pilgrims

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: As per J&K Haj Committee notice, all the intending Haj Pilgrims of District Srinagar can collect their travel documents from Haj House, Bemina Srinagar as per the details given below, after production of Passport Receipt and Haj Arrangement Dues Slip during office working hours. Selected Haj pilgrims featuring from Cover No. 3 to 1396, can collect travel documents on 1st May 2025 while those falling in between 1398 to 2048 can obtain documents on 2nd May 2025. Meanwhile, pilgrims of other districts shall collect their travel documents from their respective D.C. Offices on 1st & 2nd May, 2025.

## Bandipora Police Issues Advisory to Media and Social Media Users

### HT News Network

Bandipora, Apr 28, KNT: Bandipora Police has issued a stern advisory to media outlets and social media handlers after noticing that some were sharing footage from security force operational areas without prior approval from the concerned police officials. The police urged media houses and online content creators to maintain digital decorum and avoid posting or amplifying material that could disturb public peace, security, or law and order. Authorities warned that any attempt to share provocative or sensitive content would be met with strict legal action under relevant laws. Emphasizing the need for responsible online behavior, the advisory called on both individuals and media organizations to exercise caution while interacting on digital platforms.

## Awareness sessions, cultural events under IEC Campaign on Drug Abuse at Shopian

### HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 28: As part of ongoing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the UT-wide flagship initiative Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Shopian, Cultural Unit and Education Department along with the coordination of District Administration today organised a mega awareness programme. The programme held at Ranjoor Memorial GHSS School, Keegam witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials of health, DLSA, education, social welfare, department of Ayush and school children. During the event, a panel of experts and resource persons



from multiple departments conducted interactive sessions, sensitising attendees about the alarming consequences of drug abuse. Medical professionals from the health department highlighted the root causes of addiction, including depression, curiosity,

family trauma and feelings of inferiority. They stressed the importance of timely intervention, emotional support and rehabilitation in combating the crisis. Resource persons from DLSA provided detailed insights into the district's strategic action plan to curb drug addiction.

## Chairperson DDC Baramulla convenes meeting

Takes sector wise review, discusses issues concerning overall growth & welfare

### HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 28: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, today chaired a council meeting at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla to review the progress of developmental activities and discuss issues concerning the district's overall growth and welfare. The meeting witnessed the presence of DDC members, senior district officers and sectoral heads. A detailed sector-wise review was conducted covering key areas including health, education, rural development, public works, social welfare, and agriculture. Officers presented updates on ongoing projects, achievements and challenges faced in their respective sectors. Chairperson Safina Baig emphasized the importance of timely completion of projects and called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure the effective delivery of services. She stressed the need for prompt redressal of public grievances and urged the officers to adopt a proactive and people-centric approach. Members of the Council also raised various developmental concerns and suggested measures to address sector-specific gaps. The Chairperson assured that all genuine issues would be taken up for immediate redressal and directed.

## LCMA demolishes boundary walls, plinths of two structures at Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony

Colony established for Dal dwellers only, nobody other-than Dal dwellers can purchase land there or use any means to stay in the colony: LCMA clarifies

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has initiated the process of demolishing all illegal structures constructed in the Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony. Accordingly, an anti-encroachment drive was conducted today during which boundary walls and plinths of two structures, being constructed at Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony were demolished by the enforcement wing and engineers of the LCMA. It is worth mentioning that the Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony has been established by the government for rehabilitation of Dal dwellers only. As on date



around 1806 plots have been allotted to such Dal dwellers, who had shifted from the lake and have been paid compensation for acquisition of their structures and land in the lake by the LCMA. However, it has been brought to the notice of LCMA that some notorious persons have illegally occupied some

plots on the basis of fake documents or have occupied the plots without having any authorisation from the LCMA. It has also been observed that some persons, who are actually residents of different districts of Kashmir are also residing in Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony, which as per LCMA needs immediate

attention. It is being clarified to all that the Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony has been established for Dal dwellers only and nobody other than Dal dwellers has any right to purchase the land there or use any means to stay in the colony. The LCMA warns all such individuals, who are befooling the general public and selling the plots on the basis of fake promises and fake documents, of dire consequences in future. Meanwhile, anti encroachment drives shall continue, and all such plots and structures which have been raised on the basis of fake documents or without any valid authorisation will be raised to ground. The LCMA has collected all the information and the process of cleaning has been set into motion.





## DC reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of NEET UG Examination 2025 in Udhampur

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 28: To discuss and review the preparedness for the smooth and fair conduct of the NEET UG Examination 2025, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure today chaired a meeting of officers here at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, District Information Officer, Rajinder Diga, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officers.

It is pertinent to mention here that the NEET UG Examination is scheduled to be held on May 4, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM with a total of 600 candidates expected to appear at two designated centres in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner received a detailed briefing on various logistical and security measures being put in place at the designated examination centres.

She emphasized strict adherence to the Sta

## Mining Official Attached in Pulwama Yet to Join Jammu Office Despite Orders

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, April 28: Despite facing an inquiry and official attachment, a Mining Department official posted in Pulwama district has yet to join his new place of posting in Jammu, raising serious questions over the implementation of government orders.

The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Jammu and Kashmir, had on April 22 ordered the immediate attachment of Mohd Maqbool Dar, serving as a Drill Helper in the District Mineral Office Pulwama, to the office of the Senior Drilling Engineer in Jammu. The attachment was formalized through Order No. 111-JK (DGM) of 2025.

Simultaneously, an inquiry into Dar's conduct was also initiated, appointing Gul Mohd Bacha, District Vigilance Officer Kashmir, as the Inquiry Officer. The directive specified that the inquiry must be thorough, with a report to be submitted within 15 days.

However, sources within the department told this reporter that even after a week, Dar has not reported to the Jammu office. "The non-compliance raises serious concerns about the enforcement of departmental discipline and undermines the credibility of administrative orders," a senior official said on the condition of anonymity.

## Social Welfare Department Reasi empower needy girls by providing school bags under BBBP

■ HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 28: In a significant step towards promoting girl education and empowerment, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women, Reasi organised two special distribution drives under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programmes were organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma.

The HEW Team reached to far flung Govt. Middle School Sarh, Block Mahore and distributed school bags among needy girls of marginalised section of society.

The other event was organised at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Laitar where HEW Team installed Sanitary Vending machine and also distributed school bags among needy girls of different schools of Block Pouni. The girls were also sensitized about menstrual hygiene and encouraged to pursue their studies with enthusiasm.

## Sankalp HEW Doda organizes menstrual hygiene awareness Camp for madrasa girls at Parnout Dashman under BBBP initiative

■ HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 28: In a significant step towards promoting menstrual health and eradicating period poverty, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (Sankalp HEW), Doda, organized an awareness camp on menstrual hygiene management here at a local Madrasa under the banner of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

# Biodiversity Management Committees to be made fully operational: Suresh Kumar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: J&K Biodiversity Council (J&KBC) held its 5th Meeting under the Chairmanship of Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator & HoFF who is also Chairman of said Council. The Council reviewed the action taken on decisions taken in the previous meeting besides the agenda items listed for the meeting were discussed and decisions were taken.

The Chairman expressed satisfaction about progress of updation of People Biodiversity Registers and e-dashboards, and further asked for ensuring the completion of updation during this year. It was also informed that J&K Biodiversity Council has already entered into MoUs with SKUAST Jammu and Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. Besides, Council is also working on signing of MoUs with other Universities and institutes in J&K.

During the meeting, Biodiversity Strategy



& Action Plan for J&K also came under discussion and it was informed that in compliance to directions of Chief Secretary, J&K, the plan is being revisited for making it more practicable and action oriented. Council also took note of opening of bank accounts of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and it was advised to

ensure that required bank accounts of all the BMCs are opened and made operational during current year. Council also discussed progress with respect to mechanism for Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) with BMCs and it was decided that help of Industries department, Pollution Control Committee and AYUSH

## Border cooperation reviewed to boost agricultural production in frontier areas

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 28: In a significant move to enhance agricultural productivity and strengthen border security coordination, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma today undertook review of cooperation framework between local farmers and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel during his visit to the border villages and Border Out Posts (BOPs) at Nursery and Tamwar in Tehsil Ramgarh. The initiative aimed to bring previously unused agricultural land between the border fencing and zero line into productive cultivation, potentially adding hundreds of acres to the district's cultivable area while improving the economic prospects of border communities.



munities.

"Our border farmers have shown tremendous resilience despite facing unique challenges," said DC Sharma during the joint meeting with farmers and BSF officials. "This administration is committed to removing barriers to cultivation in these strategic areas through improved coordi-

nation and targeted support measures."

The Deputy Commissioner assured that a dedicated task force would be established to address irrigation needs, provide technical agricultural assistance, and streamline security protocols to minimize disruption to farming activities. BSF officials expressed their

support for the initiative, reaffirming their dual commitment to national security and community welfare. "The presence of regular agricultural activity in these areas strengthens security through increased vigilance while supporting local livelihoods," noted a senior BSF representative. The meeting was attended by ADC Samba, Jagdish Singh, ACR Samba Ajay Bharti, Tehsildar Ramgarh, officers from civil administration, BSF officials and community leaders. The Deputy Commissioner assured that a dedicated task force would be established to address irrigation needs, provide technical agricultural assistance, and streamline security protocols to minimize disruption to farming activities.

## JMC Commissioner conducts field visit to oversee street light repairs in Jammu City

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr Devansh Yadav today conducted an on-ground review of the ongoing repair and maintenance work of street lights being carried out by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) across Jammu city. During his visit, Dr. Yadav personally inspected various areas and interacted with residents who had filed complaints through the official online portal regarding faulty street lights. He inquired whether the issues had been resolved and assessed the responsiveness of the repair teams. Taking serious note over the pace of work, Dr. Yadav issued a stern warning to the officials of the JMC's electric wing as well as the EESL personnel. He emphasized the need for ensuring full functionality of street lighting in all areas of the city to prevent any untoward or unlawful activities during



nighttime hours. To address the lighting gaps, the Commissioner directed EESL to expedite the provision of an additional 5,000 street lights. Furthermore, he announced the installation of 850 high-intensity 190-watt street lights to enhance illumination in darker areas of the city. Dr. Yadav reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that every street in Jammu is well-lit, aiming to improve safety and enhance the quality of life for the residents.

## DC Rajouri reviews status of Grievances and JK Samadhan Portal Registrations

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting here in the Video Conference Room of the DC Office Complex to review the status of grievances and registrations on the JK Samadhan portal. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the nature and status of public grievances received and their timely redressal. He directed all concerned officers to ensure prompt and effective resolution of public grievances, emphasizing that citizen issues must be addressed on priority to build public trust and strengthen service delivery mechanisms.

Highlighting the importance of digital engagement, the Deputy Commissioner also laid special emphasis on promoting



the "Digidost" initiative to further enhance public awareness and participation in online grievance redressal and service platforms.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all officers to work in a coordinated manner to ensure swift redressal of public issues and to encourage citizens to utilize the JK Samadhan portal for lodging their grievances.

# JK Trade Promotion Organization organises District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop at Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) under the RAMP Program (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) and District Industries Centre (DIC) Kishtwar, organized a District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop today at the DC Office, Kishtwar. The program is being conducted under the overall supervision of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop is one of many district-level initiatives being carried out across Jammu and Kashmir under the RAMP scheme. These initiatives are designed to improve awareness of the various support mechanisms available to Micro, Small, and



Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The workshops aim to create a supportive environment for MSME growth through targeted interventions, capacity building, and bet-

ter access to markets and finance. The session was chaired by Mr. Pradeep Shan, Assistant Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kishtwar, and

witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 70 officers and stakeholders from various departments. The objective of the workshop was to create widespread awareness among departmental officers and field-level functionaries about various initiatives under the World Bank-supported RAMP Program for MSME sector strengthening in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key dignitaries at the workshop included officials from JKEDI, Labour & Employment, the Labour Department, the Lead District Manager (LDM) of Kishtwar, managers from J&K Bank's Cluster Office in Kishtwar, the Deputy General Manager (DGM) of SICOP, representatives from the J&KSC, ST, OBC Development Corporation, representatives from the Skill Development Department (ITI Kishtwar), officials from NABARD, and other officers from the District Industries Centre (DIC) Kishtwar.





## DC Kishtwar holds Public outreach camp at Warwan

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 28: As part of the District Administration's public outreach programme, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan conducted a Public outreach camp in the remote Warwan area of Sub-Division Marwah to directly engage with residents and assess local developmental needs.

A large number of locals, including prominent citizens, participated in the interaction and brought various issues to the DC's attention. These included concerns related to infrastructure, healthcare, education, road connectivity, communication and others.

Concerned SDM Dr. Mohammad Ashraf briefed the DC on the ongoing projects, their current status and the overall scenario of the subdivision.

Key demands raised by the public included adequate staff at GHSS Afti Warwan, up-gradation of healthcare services, internet connectivity, and the urgent need for a school bus for girls commuting from Mulwarwan to Sukhnai.

Other demands highlighted included establishment of an IGNOU Sub-Centre,



provision of a library, and widening of the Margan Top road.

The DC directed for accelerating the ongoing road and bridge construction projects in the subdivision. He also instructed the concerned authorities to submit Detailed

Project Reports (DPRs) for new roads only after consultation with the local MLA.

The DC directed the R&B Department to initiate the tendering process for the KGBV building and Girls' Hostel after seeking the technical section.

He also permitted two-way traffic starting today on the National Highway from Kishtwar to Srinagar via Sinthan Top after long winters.

The DC instructed telecom operators, including Jio and BSNL, to establish 5G Fiber Internet connectivity in both Warwan and Marwah within one month. He also directed all departments to ensure 100% saturation of all centrally sponsored government schemes.

A group of girl students also met with the DC and requested a school bus. In response, he directed the concerned authorities to provide a bus under the District Capex Plan.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to all other grievances as well and assured the public of the District Administration's full support in addressing genuine demands. On-the-spot directions were issued to concerned officials for the prompt redressal of several other issues, while some were taken up for further necessary action.

SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh, SDMM Marwah, Dr. Mohd Ashraf, SDPO Warwan Vijay Bhagat, BDO Warwan along with other senior officers were present during the visit.

## DC reviews implementation of Samagra Shiksha initiative in District Poonch

HT News Network

POONCH APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of development works under the Samagra Shiksha program in the district.

Chief Education Officer Iftikhar Ali Shah presented a detailed overview of the Samagra Shiksha profile for the district through a PowerPoint presentation. He reported that out of 331 works



under the program, 115 have been completed, 86 are currently in progress and 51 are expected to

be completed by May end. The meeting aimed to ensure the timely completion of these devel-

opment works and to monitor the overall progress of the Samagra Shiksha initiative.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear instructions to the Public Works Department (R&B) to expedite ongoing projects and ensure these are completed within the stipulated timeframe. The meeting was attended by key officials, including the SE PWD (R&B), Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Xen PWD Mendhar, DPEO, AEE PWD (R&B), along with ZEOs, JEs, and other concerned personnel.

## DC inaugurates newly upgraded Model Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated the newly upgraded Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School (HSS), marking a significant step towards enhancing the educational infrastructure in the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the facilities of the school, including laboratories, administrative offices, traditional classrooms, and smart classrooms equipped with modern teaching aids. He interacted at length with the staff and students, appreciating their efforts and encouraging them to continue striving for academic excellence.

The School Principal Muslim Wani briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the overall functioning of the institution and highlighted the new initiatives introduced for the benefit of students, such as the integration of smart technology in classrooms and steps taken to improve the learning environment.

DC Abhishek Sharma emphasized the importance of quality educa-



tion in shaping the future of the youth and assured full support from the administration in further strengthening the facilities at the school. He also urged the students to make the best use of the resources available and work hard towards achieving their goals.

The event witnessed the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; Chief Education Officer (CEO) Iqbal Hussain, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Abdul Raheem and prominent members of civil society, who lauded the initiative and expressed optimism about the positive impact it would have on the students' academic journey.

## GDC Ramgarh organizes One-Day Workshop on Anti-Drug Abuse awareness

HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 28: The NCORD Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh successfully organized a one-day workshop on Drug Abuse Awareness, highlighting the pressing issue of substance abuse and the role of community in prevention and rehabilitation. The programme was held under the esteemed guidance of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who emphasized the need for educating young minds about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and fostering a drug-free environment within society.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the dispelling of ignorance with knowledge and awareness. Prof. Brahm Dutt (Convener NCORD) delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the menace of drug addiction. The proceedings were efficiently conducted by Ms. Jagmeet Kaur, a student of Semester VI, who anchored the event with great enthusiasm and professionalism.

The resource person for the workshop was Gharu Ram Bhardhwaj, Additional SP Samba and Nodal district officer NCORD who delivered an informative and engaging talk. The session included a comprehensive discussion on the causes, consequences, legal implications, and preventive strategies related to drug abuse. He also interacted with the students, addressing their queries and encouraging them to become responsible citizens in the fight against drug addiction.

The programme concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, fostering a spirit of unity and patriotism among the participants. The entire workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, reaffirming the college's commitment to promoting a healthy, informed, and drug-free society.

## DC reviews progress of CAPEX Budget works in Poonch

HT News Network



POONCH, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today to assess the physical and financial progress of development works carried out by the PWD (R&B) department under the UT CAPEX Budget.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to timelines, urging executing agencies to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated time frame. He also stressed the necessity of maintaining high-quality standards in the execution of these works.

During the review of plans for the current financial year, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all concerned officers and executing agencies to prepare project-wise plans in consultation with elected public representatives, while strictly following the issued guidelines.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer of PWD, the Chief Planning Officer, and Executive Engineers.

## 20 entrepreneurs complete Management Development Programme orientation training at JKEDI Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Twenty existing entrepreneurs successfully completed a one-week Management Development Programme (MDP) orientation training conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Jammu, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

The programme was inaugurated by Sher Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu. The MDP aimed to enhance entrepreneurial skills, business management, and sustainable practices. Key sessions covered the RAMP Scheme, Entrepreneurship Opportunities in J&K, and Government Sponsored Schemes such as Mudra, Start-up India, Stand-Up India, ASPIRE, PMEGP, ZED, LEAN, and SC/ST Hub initiatives. Participants engaged in activity-based learning on SWOT Analysis, Supply and Demand, Marketing Strategy, and Business Simulation. Expert sessions by CA Shubham Gupta focused on GST, CGTME, Book Keeping, Working Capital Management, Break Even Analysis, and Risk Management through Insurance. Compliance and registration procedures were also discussed.

A field visit to industrial units was organized in association with Lalit Mahajan, Chairman, Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), offering practical insights into manufacturing operations. Other modules included Project Report Preparation, Leadership and Decision-Making, Branding, Packaging, Marketing, and Digital Marketing for Business Promotion. The programme was coordinated by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu, Rajesh Kotwal with support from the course team comprising Monika Salaria, Rupali Choudhary and Humera Nazir. The MDP's successful completion highlights JKEDI's commitment to nurturing a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The programme was coordinated by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu, Rajesh Kotwal with support from the course team comprising Monika Salaria, Rupali Choudhary and Humera Nazir. The MDP's successful completion highlights JKEDI's commitment to nurturing a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

## District Administration organises Nasha Mukht Awareness Camp at GBMHSS Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 28: As part of the Information Education and Communication Campaign against drug abuse, the District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department today organized a Nasha Mukht awareness camp here at Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma presided over the event and emphasized the crucial role of the youth in building a drug-free society. He urged students to set clear goals and stay focused on achieving them, highlighting that the years from Class 9th to 12th are pivotal in shaping their futures. Stressing the importance of parental involve-

ment, he called upon parents to maintain constant communication with their children. He also underscored the role civil society can play in effectively curbing the menace of drug abuse.

Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa also addressed the gathering and spoke about the detrimental effects of drug abuse on health and moral values.

Medical expert Dr. Parvaiz Alam sensitized the students about the tactics used by drug peddlers to lure the youth into addiction and encouraged them to stay vigilant and informed.

Similar Nasha Mukht awareness camps were organized across all blocks and municipalities of the district. ADCs and SDMs actively participated in these programs within their



respective jurisdictions.

District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem, Chief Education Officer Iqbal Hussain, Executive Officer Municipality Yousaf-ul-Umar, Principal BHSS Muslim Wani prominent civil society members, parents, and teachers also attended the camp, extending their support to the cause.

The initiative was widely appreciated by all sections of society, with a collective resolve to continue efforts towards a drug-free Rajouri. RAJOURI, APRIL 28: As part of the Information Education and Communication Campaign against drug abuse, the District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department today organized a Nasha Mukht awareness camp here at Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma presided over the event and emphasized the crucial role of the youth in building a drug-free society. He urged students to set clear goals and stay focused on achieving them, highlighting that the years from Class 9th to 12th are pivotal in shaping their futures. Stressing the importance of parental involvement, he called upon parents to maintain constant communication with their children. He also underscored the role civil society can play in effectively curbing the menace of drug abuse.

Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa also addressed the gathering and spoke about the detrimental effects of drug abuse on health and moral values.





# SC backs Allahabad HC's order in Shahi Idgah-Krishna Janmabhoomi case

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 28 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Monday observed that the Allahabad High Court's order allowing the Hindu side to amend their plaint and add the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as a party in the Shahi Idgah-Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute is prima facie correct.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar made the remarks while hearing the appeal filed by the Muslim side challenging the High Court's decision.

"One thing is clear. The amendment to the original plaint by the Hindu plaintiffs has to be allowed," the Bench remarked during the proceedings.

The Hindu parties had approached the High Court seeking to amend their original suit by claiming that the disputed structure was a protected monument under the ASI and, therefore, the protection under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 would not apply.

Consequently, they argued, the structure cannot continue as a mosque. They also sought to make ASI a party to the suit, which the High Court permitted in March 2024.

The Muslim side then approached the Supreme Court against this order.



Earlier, on April 4, the apex court had issued notice to the Hindu side on this appeal.

When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the Court observed that the Muslim side's plea appeared "misconceived," with the Bench remarking, "This plea is absolutely wrong. The High Court should have allowed the amendment to add the parties to the suit."

The Court, however, granted time to the Muslim side to file their written statement and deferred further hearing.

In their plea before the High Court, the Hindu side asserted that a 1920 notification issued by the Lieutenant Governor of the United Province had declared the structure a protected monument under Section 3 of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act.

They argued that because of this historical status, the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which pro-

tests the status of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947, would not apply.

The Muslim side opposed the amendments, arguing that the Hindu plaintiffs were attempting to "wriggle out" of the bar imposed by the Places of Worship Act by introducing new claims.

"The proposed amendments show that the Plaintiffs are attempting to negate the defence taken by the defendant that the suit is barred by the Places of Worship Act, 1991," they argued.

The Allahabad High Court on March 5 allowed the amendment and the addition of ASI as a party, prompting the appeal before the Supreme Court.

The original dispute traces back to a civil suit filed by the Hindu side claiming that the Shahi Idgah mosque was constructed on the Krishna Janmabhoomi land. The suit was filed on behalf of the deity Bhagwan Shri

Krishna Virajman and some Hindu devotees seeking removal of the mosque.

Initially, the civil court had dismissed the suit in September 2020, citing the bar under the Places of Worship Act.

However, the Mathura District Court reversed this decision in May 2022, holding that the suit was maintainable. Subsequently, the matter was transferred to the High Court in 2023.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is also considering appeals against related orders, including the Allahabad High Court's decision allowing consolidation of 18 related suits and their transfer to the High Court.

It is pertinent to note that the apex court had, in December last year, directed courts across India not to pass any effective orders or surveys in suits disputing the religious character of existing structures, until the validity of the Places of Worship Act, 1991 is decided. This order was issued in connection with a separate case challenging the constitutional validity of the 1991 Act.

Thus, no effective orders have been passed by lower courts, including in the Shahi Idgah matter, pending the Supreme Court's final decision on the 1991 Act.

# Cong leaders' statements seditious: Sambit Patra

## AGENCIES

BHUBANESWAR, APR 28 (UNI)

BJP MP Sambit Patra on Monday alleged that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his cabinet minister RB Timmapur were misleading Indians by making statements that appeared to sympathise with terrorists, and demanded that their visas be cancelled.

Speaking to reporters here, Patra said, "It is not just Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah; his minister RB Timmapur, too, has claimed that the terrorists did not open fire based on religion. By making such statements, they are encouraging sympathy towards terrorists and mocking the grief of the bereaved families."

Patra accused Congress leaders of attempting to break the morale of the Indian people and the armed forces at a time when the nation was united in grief. "The entire world and India are griev-



ing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the revenge for this attack will be unimaginable for Pakistan. But the Congress has shown its true nature," he said.

He further alleged, "Siddaramaiah says that Pakistan should not be attacked. Why are you sympathising with terrorists and Pakistan? This statement is seditious."

The BJP leader demanded that the Congress expel Siddaramaiah and Timmapur, but added that "the Congress will not do so because this is the true character of the party."

Referring to past inci-

dents, Patra said, "Rahul Gandhi once demanded proof of the surgical strikes. Today, the statements of Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, and Timmapur are being broadcast on Pakistani television, where they are being portrayed as sympathisers of Pakistan. Their visas should also be cancelled."

Coming down heavily on Congress leader Robert Vadra, Patra alleged that Vadra rushed to defend Pakistan even before the pyres of the victims had cooled down, attempting to blame India for the terror attack and exonerate Pakistan.

# BJP-JDS conspiring to topple Cong govt in Karnataka: alleges Dy CM

## AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 28 (UNI)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president DK Shivakumar on Monday accused the BJP and the JDS of allegedly conspiring to overthrow the Congress government in the state but asserted that their attempts would not succeed.

"The BJP and the JD(S) are trying to topple the Congress government in Karnataka, but Congress will return to power in the 2028 Assembly election," Shivakumar told reporters.

Highlighting the government's achievements, he said the administration had presented a budget exceeding Rs 4 lakh crore and was working with the motto of "equal rights and equal life for all."

The Deputy CM criticised the BJP and JD(S) for their "jealousy" and questioned their contributions to the welfare of women, farmers, youth, and job creation.

The remarks come close on the heels of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge alleging that the BJP was attempting to destabilise



the Karnataka government through backdoor methods and cautioning Congress leaders to remain united.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah refuted BJP's claims that the state's treasury had been emptied due to the guarantee schemes, pointing to the inauguration and foundation-laying of projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore on Sunday as evidence of financial stability.

"There is no truth in BJP's allegations. If the treasury was empty, how could we undertake projects of this scale?" Siddaramaiah asked, addressing a separate gathering.

The Chief Minister also dismissed the BJP's 'Janakrosha Yatre' campaign against the Congress gov-

ernment as "baseless" and "full of lies," accusing the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being responsible for the steep rise in prices of essential commodities over the past eleven years.

He asserted that the Congress government in Karnataka, unlike the BJP at the Centre, was committed to developmental works and welfare schemes, and accused the BJP of habitually using "backdoor" methods to come to power without public support.

The Karnataka BJP's 'Janakrosha Yatre' has been aimed at highlighting alleged price rise, Muslim appeasement, and misappropriation of funds meant for Dalit welfare under the Congress government.

# Pak nationals deported from UP following Kashmir terror attack

## AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, APR 28 (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to achieve almost 100 per cent deportation of Pakistani nationals within 24 hours, with only one remaining to be deported in the wake of the cowardly Pahalgam terror attack, an official spokesman said here on Monday.

The spokesman said that the last Pakistani citizen is set to be deported on Wednesday, under constant surveillance by police and intelligence agencies. "Pakistani citizens have been expelled from UP as per the directives of the central government," he said.

It may be noted that in response to the Pahalgam



terror attack, the central government issued immediate advisories for all states to deport Pakistani nationals. "Acting swiftly, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened a high-level meeting with Home Department officials and other agencies. He issued strict directives to expel all

Pakistani citizens from UP, directing police teams to personally escort them to the border to ensure their safe return to Pakistan," he said.

The spokesman said that following directives of the CM Yogi, all 75 districts in UP were placed on high alert and swift action was

taken.

Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar said that under the CM's guidance, comprehensive steps were implemented statewide to deport Pakistani nationals. He said that 100 percent Pakistani citizens have been deported, with local police teams escorting them to the border. Only one Pakistani national remains, set to be deported on April 30.

The spokesman said that due to the stringent directives and real-time monitoring by CM Yogi, UP has emerged as the first state in India to execute such swift and comprehensive action against Pakistani citizens, ensuring their return with full verification at the border.

# Five female die after mound of soil collapses in Kaushambi

## AGENCIES

KAUSHAMBI (UP), APR 28 (UNI)

Five females, including two teenagers, died after a mound of soil collapsed while digging the soil in the Kokhraj area of Kaushambi district here in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, police sources said here.

Police sources said that some women of Tikardih village of Nagar Palika Parishad Bharwari were digging soil from the pond for cooking and plastering the house when suddenly the mound of soil collapsed.

"Sangeeta (35), Mamta (32), Kachrahi (32), Uma alias Suman (14) and Khushi (16) died on the spot in the incident," they said. Police sources



said that after hearing the screams, people from the nearby area rushed to the spot and informed and called JCB, with the help of which the soil was removed and a rescue operation was launched.

Police sources said that

the bodies of the deceased women were taken out by removing the debris. "Sapna (15) and Maina (23) were seriously injured in the incident and have been admitted to the government hospital for treatment," they said.

# India, France ink Rs 63,000 cr deal for 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft

## AGENCIES

New Delhi, Apr 28 (UNI)

India on Monday signed an agreement with France to purchase 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 63,000 crore.

Of the total 26 aircraft, 22 will be single-seater and four will be two-seater. These aircraft will be deployed on the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

The Government had approved the purchase of these aircraft during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security



(CCS) earlier this month.

After getting these fighter aircraft, the Navy's striking capability will increase manifold. Currently, the Air Force fleet has 36 Rafale fighter aircraft.

The contract package also includes maintenance of the aircraft, training and indigenous manufacturing of spare parts.

Currently, the Indian Navy has a fleet of MiG-29 fighter aircraft.

# Mamata calls for peace and communal harmony

## AGENCIES

KOLKATA, APR 28 (UNI)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who arrived in Digha in East Midnapore on Monday morning to attend the consecration ceremony of the newly constructed Jagannath Temple scheduled for Akshaya Tritiya on Wednesday, urged everyone to maintain unity, harmony and peace.

Before departing for Digha, 185 km from Kolkata, by helicopter from Howrah's Dumurjala Stadium, the Chief Minister said, "I am going to Jagannath Dham. Everyone, stay well. Maintain unity, harmony, and peace among yourselves."

According to temple sources, although the official inauguration of the Jag-

annath Temple in Digha is scheduled for Wednesday, various rituals including a Shanti Yagna (peace ritual) has already commenced several days earlier.

According to sources in the temple, a yajna has been ongoing at Digha's Jagannath Temple with a Mahakund (great fire pit) set up amid four smaller fire pits since Thursday last. Lamps have been lit in the sanctum sanctorum to invoke the deities.

The ritual worship of Lord Jagannath's seat has been completed, milk ablations (dugdh snan) for the idols of Jagannath, Balabhadra (Balaram), Subhadra, and Sudarshan have been performed, and the auspicious sound of the mungal sanai (a tradi-

# Lahaul-Spiti becomes India's first all-women administrative district

## AGENCIES

SHIMLA, APR 28 (UNI)

In a historic move, Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, known for its challenging terrain and extreme weather, has become India's first all-women administrative district.

This transformation comes with the recent posting of IAS officer Kiran Badana as Deputy Commissioner.

A firebrand officer, Badana's appointment marks a major milestone for the district where, interestingly, the female population outnumbers males due to very high male migration outside the district for livelihood.

This shift follows a series of strategic political and administrative decisions. Last year, a surprise political development resulted in the election of Anuradha Rana as the district's second woman legislator during the 2024 bye-election, further strengthening women's leadership in the tribal region.

Adding to the momentum, the Congress government recently appointed Ilma Afroz as the Superintendent of Police for Lahaul-Spiti, transferring her from Solan district after her commendable success in curbing mining mafias and political interference.

To complete the circle, the charge of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Keylong is with Akanksha Sharma and SDM Kaza Shikha who were assigned to women officer, making Lahaul-Spiti a model of women-led governance.

Once regarded as a "punishment posting" due to its harsh climate and geographical isolation, Lahaul-Spiti is fast emerging as a preferred destination for women officers. With improved infrastructure like the Rohtang Tunnel and the unmatched warmth of its people, the district offers both professional challenges and opportunities.

Despite the developments, governing Lahaul-Spiti remains a formidable task. The district shares long international borders with the Union Territory of Ladakh and Tibet, and stays buried under heavy snow for nearly half the year. The hostile terrain and life-threatening conditions test the resilience of its administrators daily.

## Affordable, quality healthcare priority of central government: JP Nadda

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Monday said that providing affordable and quality healthcare to every poor person in the country is a priority of the central government and the two pillars of Ayushman Bharat initiative – Ayushman Arogya Mandir and AB PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) – are a result of a very well-thought process.

Addressing the gathering during an event in the national capital, the minister highlighted that the government's expenditure on healthcare has increased from 29 per cent in 2014 to 48 per cent today, leading to decline in out-of-pocket expenditure of people.

He stated that screening of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Ayushman Arogya Mandir and expanding the package of services being



provided there has helped in providing preventive and promotive healthcare and addressing the growing concern of lifestyle diseases.

"Health facilities are being encouraged to undertake self-assessment under the Indian Public Health Standards 2022 and National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)", Nadda stated.

The Union Health Minister also highlighted the need for enhancing capacity of health administrators to ensure timely and effective decision making, working on the program implementation plans,

enhancing the capacity of ASHA workers and community health workers, strengthening and institutionalising the hub-and-spoke model of digital health intervention and monitoring and assessment of health impacts.

Nadda urged the young officers to have an impact survey done of the benefits that have accrued from the programmes of the Health Ministry at the ground level.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog stated that the underlying motivation behind today's paradigm for health is

achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to ensure that every citizen has access to quality healthcare without financial hardship.

He stated that health coverage today not only entails curative treatment but also promotive, preventive, palliative, rehabilitative and therapeutic.

"As many as 90 per cent of essential interventions for UHC can be delivered through primary healthcare systems" and "an estimated 75 per cent of projected health gains under the SDGs can be achieved through primary healthcare system," Paul added.

He highlighted that countries with strong primary healthcare have higher life expectancy, better health outcomes, lower medication use and overall lower medical costs. Dr Paul highlighted that thanks to AB PMJAY, hospitalisation rates in India has increased by 40 per cent.

## Scientists link fatty, sugary diets with impaired brain function

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY

In a significant study, researchers have linked fatty and sugary diets to impaired cognitive function.

The team from University of Sydney looked at the relationship between high-fat, high-sugar (HFHS) diets, particularly those high in refined sugar and saturated fat, and first-person spatial navigation.

Spatial navigation is the ability to learn and remember a path from one location to another, a process that can approximate the health of the brain's hippocampus, said the study published in the International Journal of Obesity.

Dr Dominic Tran from the Faculty of Science's School of Psychology led the research, which found HFHS diets have a detrimental effect on some aspects of cognitive function.



It is likely those effects centre on the hippocampus, the brain structure important for spatial navigation and memory formation, rather than acting across the entire brain.

"The good news is we think this is an easily reversible situation," Dr Tran said. "Dietary changes can improve the health of the hippocampus, and therefore our ability to navigate our environment, such as when we're exploring a new city or learning a new route home."

The research team

recruited 55 university students aged between 18 and 38.

Each participant completed questionnaires capturing their intake of sugary and fatty foods. They also had their working memory tested in a number recall exercise, and their body mass index (BMI) recorded.

The experiment itself required participants to navigate a virtual reality maze and locate a treasure chest six times. The maze was surrounded by landmarks that participants

could use to remember their route. Their starting point and the location of the treasure chest remained constant in each trial.

If participants found the treasure in less than four minutes, they continued to the next trial. If they failed to find the treasure in this time, they were teleported to its location and given 10 seconds to familiarise themselves with that location before the next trial.

Those with lower levels of fat and sugar in their diets were able to pinpoint the location with a higher degree of accuracy than those who consumed these foods multiple times a week.

"After controlling for working memory and BMI, measured separately to the experiment, participants' sugar and fat intake was a reliable predictor of performance in that final, seventh, test," Dr Tran said.

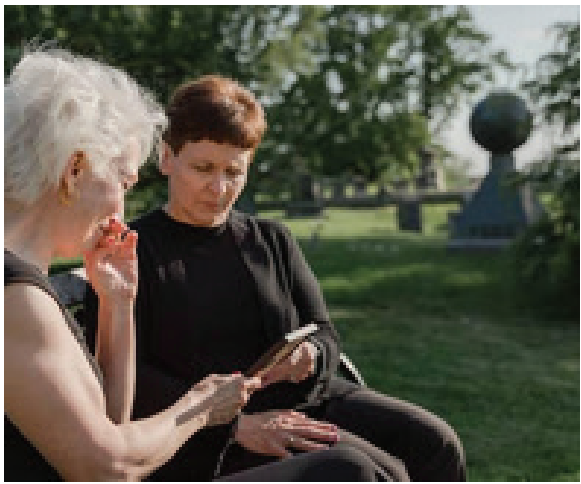
## Middle-aged Americans more lonely than older generations: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

Middle-aged Americans demonstrated some of the highest levels of loneliness in a new study released on Tuesday, which assessed tens of thousands of 50 to 90-year-olds across 29 countries.

The peer-reviewed research, published in Aging and Mental Health, shows loneliness generally increases with age -- with only the US and the Netherlands representing places where middle-aged people feel more lonely than older generations.

"There is a general perception that people get lonelier as they age, but the opposite is actually true in the US where middle-aged people are lonelier than older generations," said lead author Robin Richardson, a social and psychiatric epidemiologist and assistant professor at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.



Advocacy and interventions to address the loneliness epidemic have historically focused on older adults and adolescents. Middle-aged adults represent a critical population that is being overlooked, he mentioned.

Loneliness is a significant public health concern, responsible for a wide range of physiological, cognitive, mental and behavioural health outcomes that decrease qual-

ity of life and increase the risk of disease.

Using data from 64,324 older adults in countries across Europe, North America, and the Middle East, Richardson collaborated with experts from Columbia University; McGill University in Canada; and Universidad Mayor in Santiago, Chile.

The team found that while loneliness generally increased with age, the size of the increase was

greater in some countries than others. Adults in Bulgaria and Latvia reported the most substantial increase in loneliness as people age. They found that adults in Cyprus and Greece had the highest prevalence of loneliness among adults aged 50-90 years.

The US had a substantially higher prevalence of loneliness among middle-aged adults, a pattern shared with only one other country, the Netherlands.

Being unmarried, not working, depression and poor health were major reasons why loneliness varied with age, but the importance of these contributors and the combination of factors were different in each country.

For example, in the US, not working was the top reason for a higher amount of loneliness among middle-aged adults, while in other countries it resulted in more loneliness among older adults.

## Develop culture of safety, well-being of patients at healthcare facilities: Ministry

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Highlighting the issue of fire prevention and safety, Health Ministry on Tuesday said it is committed to ensure safety and well-being of patients (both outpatients and inpatients), their attendants and others at the healthcare facilities.

Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava stressed on the importance of ensuring fire and electrical safety in all health facilities, while highlighting need for fire safety planning, capacity building of all healthcare functionaries on hospital fire safety as well as need to organise regular mock drills on fire preparedness as well as patient evacuation.

The ministry has launched the Fire Safety Week in collaboration with all states/UTs as well as relevant central ministries and departments from April 21-25.



At the pledge-taking ceremony, Srivastava also highlighted the need to develop a culture of safety at health facilities.

She urged all public and private health facilities to participate maximally in the activities and share the best practices with the Ministry to enhance and ensure the fire safety across all health facilities in the country.

The participants pledged to uphold the highest standards of fire safety within their respective organisations and healthcare facilities; cultivate a culture of fire safety awareness within their respective institutions by educating all staff and stakeholders on fire prevention, emergency response procedures, and the vital resources needed

to maintain a safe environment; prioritize the safety of every patient, colleague, and visitor and embrace innovative solutions to prevent fire hazards.

Various activities have been planned throughout the country during the 'Fire Safety Week' in order to raise awareness regarding importance of prevention and mitigation of fire hazards in all healthcare facilities across the country.

The ministry also organised a two-day webinar series on fire and electrical safety in health facilities, covering crucial aspects like prevention, regulatory compliance, maintenance and operations of fire detection and suppression systems, patient evacuation as well as holding mock-drills/ mock exercises to engage.

The webinar series has been attended by over 3,000 participants from all states/UTs.

## AI algorithm can help identify high-risk heart patients: Study

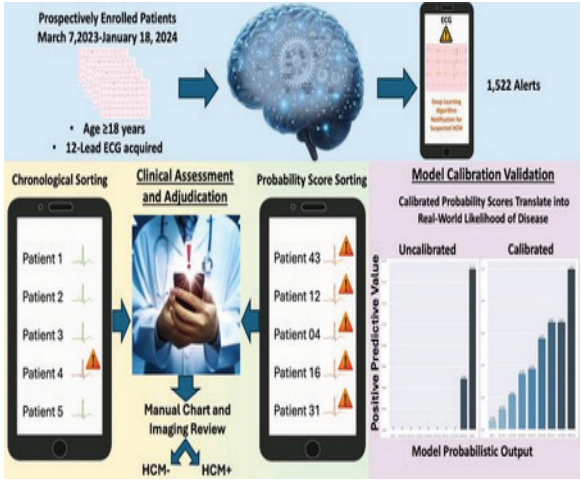
AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

A team of US researchers, studying a type of heart disease known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), on Tuesday said they have calibrated an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to quickly and more specifically identify patients with the condition and flag them as high risk for greater attention during doctor's appointments.

The algorithm, known as Viz HCM, had previously been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the detection of HCM on an electrocardiogram (ECG).

The Mount Sinai study, published in the journal NEJM AI, assigns numeric probabilities to the algorithm's findings.

For example, while the algorithm might previously have said "flagged as suspected HCM" or "high risk of HCM," the



Mount Sinai study allows for interpretations such as, "You have about a 60 percent chance of having HCM," said Joshua Lampert, Director of Machine Learning at Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital.

As a result, patients who had not previously been diagnosed with HCM may be able to get a better understanding of their individual disease risk, leading to a faster and more individualized

evaluation, along with treatment to potentially prevent complications such as sudden cardiac death, especially in young patients.

"This is an important step forward in translating novel deep-learning algorithms into clinical practice by providing clinicians and patients with more meaningful information. Clinicians can improve their clinical workflows by ensuring

the highest-risk patients are identified at the top of their clinical work list using a sorting tool," said Lampert, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiology, and Data-Driven and Digital Medicine) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

HCM impacts one in 200 people worldwide and is a leading reason for heart transplantation. However, many patients don't know they have symptoms and the disease may already be advanced.

"This study reflects pragmatic implementation science at its best, demonstrating how we can responsibly and thoughtfully integrate advanced AI tools into real-world clinical workflows," said co-senior author Girish N Nadkarni, Chair of the Windreich Department of Artificial Intelligence and Human Health and Director of the Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Health.

## New CGHS digital platform to ensure faster, transparent access to healthcare services

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

To enable faster, more transparent and user-friendly access to healthcare services, the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) will launch the next-generation Health Management Information System (HMIS) on April 28, it was announced on Wednesday.

Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), the comprehensive digital platform is being implemented in view of the technical obsolescence of the existing CGHS software, which has been in use since 2005 and lacks compatibility with modern IT standards, cyber security frameworks, and user expectations.

The revamped HMIS will enable faster, more transparent, and user-friendly access to CGHS services, ensuring



improved service delivery and administrative efficiency, according to Health Ministry.

To ensure a seamless rollout, all CGHS services including those at Wellness Centres shall remain closed for one day on April 26. This temporary suspension is necessary to complete data migration, switch-over activities, and final validation.

Among the key reforms in the New CGHS HMIS are

PAN-based unique identification of beneficiaries, an integrated digital verification and contribution tracking, pre-payment scrutiny of applications, online card modification services, real-time application tracking and alerts and mandatory password reset and secure access, among others.

All existing users will be prompted to reset their passwords on first login. This is being enforced as

a cyber hygiene measure in accordance with MeitY security advisories.

CGHS mobile applications for Android and iOS will be re-launched with upgraded interface and integrated digital services.

Beneficiaries are advised to access all online services, including registration, application, grievance redressal, and information retrieval, through this new portal only. All legacy beneficiary data, including medical history and pharmacy transactions, are being securely migrated, ensuring no loss of records. The transition complies fully with government data privacy and protection standards, said the ministry.

Additionally, the department shall be onboarded on the new CGHS platform for a paperless approval process. In the interim, departments may continue to submit applications physically at the respective CGHS Card Sections.



## Kevin Pietersen predicts T20I recall for experienced batter KL Rahul



### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 28 (UNI)

England great Kevin Pietersen believes experienced batter KL Rahul has shown vast improvement in white-ball cricket over the last couple of years and should be considered for a recall to India's T20I setup.

Rahul has been one of India's most consistent performers in 50-over cricket in recent times, with the right-hander playing a pivotal role in helping his side to the final of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023 and to success at the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this year.

But the 33-year-old hasn't featured for his country at T20I level since India's semi-final loss to England in Adelaide at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2022 despite some excellent domestic form in the shortest format.

Rahul finished as the seventh leading run-scorer at last year's edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) when amassing 520 runs for the Lucknow Super Giants and has further upped his efforts this year as he continues to sit high up the run charts overall following some excellent innings for the Delhi Capitals.

It's at Delhi where Rahul has

caught the eye of Pietersen, with the England legend working closely with the Indian star in his role as team mentor and predicting a return at T20I level for the talented right-hander.

While India have a plethora of options among their top-order, Pietersen believes Rahul is capable of slotting in at second drop in India's T20I side and providing the team with a reliable middle-order option.

"I'd bat KL at four for India in T20 cricket," Pietersen said in the post-match press conference after Delhi Capitals' defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

"I think you guys (India) have got plenty of opening batters, you've got Surya (Suryakumar Yadav) who bats at the top, you've got all of these guys but the way that KL Rahul is playing cricket now, he would be my first choice to bat at four and keep wicket for India."

Rahul has three half-centuries for Delhi during the ongoing IPL season, with his best knock to date coming against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the start of the month when he contributed an unbeaten 93\* from just 53 deliveries in a match-winning performance in Bengaluru.

## India opener Pratika Rawal earns praise following latest match-winning heroics



### AGENCIES

COLOMBO, APR 28 (UNI)

Inexperienced India opener Pratika Rawal continues to earn praise after she registered another Player of the Match performance for her side in their comprehensive victory over Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Pratika was playing in just her seventh international contest, but the 24-year-old displayed her class with a stylish unbeaten half-century that helped India to an easy nine-wicket triumph over Sri Lanka in the tri-series opener here.

It follows up Pratika's superb 154 against Ireland in Rajkot at the start of the year and has the right-hander on the brink of becoming

the fastest women to score 500 ODI runs.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been suitably impressed with Pratika's run of form and believes the future is bright for the youngster, an ICC report said.

"She has been really great for us, and last few games she's shown us that she's taking that responsibility. Every match she's playing a special knock and I'm really happy to see her best is coming for the team," Harmanpreet said.

Pratika now just needs six more runs in her next ODI contest to become the fastest woman to 500 ODI runs and in the process break the long-standing record of England great Charlotte

Edwards who reached the feat in nine ODI matches.

The potential record is not the immediate focus for Pratika, who is instead concentrating on playing her part in India's path towards their home ICC Women's Cricket World Cup campaign at the end of the year.

"It's years of hard work that's coming into place now. I'm very lucky, very fortunate I got this opportunity," she said.

"I'm just trying to play on the merit of the ball, nothing more goes into my mind. I'm very lucky that I have a partner like Smriti (Mandhana), who just makes the game so easy and I just have to play the ball according to merit. It makes my job very easy," Pratika said.

## India to play Myanmar, Indonesia, Turkmenistan in AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers



### AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR, APR 28 (UNI)

The India U20 women's team were drawn alongside Myanmar, Indonesia, and Turkmenistan in Group D of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers, following the draw conducted at the AFC House here in Malaysia, on Monday.

Myanmar will host Group D of the Qualifiers between August 6 to 10 in a centralised single round-robin format.

A total of 33 teams were divided into eight groups (Group A with five teams and rest of the seven with four each).

The group winners and the three best runners-up, alongside hosts Thailand, will complete the cast of 12 teams for the 12th edition of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, which will take place from April 1 to 18, 2026.

The top four teams in the final tournament will qualify for the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup 2026.

The AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, an eight-team tournament until 2024, has been expanded to 12 teams from the 2026 edition onwards.

The seedings for the draw were based on a points system derived from the teams' final rankings across the previous three editions of the tournament. India were placed in Pot 2.

### AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers draw result:

Group A: DPR Korea, Nepal, Bhutan (H), Mongolia, Saudi Arabia  
Group B: Vietnam (H), Kyrgyz Republic, Hong Kong, China, Singapore,  
Group C: Australia, Chinese Taipei, Palestine, Tajikistan (H)  
Group D: Myanmar (H), India, Indonesia, Turkmenistan  
Group E: China PR (H), Lebanon, Cambodia, Syria  
Group F: Japan, IR Iran, Malaysia (H), Guam  
Group G: Uzbekistan (H), Jordan, Northern Mariana Islands, Bahrain  
Group H: Korea Republic, Bangladesh, Laos (H), Timor Leste.

Cell. 9149442151 | 9419007973

# AZIZ AUTO MOBILES

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

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



SERVICE AVAILABLE: DAINTING PAINTING WASHING MECHANICAL WORK



## KREERI

Increasing  
business  
profitability  
by reducing  
printing cost

**LUBAAB**  
PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

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



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

**LUBAAB**  
PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for:  
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:  
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812  
9419008414

Tel: 0194 2496287

Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com

Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar



- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

### Our Printing Services

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