



## Pahalgam Terror Attack Fallout PM Says Armed Forces Have Full Freedom to Decide on Targets, Timing of Response

■ HT News Network/ (UNI)

**NEW DELHI, APR 29:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Tuesday that the armed forces have “complete operational freedom” to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, as he chaired a meeting with the top defence establishment.

During the high-level meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh,

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## Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reviews summer preparedness for Jammu division

Emphasizes proactive approach, minimising response time to exigencies

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underscored the importance of robust inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted essential services and swift response mechanism during the upcoming summer season across Jammu division.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the readiness of various departments to address challenges likely to emerge during the summer months.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shak-



ti Shaleen Kabra, ACS to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of various departments, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Managing Director JPDCI, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Jammu division, representatives from BRO and other concerned departments attended the meeting both in person and

virtually.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of summer preparedness, covering Jal Shakti (PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control), Health & Medical Education, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Works (R&B), Fire & Emergency Services, Forest,

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## PM Modi to chair four meetings Today, review security preparedness

**NEW DELHI, APR 29:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to chair four back to back meetings in the National Capital on Wednesday to review security preparedness in wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Prime Minister Modi will chair the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) – the country's highest decision-making body on national

security –meeting at around 11 am. It will mark the second round of discussions at the highest level since the Pahalgam attack. Security preparations are likely to be discussed at this meeting.

Pertinently, PM Modi had chaired the CCS meeting a day after the Pahalgam terror strike and had announced a series of measures targeting Pakistan.

In the CCS meeting the government decided to put the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960

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## Govt closes 48 tourist destinations following Pahalgam attack

■ HT News Network/UNI

**SRINAGAR, APR 29 (UNI)** Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have shut down 48 resorts and tourist destinations across the Valley amid security concerns, officials said on Tuesday.

The decision comes in the wake of a comprehensive security audit conducted across 87 tourist locations in

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## Support Centre's actions but innocents should not be harmed : Ruhullah Mehdi

■ HT News Network

**ANANTNAG, APRIL, 29** ÷ National Conference MP Aga



Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday said he supports the Centre's actions to bring perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack to justice and appealed to the government to ensure no innocent is harmed in the process. “We are with any action, whatever way it

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## Heat wave in Kashmir: Srinagar records all-time 2nd hottest April day at 30.8 C

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** Amidst the dry weather conditions, several areas across Kashmir have witnessed heat wave with Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, recording the all-time second-hottest April day at 30.8 degree Celsius on Tuesday.

According to the news agency—Pahalgam, famous tourist destination, recorded an all-time highest April day at 27.8 degree

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## Tension continues on LoC as India, Pak armies exchange gunfire for fifth day Residents say ceasefire brought normalcy, now fear return of conflict

■ HT News Network/UNI

**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** Pakistani troops continued unprovoked firing across the Line of Control (LoC) for the fifth consecutive night in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

In the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, the Pakistan Army opened fire using small arms at Indian positions in sectors opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts in north Kashmir, as well as the Akhnoor sector in Jammu, Lt Colonel Suneel Bartwal, PRO (Defence), Northern Command, as reported by the news agency—, said the Indian Army responded in a measured and effective manner. This series of incidents



began Thursday night, hours after India announced the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty following the killing of 26 civilians in a terror attack in Pahalgam.

Since then, Pakistani troops have opened fire across the LoC at multiple locations, including on the intervening night of April 27-28 in Kupwara and Poonch districts.

“There have been no casualties on the Indian side,” Bartwal said.

Officials said the security grid along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir has been placed on high alert. The Army and Border Security Force (BSF) are conducting round-the-clock patrols and maintaining strict vigilance. They are also deploying advanced surveillance technology, including high-tech drones and other monitoring equipment, to track any movement across the border.

The repeated ceasefire violations

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## 60 Pak women, children living in J&K deported

■ HT News Network/UNI



**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, nearly sixty Pakistani women and their children, most of them married to former Kashmiri terrorists, were deported to Pakistan through Wagah border on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—, the families, gathered from districts including Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, and Shopian, were escorted in buses to Punjab for handover to Pakistani authorities.

Many of the women had entered Kashmir under the 2010 rehabilitation policy for former terrorists.

Eleven Pakistani nationals who had entered India on valid visas nearly 45 years ago in Mendhar, Poonch, were also sent back.

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## Short-Term Closure of Tourist Spots; Will Reopen After Security Review and Sanitization: Advisor to CM

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 29:** Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani said that the closure of several tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir is a “very short-term measure”, emphasizing that the sites will be reopened soon following security review and sanitization to ensure the safety of tourists and locals.

Speaking exclusively to KNS, Wani said, “There is no need to



panic. These closures are precautionary and will be lifted shortly once the areas are declared secure.”

His remarks come in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which prompted the administration to temporarily shut down 54 tourist spots across the region as part of a wider security clampdown. However, many major tourist hubs remain operational under

heightened security.

A government circular has outlined a district-wise shut-down plan, with several locations now guarded by CAPF, CRPF, and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs).

In Bandipora, Gurez Valley is closed at Sumbal, while Athwatoo and Wullar Vantage Park remain open under CRPF protection. Budgam's scenic spots

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## Major Reshuffle in J&K Administration : 96 JKAS Officers Transferred

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday issued transfer and posting orders for 96 JKAS officers across a wide array of departments. The order issued by the GAD, a copy of which lies with the news agency—, reads Rakesh Magotra transferred as Special Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. Naseer Ahmad Wani posted as Special Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department. Vir Krishan Dhar appointed as Additional Secretary, Disaster Management,

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## As wedding season begins, gold sales plummet in Kashmir Fluctuating gold prices fuel buyer hesitation; Traders report 90% drop in sales

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** With the wedding season beginning in Kashmir—traditionally a peak period for gold sales, jewellers across the Valley are witnessing an unexpected slump in business, as soaring and unstable gold prices keep buyers away.

Traders, as per news agency— say the demand for gold has plummeted to less than 10 per cent of usual levels, with customers delaying purchases in the hope of a price correction.

“The market is practically stagnant,” said Bashir Ahmad, President of the All Kashmir Gold Dealers and Workers Association. “Even though it's marriage season, we aren't seeing the kind of rush we used to. People are sitting at home, and shopkeepers are idle.”

Describing rates as high, Ahmad told KNO that gold



prices currently stand approximately at Rs 8,200 per gram for 18-carat and Rs 9,650 per gram for 24-carat

gold rates. However, he believes the issue is not just the high cost but the unpredictability of the market.

“In Kashmir, there's an old saying that when gold starts falling, people wait for it to fall further,” Ahmad said. “This wait-and-watch approach hurts our business. If the price stabilises, even at a high point, people may start buying again. But as long as the price keeps fluctuating, it creates hesitation.”

According to traders, customers are postponing purchases, hoping that the rates will eventually come down. Traders said that this approach has severely impacted business in a sector that depends heavily on seasonal momentum, especially during weddings.

Stressing the urgent need for market stability, Ahmad said, “If gold prices stay constant, whether high or low, for two to three months, we can plan ahead, and buyers will return.”

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## ACB registers embezzlement case against ZEO Chandanwari, Jr Asst

■ HT News Network/UNI

**BARAMULLA, APR 29:** Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said to have presented a charge-sheet before Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Baramulla, against ZEO Chandanwari & Jr Asst for misappropriation and embezzlement of over Rs 27 lacs out of scholarship funds meant for Gujjar Bakerwal & Pahari speaking students.

A spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—said that “on receipt of a complaint titled Ghulam Qadir Mir versus Education Zone Boniyar through State Vigilance Commission J&K for conducting probe into the allegations of fraud and embezzlement in scholarship funds of Pahari speaking and Gujjar-Bakerwal students in Education Zone Chandanwari, district Baramulla, a verification was conducted during which allegations levelled in

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### PM

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services, Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the armed forces.

“They have complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets and timing of our response,” a source quoted Modi as saying.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan was also part of the meeting, which was held amid India weighing its options for countermeasures following the Pahalgam terror attack which left at least 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead.

Modi has vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the attack and their patrons, a clear reference to Pakistan which has a history of sponsoring terror strikes in India, to the “ends of earth” and inflict the harshest punishment on them “beyond their imagination”.

Terrorists had gunned down tourists, who were from different parts of the country, in the popular destination of Pahalgam in Kashmir exactly a week ago on April 22.

This most brutal attack on civilians in a long spell of time in the region has sparked a wave of outrage across the country and a demand for retaliatory action against the perpetrators and their handlers.

The prime minister’s tough assertions coupled with his government’s avowed muscular stand on the issues of national security have heightened expectations of a stringent counteraction from India.

In the past, the Modi government carried out surgical strikes inside Pakistan after the terror attack on army soldiers in Uri in 2016 and the Balakot air strike after the killings of CRPF personnel in Pulwama.

Following the terror strike in Pahalgam, India has taken a series of measures targeting Pakistan, including putting in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty with the neighbouring country.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan had chaired a high-level meeting which was attended by chiefs of three paramilitary forces and senior officers of two other security organisations, sources said. There was no official word on its agenda. (PTI)

### GOVT

all districts, following last week’s deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local resident. The audit was aimed at identifying security vulnerabilities and bolstering safety measures at major tourist destinations.

Among the prominent destinations now off-limits to tourists is Gurez, a valley on the Line of Control (LoC) in Bandipora district that attracted thousands of tourists over the last decade.

The other top destinations closed include Youssmarg and Doodhpatri in Budgam; Aharbal, Kounsarnag, and Verinag in south Kashmir; Kaman Post on LoC in Baramulla; and the picturesque Bangus Valley in Kupwara.

In Srinagar city, the government has decided not to allow the tourists from visiting Jamia Masjid, the grand mosque located in the old city.

The famous resorts like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg would remain open for tourists.

Authorities emphasized that the tourist spots which remain open have been provided with enhanced security arrangements to ensure safety of visitors.

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department has also closed all its trekking routes for tourists. Over the past four years, both locals and non-local visitors had increasingly flocked to Kashmir’s meadows and alpine trails, especially during the summer trekking season.

While the Valley had witnessed a rise in tourist arrivals in recent years, the Pahalgam attack has dealt a severe blow to the tourism industry. Over the last six days, several tourists have left Kashmir while many others have cancelled their coming travel plans to Kashmir.

### PM

in abeyance with immediate effect. The integrated check post at Attari was closed with immediate effect. Pakistani nationals who had entered India through valid endorsements were asked to return before May 1, 2025.

It was decided that Pakistani nationals will no longer be allowed to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES). All previously issued SVES visas are deemed cancelled. Pakistani nationals currently in India under SVES visas were asked to leave the country within 48 hours.

Other decisions included declaring the Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi as persona non grata and were given one week to leave India.

Officials said that after chairing the CCS meeting, PM Modi will also lead the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA). Besides the Prime Minister, the CCPA comprises Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Health Minister JP Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and other senior ministers.

The Cabinet’s Economic Affairs Committee will meet thereafter, followed by a cabinet meeting—(KNO)

### CM

JPDCI, JMC, and others.

Highlighting the need to minimise public inconvenience during heatwave conditions, Omar Abdullah stated, “Coordination between all line departments is vital to ensure uninterrupted essential services to citizens during summer months.”

He further stressed the importance of a swift response mechanism amid rising temperatures and the possibility of heatwave, water shortages or power outages.

“Response time to any kind of exigency should be minimised,” he asserted.

Engaging directly with Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Minister reviewed district-level preparedness and urged them to prioritise timely, effective response to weather-related challenges.

He emphasised the need to keep personnel ready and machinery in working condition to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of essential services.

“Preparedness is not just about having systems in place but ensuring that those systems work seamlessly when put to the test,” Omar Abdullah noted, adding that preparedness must be proactive rather than reactive.

While commending field-level officers for their proactive planning, he called upon them to maintain a constant state of readiness and ensure grievance redressal mechanisms remain accessible and effective for public facilitation during emergencies.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu delivered a detailed presentation highlighting preparations for the upcoming summer season, with a focus on the availability of drinking water, electricity supply management, and medical emergency response strategies.

The meeting was informed that in respect of forest fire management, high-risk districts like Nowshera, Jammu and Reasi have been prioritized with 175 control rooms and awareness drives. Water supply preparedness would include vulnerability mapping, infrastructure maintenance, and deployment of tankers, while IEC campaigns to deal with heatwave effect are being conducted.

It was informed that Power infrastructure is being strengthened through transformer upgrades, pruning of tree branches and activation of emergency teams. It was given out that the Health Department has stocked essential supplies, operationalized Heat Stroke Rooms, and mandated daily reporting of heat-related illnesses.

Divisional Commissioner also informed the meeting that Schools in the summer zone will follow revised timings from May 1, and the school bag policy is in effect. Irrigation canals have been desilted, and flood control rooms activated, with mitigation plans in place for vulnerable districts, he said.

JMC has readied monsoon rescue units, upgraded drainage equipment, and deployed water sprinklers and coolers for heatwave relief, he told the meeting.

He added that BRO and PMGSY have mapped landslide and flood-prone sites, ensuring machinery is in place for rapid response.

The Chief Minister directed departments to activate control rooms, maintain buffer stocks of essential supplies, and deploy quick response teams to vulnerable areas.

He also instructed the deployment of an adequate number of water tankers in areas prone to shortages.

Additionally, he directed the ACS Jal Shakti to install GPS trackers on all water tankers to ensure accountability and oversight of their field operations.

The Chief Minister also called for timely maintenance of key roads, particularly the Srinagar–Jammu National Highway, Mughal Road, and other vital routes.

### LOC

have caused concern among residents in border villages. Schools have started preparing students for potential emergencies by conducting mock drills and evacuation exercises.

“We are training children on how to take shelter quickly and where to gather in case of firing,” said Mohammad Younis, a school principal in the Tangdhar area.

Meanwhile, authorities on Tuesday announced the closure of several tourist destinations near the LoC, including Gurez, Keran, Tangdhar and Uri. These places had seen a rise in tourist footfall since the February 2021 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan.

“The administration has decided to shut down tourism in these areas until the situation becomes clear,” a government official

said.

Locals said the ceasefire pact of 2021 had brought a period of calm to the region, allowing people to resume normal life. That sense of security is now under strain.

“Since 2021, we have been living peacefully,” said Nizakat Ahmad, a resident of Uri. “We fear the shelling may return. We have already lost people in the past.”—

### WOMENS

Pertinently, after the Pahalgam terror attack Union Home Minister Amit Shah had directed heads of the States and Union Territories to identify and remove and deport Pakistani citizens from their respective States and UTs immediately—

### TEMP

Celsius, breaking the previous record of 27.4 degree Celsius, recorded on April 04, 1979.

Qazigund, a gateway of south Kashmir, has recorded a maximum temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded 29.2 degree Celsius, the data reads.

As per the details, Kokernag recorded a day temperature of 28.2 degree Celsius and Gulmarg; a famous ski-resort, recorded 22.2 degree Celsius.

Pertinently, the weatherman had predicted a dry spell from April 27 and had stated that there is a possibility of a heat wave at a few places across J&K for the next few days.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather is expected to remain generally dry from tomorrow upto May 1. He added that there is a possibility of light rain and thundershower at isolated places on May 2 and May 3.

The MeT has, however, stated that there is a possibility of generally hot & dry weather over Jammu division with heat wave at isolated places for the next few days and advised people to stay hydrated & drink plenty of water, fluid & stay indoors and avoid working in the open during peak hours (12-3 pm)—

### WANI

like Tousimaidan and Doodpathri are shut, but Pir Ki Gali in Shopian is accessible with strong security presence.

In Baramulla, Gulmarg continues to operate under a six-point security grid, though nearby attractions like Habba Khatoon are closed. In Srinagar, tourist hotspots such as Boulevard Road and the Mughal Gardens remain open with enhanced deployment, while Harwar resorts and Dachigam trout farm are closed.

Kokernag Garden in Anantnag is open with tourist policy, whereas Verinag remains off-limits. Sonamarg, Aharbal, and Thajwas Glacier are also accessible, patrolled jointly by multiple security agencies.

The administration has reiterated that these steps are part of a broader effort to ensure public safety without causing long-term disruption to tourism. (KNS)

### ACB

complaint were substantiated.”

“Accordingly on the basis of findings and recommendations of the Enquiry Officer, three separate cases/FIRs including the case FIR No. 19/2018 & two other similar cases, i.e., FIR No. 20/2018 & FIR No. 21/2018 were registered at Police Station Vigilance Organization Kashmir (P/S VOK), (Now Police Station Anti-Corruption Bureau Baramulla) against different officers/officials of three different education zones of District Baramulla for misappropriation/embezzlement of scholarship funds and investigations were initiated. After registration of case thorough investigations were conducted by anti-corruption Bureau into the allegations of fraud/embezzlement in scholarship funds meant for Pahari Speaking and Gujar-Bakerwal students in Education Zone Chandanwari, District Baramulla during academic years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 by the accused public servants of education department,” reads the statement.

The investigations conducted revealed that an amount approx. 27 lac was embezzled/misappropriated by the accused public servants which was meant for the students belonging to Gujar & Bakerwal community of education zone chandanwari District Baramulla during the academic year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, it added.

“The vital records i.e. Acquittance Registers for the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were maintained by accused in which fictitious names of nonexistent students were inserted, and huge amount was shown disbursed against fictitious students. Moreover, it was also found that the funds for Gujar and Bakerwal students for the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were obtained on the higher side than the actual roll & an excess amount of Rs. 23,15,400 was also embezzled/misappropriated by the accused public servants in conspiracy with each other.”

Investigations conducted reveal that accused public servants in connivance with

one another by abuse of their official position & authority acted in violation of laid down norms of disbursement and also added many fictitious names of students from Gujar Bakerwal/Pahari speaking categories thereby inflating the actual number of beneficiary students, by this way they not only conferred undue pecuniary benefits upon themselves but also caused commensurate loss to state exchequer, reads the statement.

“After completion of investigations the charge Sheet (Challan) of the case as envisaged under section 173 Cr.PC was submitted before Hon’ble Court of Spl Judge anti-corruption court Baramulla against accused public servants (1). Abdul Rashid Mir, the then Zonal Education Officer Chandanwari (Now retired) S/o Abdul Gaffar Mir R/o Hundi Nowshera Uri, A/P Gantmulla Bala Baramulla and (2). Bashir Ahmad Lone, the then Junior Assistant in the Office of ZEO Chandanwari (Now retired) S/o Wali Mohammad Lone R/o Bijhama Boniyar Uri under sections 5(1)(c), 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) Jammu & Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act. Samvat 2006, and Section 468, 471, 201 & 120-B RPC for judicial determination. Both the accused were presented before Hon’ble court who were released by court after taking bail bound,” it reads, adding that next date for hearing has been fixed by court as 15-07-2025—

### GOLD

But in this current climate of volatility, even hopeful buyers are holding back.”

Ahmad also pointed to global economic uncertainties and currency fluctuations as factors driving the erratic gold prices, leaving local traders in a precarious position.

“As traders, we don’t control the global markets,” Ahmad added. “All we can do is pray that the rates come down so that we can get back to work.”

Traders said that as May was approaching, typically another high point for weddings in Kashmir, they were hoping that either the prices will settle or drop enough to revive consumer confidence and bring much-needed relief to the sector—

### TRANSFAR

Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. Dhananter Singh shifted to Health and Medical Education Department as Additional Secretary. Sonali Arun Gupta becomes Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. Atul Gupta posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Billa-war-Duggan.

Jagdish Chander transferred to Housing and Urban Development Department as Additional Secretary. Harbans Lal posted to Finance Department as Additional Secretary.

Mohammad Ashraf appointed as Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Rajeev Magotra posted as Additional Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department. Sanjeev Rana transferred to Hospitality and Protocol Department as Additional Secretary. Sukriti Sharma appointed Registrar, GCET, Jammu.

Umar Shafi Pandit posted as Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Srinagar. Deepak Dubey becomes Joint Director, Information, Jammu. Pardeep Kumar appointed Additional Secretary, Tourism Department. Abdul Rashid Dass transferred as Registrar, District Anantnag.

Syed Naseer Ahmad posted as Secretary, Srinagar Development Authority. Girdhari Lal appointed Deputy Excise Commissioner (Distilleries), Jammu. Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam. Kaiser Ahmad Bhawani appointed CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Kishtwar.

Mita Kumari transferred to Industries and Commerce Department as Additional Secretary. Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary posted as General Manager, DIC, Kathua. Anshuman Singh appointed Additional Secretary, Science and Technology Department.

Zaheer Abass Bhat becomes Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu. Naser Ali posted as Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (M&P), Jammu. Preeti Sharma appointed Joint Registrar, Cooperatives (Special), Jammu. Bilal Mukhtar Dar posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Sonamarg. Abhishake Abrol transferred as General Manager, DIC, Jammu. Vikas Dhar Bagati appointed Registrar, District Kathua. Shabnam Rashid becomes Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Stamps), Kashmir. Tinna Mahajan posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Accounts), Jammu.

Malik Waseem Ahmad posted as General Manager, DIC, Pulwama. Nazia Hassan posted as General Manager, DIC, Anantnag.

Manisha Koul becomes Registrar, District Samba. Mohammad Imran Khan posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Wullar-Manasbal.

Zahid Rashid Khan appointed General Manager, DIC, Budgam. Varinder Gupta becomes Registrar, District Reasi. Kuldip Raj transferred as Additional Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. Parvaiz Ahmad Naik appointed CEO, Urban Development Agency, Jammu.

Najwan Nazki posted as Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kashmir. Mir Zahida becomes

CEO, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir.

Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kulgam. Deebah Khalid Peer appointed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Srinagar. Mohammad Ashraf posted as Deputy Secretary, Power Development Department.

Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi transferred to Finance Department as Deputy Secretary.

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat appointed Deputy Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department. Vikas Sharma becomes Deputy Director, Estates, Jammu. Hilal Ahmad Bhat posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Bandipora. Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat transferred to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department as Deputy Director. Mohd. Rafiq becomes District Mineral Officer, Rajouri.

Shabir Ahmad Hakak posted as Sub-Registrar, Kangan and will also hold charge of Sub-Registrar, Ganderbal. Sheetal Pandita transferred as Deputy Secretary, School Education Department. Bashir Ahmad Bhat posted as Special Officer, Auqaf, J&K.

Muzaffer Hussain Wani becomes Deputy Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Danish Rasool Mir posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Jammu. Riaz Ahmad transferred to JTDC, Jammu as General Manager. Mohd. Hanief shall await adjustment in General Administration Department.

Mudasir Hussain Fanda posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Baramulla.

Sham Lal Abrol becomes Collector, ERA, Jammu. Aijaz Ahmad Shigon posted as Personnel Officer, PCCF Office. Tarun Sharma transferred as Deputy Director, Motor Garages, Jammu.

Hamidullah Mir posted as Sub-Registrar, Kulgam. Altaf Hussain Bhat appointed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ganderbal. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Anantnag. Shafiq Ahmad Wani becomes Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Anantnag.

Iqbal Hussain Mir appointed Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Kashmir. Irfan Ali Khan transferred as Deputy Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Arshad Hussain Ganai posted as Deputy Secretary, Public Grievances Department.

Ch. Mohd. Nawaz appointed Deputy Director, District Employment Centre, Rajouri.

Suhayb Ahmad Wani posted as Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department. Diksha Bamba becomes Deputy Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department. Naveed Hussain Badroo posted as Custodian Evacuee Properties, Kashmir. Javaid Ahmad Malik becomes Deputy Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Saima Sharief Khan posted as Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu. Abdul Majeed Rather appointed Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Ganderbal. Ashwani Hansa posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Udhampur. Ashu Kumari transferred as Deputy Director, Information, Jammu.

Anissa Nabi becomes Chief Sports Officer, J&K Sports Council.

Angel Kotwal posted as Sub-Registrar, Akhnoor. Shallini Raina transferred as Sub-Registrar, Marh. Arshi Rasool appointed Sub-Registrar, Srinagar (East), also holding Srinagar (West). Tahira Tabasum posted as Deputy Secretary, Cooperatives Department.

Murtaza Rashid posted as Deputy Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department.

Bilal Ahmad Mir appointed Sub-Registrar, Khansahib and Budgam.

Kavita Pandoh posted as Sub-Registrar, Jammu (North-I). Sania Haq Khan becomes Assistant Commissioner (General), Jammu.

Arjumand Yaqoob posted as Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir. Malvika Sharma posted as Deputy Director, ICDS, Jammu.

### MEHDI

is taken, that revolves around justice.” Mehdi told reporters here in south Kashmir.

The Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar visited the family of ponywala Adil Hussain Shah who was one of the victims of last week’s Pahalgam terror attack.

“I do not want to do politics or comment over what steps the Centre is taking. The Government of India should do whatever is possible to bring the culprits to justice and give justice to those innocents who were killed,” he said. However, the MP said, the government should make sure that while the culprits are hunted and punished, innocent people are not harmed. “For that, the Government of India and the forces here should keep in mind that no innocents like labourers, ponywala, taxi drivers, are harmed in the process. If even a single innocent is harmed, it defeats the whole idea of justice. I request that the reaction be based on bringing justice... innocents should not be affected,” he said.

Mehdi said the country’s reaction to the attack -- in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed -- “should centre around justice”. “We are with justice, we are with that reaction. We want a united voice to be raised across the world for justice and that the people of J-K get a permanent respite from this violence. The people of J-K are the biggest losers in this irrespective of religion.







# Sakeena Itoo assesses impact of social welfare schemes across Jammu and Kashmir

Calls for maximising community involvement for effective implementation of schemes

HT News Network

Srinagar, JAMMU, APRIL 29: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today urged the heads of different sectors of Social Welfare Department (SWD) to adopt 'citizen-first' approach for delivering public services and successful implementation of welfare schemes on the ground. The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting to assess the impact and progress on implementation of various schemes operated by SWD across Jammu and Kashmir. Commissioner Secretary SWD, Sanjeev Verma; Director Social Welfare Jammu/ Kashmir, Mission Directors of POSHAN, Vatsalya/Shakti, WDC and SC/ST Corporation, Secretaries of Advisory Boards of SC, OBC and Phahari speaking people, Executive Director Rehabilitation Council and other concerned officers attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Minister assessed the achievements of the department for the year 2024-25 and also deliberated on various aspects to strategize actionable plans for 2025-26.



Addressing the officers in the meeting, Sakeena emphasized on a fostering a greater collaboration between departments and agencies to ensure a cohesive approach towards effective implementation of social welfare schemes. She called for maximising community involvement in scheme implementation to ensure greater ownership and participation of the general public. The Minister also called streamlining the processes involved in scheme implementation, which will eventually improve the service delivery for public. She directed

the officers that beneficiaries should be facilitated at all levels and inordinate delays should be avoided. "Beneficiaries must not face avoidable delays or procedural hurdles. Our systems should reflect the spirit of compassion and efficiency that these welfare schemes are founded upon", Sakeena stated. While reviewing the on-ground impact of these schemes, Sakeena asked the officers to establish a robust monitoring mechanisms to track progress and effectiveness of these schemes, besides identify challenges during implementation

process. She also called for employing innovative approaches and data-driven decision-making during scheme implementation to uplift the most vulnerable sections of society. While reviewing Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), pension schemes for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and Ladli Beti and PMMVY schemes for the welfare of girl children and pregnant women, the Minister called for regular audits, better inter-departmental coordination, and use of technology to enhance transparency and accountability in their implementation. The Minister also directed the officers to hold monthly grievance redressal camps through their field offices to gather feedback directly from beneficiaries and ensure timely resolution of issues. She underlined the importance of public awareness campaigns so that eligible citizens are fully informed of their entitlements. During the meeting, each departmental head presented their performance reports through PowerPoint presentations detailing progress achieved and future roadmaps.

## DLSA Srinagar organises awareness programme, free legal aid, welfare schemes at GGHS Chanapora

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: To educate students about their legal rights and the various welfare schemes available to them and their families, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organised an awareness programme on free legal aid and social welfare schemes at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Chanapora. The event was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the Supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar. Para Legal Volunteer, Saima, who served as the resource person for the programme sensitized students about the importance of free legal aid, how to access it, and the broader role of the DLSA in ensuring justice for all, especially for the marginalized sections of society. She also highlighted key social welfare schemes that could significantly benefit students and their communities, encouraging them to spread awareness within their families and neighbourhoods.

## DLSA Srinagar convenes meeting of Legal Aid Defence Counsels, reviews their functioning

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: To assess and enhance the functioning of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System, ensuring quality legal representation for underprivileged sections of society, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Tuesday convened a comprehensive Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) review meeting. The meeting was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman of the DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by Tasleem Arief, Chairman, DLSA Srinagar/ Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar and witnessed the participation of all Legal Aid Defence Counsels associated with DLSA Srinagar. The meeting focused on streamlining the workflow, addressing practical challenges faced by counsels, and reiterating the importance of professional ethics and dedication towards assigned cases. During the meeting, newly appointed Legal Aid Defence Counsels were provided valuable guidance, making the session particularly enriching for them. Discussions centered around best practices, case management techniques, and the significance of effective client communication. The interaction fostered a platform for sharing experiences, clarifying procedural doubts, and reinforcing the role of defence counsels in strengthening access to justice for all.

## Budget proposals envisage strengthening of grassroots level infrastructure, rapid development: Dy CM

Reviews formulation of Capex Budget 2025-26

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 29: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review the progress on Capex Budget 2024-25 works besides discussing formulation of the Capex Budget Action Plan for 2025-26 fiscal. Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar besides senior officials of the concerned department attended the meeting. A detailed discussion was held on budget proposals aimed at strengthening grassroots level infrastructure, ensuring rapid growth and development. The Dy CM emphasized that the planning process should be integrated at departmental and district level to incorporate the whole government approach. He asserted that the focus of the department should be on completion of ongoing works



rather than starting a large number of underfunded works. "The timeline for completion of new works taken up for execution during the financial year 2025-26 should be between one or two years, except mega projects in which the department can extend the timeline up to three years" he added. Surinder Choudhary said that the work plan of the department should be based on tangible outcomes which should indicate the number of works to be completed and number of people to be benefited. He exhorted upon the department to ensure that the directions issued are strictly

adhered to and feedback/priorities from the elected representatives as indicated during budget meetings, as feasible, shall be captured while framing the annual work plans. He also issued strict instructions to the higher authorities to take firm action against the contractors who cause unnecessary delays in project completion. Javed Ahmad Dar, Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma and Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani also contributed their valuable suggestions for better functioning of the department in terms of finalizing works and their execution.

# Secretary RDD reviews PMAY-G implementation, Panchayat Ghars construction across J&K

## Assesses operational status of Panchayat Learning Centres

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted a comprehensive review of key rural development initiatives across the Union Territory, including the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), status of Panchayat Ghars (PGs) and functionality of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs). The meeting was attended by Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar; Deputy Secretaries, Sheetal Pandita and Bilal Ahmad; OSD to Secretary, Shafiq Ahmad besides all Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs), ACPs and Executive Engineers from both the divisions. During the review, the Secretary held detailed discussions with the ACPs regarding construction status of Panchayat Ghars with emphasis on land availability, tendering delays and completion rates. He directed for immediate resolution of land identification issues, asking the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to personally intervene in the cases where land acquisition hurdles remain unresolved.



Regarding the abandoned and incomplete Panchayat Ghars, the Secretary instructed both the Directors of RDD to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the

## Administration urges operators to refund bookings

HT News Network

Srinagar : The Divisional Commissioner's office today directed all tourism service providers in Kashmir to assist tourists affected by the current situation in the region by refunding booking amounts. In an official communication issued by the Deputy Director (E&S), referencing Circular No. Reg/100/368/DTK dated April 26, 2025, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, directed all tourist trade operators — including hoteliers, guesthouse owners, homestay and houseboat operators, travel agents, and excursion providers — to ensure necessary assistance to tourists. "In view of the present circumstances, all stakeholders in the tourism sector are requested to refund any booking amounts received and waive cancellation fees to mitigate the inconvenience caused to tourists," the letter stated. Tour operators have been asked to comply with the directive in both letter and spirit to uphold the region's reputation as a tourist-friendly destination. The order comes in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, after which several hotels including 5-Star and those owned by big businessmen, refused to follow refund orders. Despite clear directives from the Ministry of Tourism and the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department mandating full refunds, many hotels are offering "credit notes" instead of returning the money. A circular issued by the tourism department following the April 22 incident instructed all tourism service providers — including hotels, houseboats, homestays, and travel agents — to waive cancellation fees and refund booking amounts. "All tourist trade operators must offer necessary assistance to tourists and refund booking amounts to affected stakeholders," the circular reiterated. However, complaints from tourists and travel agents suggest that many hotels are either delaying refunds by up to three weeks or refusing them outright. Some hotels have informed customers that their advance payments have already been invested, making immediate refunds difficult.

## Hakeem Yaseen urges Gol to rethink over deportation of militants' wives post Pahalgam attack

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 29: President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Tuesday said that Pakistani nationals who are the wives of former Kashmiri militants should not be deported, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has been an integral part of India since 1947. He emphasized that the people of Kashmir have consistently opposed terrorism in all forms. Referring to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Yaseen said the public has shown unity in condemning such violence. "It is the responsibility of the government to provide healing touch to the families of the victims so that such incidents are not repeated in the future. Concrete and effective measures must be taken to prevent further attacks," he said. Hakeem Yaseen further stated that deporting the wives of former militants, who entered the Valley through legal channels, would severely impact their families and create a humanitarian crisis. "They should be allowed to stay on humanitarian grounds. Forcing them to leave will create a deep void in society" he added.

same. He asked them to collect details like number of abandoned or stalled structures, status of physical work executed, funds utilized and additional financial requirements for work completion. He directed that the report, in this regard, be submitted within one week to enable further action under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

The Secretary emphasized the integration of old structures with newly approved design standards, in order to optimize resource use and ensure functionality. Reviewing the status of PLCs, the Secretary instructed the field officials to ensure that all PLCs are made fully functional within a week's time. He also asked the concerned to ensure that any logistical or staffing gaps are addressed without delay. Regarding implementation of PMAY-G, the Secretary emphasized the timely completion of pending houses, rigorous monitoring and accuracy of beneficiary data. He reviewed the cumulative physical and financial progress under the scheme, including updates from the ongoing Awaas Plus Survey. He directed all the ACDs to ensure expeditious completion of the pending houses besides clearing all Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) cases by releasing pending installments to the eligible beneficiaries immediately





## EDITORIAL

## Force doctors to write prescriptions in bold and capital letters

The people in general especially, the patients have been complaining that the prescriptions issued by the doctors are not legible and readable. It is due to this reason that the prescriptions are understandable to the chemists dispensing medicines at the different retail medical shops across the country. Since the prescriptions can't be read by the common people it has been observed that at times some of the chemists provide substitute medicines to the patients.

Following the complaints in this regard the Supreme Court of India intervened and issued directions to the doctors to write the prescriptions in clear letters so that the common people and not only chemists read the prescriptions. The highest court of the country also issued directions that the prescription is written in bold capital letters so that there is no confusion among the people. This would also ensure that substitute or sub-standard medicines are not given to patients in place of original medicines.

The directions issued by the Supreme Court were expected to be followed and implemented in letter and spirit by the medicos. As far as the medicos of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir are concerned they gave a damn to the directions issued by the highest court of the country. They continue to write the prescriptions as they used to do and there has been no difference in their attitude. As such the patients continue to be at the receiving end in this regard.

The health & medical education department had to intervene in the matter and the department too issued directions to the doctors to write the prescriptions in bold and capital letters. Over the years the department has issued multiple orders but to the utter disappointment of the patients the directions have been kept in abeyance. It seems the doctors are so powerful that neither the highest court of the country nor the bureaucracy has been able to make the doctors budge their way.

The bureaucracy has to be tough in this respect and they need to take action against the doctors. If action is taken against some medicos it can be expected that the others will fall in line and write the prescriptions in bold and capital letters. This would ensure that the chemists will not take the patients for a ride and there will be no dispensing of substitute or substandard medicines. It is important to break the nexus so that the common masses heave a sigh of relief.

## Ensuring safe learning spaces: The vital need for child protection under the school safety program

M. AKRAM RAHI

In today's rapidly evolving world, ensuring the safety and protection of children in educational institutions has become a vital concern for educators, administrators, and policymakers alike. Schools, which are supposed to be safe havens for learning and growth, often face challenges related to child safety – be it physical, emotional, or psychological.

Child protection in schools has become an urgent and non-negotiable necessity in the wake of rising incidents of child abuse, exploitation, and mental health concerns. The School Safety Program, an initiative supported by government agencies and child welfare organizations like UNICEF and Save the Children, aims to make educational institutions secure and supportive spaces for children. However, its effective implementation requires a multi-pronged approach, with a special focus on gender-sensitive staffing.

**Why Child Protection in Schools Matters**

Schools are not just centers of learning—they are second homes where children spend a significant portion of their day. A child-friendly and protective environment is critical to ensure their physical, emotional, and psychological development. Unfortunately, many children continue to face bullying, corporal punishment, sexual harassment, or neglect in schools, either from peers or from adults who are supposed to care for them.

To address these issues, the School Safety Program emphasizes the importance of setting up Child Protection Committees, conducting regular awareness sessions, training teachers on child rights, and enforcing strict guidelines for reporting abuse. But one crucial area that demands more attention is the appointment of adequate female staff in schools, particularly in co-educational and all-girls institutions.

**The Role of Female Staff in Child Protection**

Female teachers and support staff serve as vital emotional anchors for many children, especially girls. Their presence in schools not only offers comfort and security but also encourages young girls to speak openly about issues related to health, hygiene, abuse, or any form of discomfort they face. Unfortunately, in many rural and far-flung areas, the absence of female staff continues to pose a serious challenge to creating a safe environment for girls.

**The presence of female staff members can:**

Promote openness and trust: Girls are more likely to confide in female teachers when facing issues of harassment or abuse.

Ensure privacy and dignity: Female staff can assist in managing girl-specific hygiene and health needs, especially during menstruation.

Prevent dropouts: When girls feel

safe and heard, their retention in schools increases.

Strengthen awareness: Female staff can effectively lead awareness programs on child rights, health education, and personal safety.

**Recommendations for Way Forward**

Mandatory Female Representation: Government and education departments must ensure at least one or more female staff members in every school, particularly where girls are enrolled.

Child Protection Training: All staff—male and female—should receive regular training on child safety norms, POSCO Act provisions, and how to handle sensitive disclosures.

Safe Reporting Mechanisms: Establishing complaint boxes, child helplines, and regular counseling sessions with trained professionals is essential.

Monitoring and Accountability: District-level committees must monitor the implementation of child protection guidelines and take swift action on violations.

Why Child Protection in Educational Institutions is Non-Negotiable

**Rising Incidents of Abuse and Violence**

Reports of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse in educational institutions have surged globally. According to a UNESCO study, nearly 246 million children experience violence in and around schools every year. Many cases go unreported due to fear, stigma, or lack of awareness. A structured Child Protection Policy can help identify, prevent, and address such incidents effectively.

**Psychological and Emotional Well-being**

Children spend a significant portion of their day in school, making it a critical space for their mental health. Bullying, cyberbullying, and discrimination can lead to anxiety, depression, and even suicidal tendencies. Schools must implement anti-bullying programs, counseling services, and emotional support systems to safeguard students' mental health.

**Legal and Ethical Responsibility**

Governments worldwide have enacted laws to protect children's rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mandates that every child has the right to safety and protection from harm. In India, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, emphasize the need for child protection mechanisms in schools. Compliance is not optional—it is a legal and moral obligation.

**Impact on Learning and Development**

An unsafe environment hampers a child's ability to learn. Fear and trauma reduce concentration, academic performance, and social interactions. Schools that prioritize safety see higher attendance rates, better academic outcomes, and improved student confidence.

Key Components of an Effective School Safety and Child Protection Pro-

gram

Strict Background Checks for Staff: All school employees, including teachers, bus drivers, and support staff, must undergo thorough background verification to prevent potential predators from gaining access to children.

Awareness and Training Programs: Students should be educated on good touch vs. bad touch, cyber safety, and how to report abuse.

Teachers and staff must be trained to recognize signs of abuse, handle disclosures sensitively, and follow reporting protocols.

Parents should be involved in workshops to understand their role in child protection.

Safe Infrastructure and Monitoring

CCTV surveillance in classrooms, corridors, and buses.

Gender-sensitive facilities and secure washrooms.

Anti-ragging and anti-bullying committees to address grievances.

**Confidential Reporting Mechanisms**

Schools must establish anonymous complaint boxes, helplines, and designated child protection officers to ensure students can report concerns without fear.

**Crisis Response and Support Systems**

Counselors and psychologists should be available for trauma support.

Collaboration with NGOs and child welfare committees for severe cases.

Regular safety audits to assess risks and improve policies.

The Role of Parents and the Community: Parents must actively engage with schools, attend safety meetings, and monitor their children's behavior for signs of distress. Communities should advocate for stronger policies, government support, and public awareness campaigns to keep schools safe.

**A Collective Responsibility**

Child protection in schools is not the sole responsibility of educators—it is a shared duty of parents, policymakers, and society. A well-implemented School Safety Program with stringent child protection measures can transform educational institutions into havens of security and growth.

It is in this backdrop that the School Safety Program emerges as a crucial initiative, aiming to create secure and inclusive environments for every child.

At the heart of this program lies the concept of Child Protection, which not only deals with preventing abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children but also empowers them to speak out and act against injustices. Recognizing children's rights and ensuring their implementation in schools is not just a moral responsibility but a legal mandate under the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 and the Juvenile Justice Act.

**Role of Cultural Education Wing of School Education Department**

A vital yet often under recognized player in this domain is the Cultural Education Wing of the School Education Department. This wing plays a transformative role in sensitizing students and educators about child rights and protection through creative mediums such as theatre, music, storytelling, debates, and art-based activities. These tools are effective in reaching children at a deeper emotional level, enabling them to express their fears, experiences, and aspirations in a safe space.

Almost in every district of Kashmir division, especially in District Anantnag, the Cultural Education Wing under the respective Chief Education Officer has pioneered several awareness campaigns, Child Protection and Disaster Management Awareness Sessions in over hundreds of schools. These sessions, conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children, Bal Raksha Bharat, District administration Anantnag and local NGOs have had a lasting impact on student awareness and behavior. Cultural performances based on real-life stories of resilience, role-plays on emergency preparedness, and interactive discussions have not only educated children but also instilled confidence and courage in them.

Moreover, such interventions have led to improved teacher-student relationships, encouraged the formation of School Safety Committees, and promoted a culture of mutual respect and alertness. The involvement of Scouts and Guides, peer groups, and trained student leaders has added a participatory layer to the program, enhancing its reach and sustainability.

However, there is still a long way to go. More training programs for teachers, infrastructure safety audits, grievance redressal mechanisms, and collaborations with child rights organizations are needed to institutionalize child protection norms in all educational institutions.

In conclusion, the integration of cultural education with child protection awareness is a forward-thinking and inclusive approach. The Cultural Education Wing, through its innovative and child-friendly methods, has proven that safeguarding children's rights is not just about policies and punishments but about creating empathetic, aware, and empowered communities within schools.

“Let us commit to making every school a place where every child feels safe, valued, and protected – because protecting children is not just an obligation, it is a promise to our future”.

Investing in child safety today ensures a brighter, healthier future for the next generation. Let us pledge to make every school a place where children are not just educated but also protected, respected, and empowered.

## 30th April: Sarah, My Precious Daughter , A Father's Heartfelt Birthday Tribute



BY SYED MAJID GILANI

My Dearest Daughter Sarah,

As I sit down today to write these lines, my heart overflows with memories and silent prayers. I want you to know how deeply you are cherished, how invaluable your presence is in my life, and how the day you arrived in this world became one of the most unforgettable moments I have ever known. It feels as vivid as though it happened only yesterday.

It was April 30th, 2014, a day forever etched in my heart, when our lives were illuminated by your arrival. From the moment you opened your eyes, you brought warmth and light into our home. I recited the Azaan into your delicate ears right after your birth, a cherished Islamic ritual, welcoming you to this world in the name of faith, love, and gratitude.

You were born at Modern Hospital, Srinagar. That day carried a mix of excitement, anxiousness, and heartfelt prayers. Your mother lay in the operation theatre while I waited out-

side, each moment heavy with anticipation. I remain grateful to Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, the kind and capable gynecologist who safely brought you into this world through cesarean delivery. I also remember Jan Sahib, the hospital's owner, whose personal care still hold a special place in my heart.

The moment you let out your first tender cry, a storm of emotions surged within me..... joy, hope, and a silent promise of beautiful days to come. When I held you in my arms for the very first time, it felt as though time itself had paused. I pressed you close to my chest, my eyes brimming with tears, and whispered silent prayers of gratitude for this priceless gift from Allah.

In that precious moment, nothing in the world mattered more than your health and your mother's well-being. I instantly named you Sarah , a name that means purity, brightness, and serenity, for you brought with you a radiant calmness that touched every corner of our hearts.

Your birth came at a difficult time. A strict curfew gripped Srinagar amidst unrest. Yet, by Allah's grace and my then being as a uniformed Sub-Inspector in the Vigilance & Inspections Wing of the erstwhile Commercial Taxes Department, I managed all matters with ease. Alhamdulillah.

Soon after your birth, I made my way to Khanqah Moulla Shrine to offer a heartfelt Nimaz-e-Shukrana. That quiet prayer of gratitude remains one of the most peaceful and soul-stirring moments of my life.

Our home came alive when we brought you back. Every family member eagerly held you, admiring your delicate features and basking in the joy you brought. Not long after, Mohammad Shafi Sahib, our trusted hairdresser, performed your first sacred head shave, a tender, beautiful ritual that remains fresh in my memory.

Another cherished moment was capturing your first large studio portrait at Mimmic Colour Lab. That beautiful photograph graced the lobby of our beloved Gilan House, but what made it even more special was when your great-grandfather, my beloved Abaji, inscribed your name and birth date on its back in his graceful handwriting, a moment forever alive in my heart.

Your childhood was a garden of priceless moments. I remember the thrill of buying your first bright blue tricycle from Kawoosa Sons, Nowhatta. You would ride it gleefully around the house and garden, while your Daadi watched on, her face aglow with pride and love.

When it came time for school, your mother and I first took you to

the Hazratbal Shrine, seeking blessings for your future. From there, we enrolled you at the prestigious Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar. I still recall your first day, how our entire family, including your mom, Daadi, and Abaji, eagerly gathered at the main gate, anxiously waiting for the school van to bring you home. Your innocent chatter and radiant smile as you stepped out filled our hearts with indescribable joy and pride.

To support your early education, I arranged tuition at Madam's home in our neighborhood, while Moulvi Muzaffar Sahib visited regularly to teach you the Quran, nurturing both your intellect and spirit.

Our morning walks, cycling trips, and family picnics remain among my most treasured memories. I can still hear your laughter as we rode a cycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk, strolled leisurely around Gumat Bazar and Jewel Chowk, and explored the vibrant streets and narrow lanes of our beautiful city. Those simple, carefree days, filled with innocent happiness, live forever within me.

Our visits to sacred shrines, Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, Charar-e-Sharief, Hazratbal Shrine, Khanqah Moulla, Dastgeer Sahib, and Tujjar Sharief, were not merely religious rituals, but deeply spiritual experiences that tied our hearts

closer to Allah and to one another. These moments of shared prayer and blessing became the spiritual threads of our family fabric.

As I guided you through your formative years, I often reflected on the noble legacy of our ancestors, especially my great-grandfather, Moulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, a saintly scholar whose wisdom, piety, and kindness still illuminate my path. It is my earnest hope that one day, you too will proudly carry forward this sacred legacy.

Like all children, you too had your share of minor ailments, those inevitable coughs, colds, and tummy upsets. I ensured you always received the best care from Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali, your gentle and dependable pediatrician. I also remain grateful to the caring team at Tawheed Medical Hall, Alamgari Bazar, for managing your vaccinations with kindness and efficiency, making those visits easy and comforting for you.

As I look back today, from your birth, early childhood, school admissions, sacred rituals, to priceless family memories, I find strength, solace, and gratitude in knowing these moments shaped both your journey as a precious daughter and mine as a devoted father.

Though fate has placed a temporary distance between us, my love for you remains steadfast, unshaken, and

eternal. Every memory of your bright smile, tender words, and innocent laughter continues to fill my heart with warmth. I fondly remember your love for books, your unique spark, and the pride I felt watching you grow into the remarkable soul you are.

On this birthday, my beloved daughter Sarah, I bow my head in gratitude before Allah once more and renew my heartfelt promise, to remain your loving, protective, and prayerful father for as long as life allows. To you, your elder brother Arshad, and your youngest brother Murshad, you three remain the purpose of my existence, my strength, my joy, and my unending pride.

Though temporarily separated by circumstances beyond my control, my heart beats with every breath for you three. May Allah Almighty protect you, bless you abundantly, and guide you every step. May your path be lit always with love, faith, and kindness. And with each passing moment, my love for you grows only deeper. Ameen.

**Syed Majid Gilani is a writer who reflects on human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences drawn from the tapestry of real life. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com**



# DOODH GANGA IN DISTRESS

## A lifeline of Kashmir at the Brink of Collapse

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Doodh Ganga, a picturesque stream winding its way from the Pir Panjal mountains through the lush landscapes of Budgam and Srinagar districts, has long been considered one of Kashmir’s most vital freshwater sources. With its name meaning “milky river” in the local language, Doodh Ganga once gleamed with clear, sparkling water, feeding agricultural lands, sustaining aquatic life, and providing drinking water to thousands. But today, the story of Doodh Ganga is a tragic tale of environmental neglect, unchecked urbanisation, and human indifference.

### A Stream with a Sacred Past

Historically, Doodh Ganga held spiritual and cultural significance. It originates from the upper reaches of the Yousmarg valley, a part of the Pir Panjal range known for its scenic beauty and ecological importance. For centuries, it has been an essential part of Kashmiri life—irrigating rice fields, orchards, and gardens. It has been home to diverse aquatic species and a source of fresh water for generations.

However, over the past few decades, this once-pristine stream has been reduced to a polluted drain, suffering the consequences of rapid urban growth and a lack of environmental planning.

### The Current Crisis

**Pollution and Waste Dumping:** One of the most visible threats to Doodh Ganga is pollution. Municipal and household waste, including plastic, polythene, construction debris, and even untreated sewage, is routinely dumped into the stream. Entire stretches of the stream have become clogged with waste, disrupting the natural flow of water and killing aquatic life.



Sewage Inflow: In areas like Chadoora, Kralpora, Baghat, Barzulla, and Batamaloo, raw sewage is discharged directly into the stream. Despite the existence of some sewage treatment plants, most are either non-functional or poorly maintained.

**Illegal Encroachments:** The natural banks of Doodh Ganga are being eaten away by illegal constructions. Residential buildings, shops, and even roads have sprung up along its banks, narrowing the stream and increasing the risk of floods.

**Loss of Biodiversity:** Once teeming with fish and bird life, Doodh Ganga is now nearly devoid of its original biodiversity. The toxic water and altered landscape have driven away much of the flora and fauna that once depended on it.

“The Doodh Ganga was once clean enough to drink from,” says Abdul Rehman Rather, a 69-year-old farmer from Kralpora Chadoora. “Now, even the animals hesitate to go near it.”

### Environmental and Public Health Concerns

Pollution of the Doodh Ganga not only affects the environment but also poses a serious risk to public health. The contaminated water is used for irrigation, affecting the safety of crops and vegetables. Residents living near the stream report increased cases of waterborne diseases, skin infections, and breathing problems due to the foul stench.

Moreover, the reduced water quality threatens future water security in the region, especially as climate change tightens its grip on Himalayan water sources.

### Save Doodh Ganga

Doodh Ganga, a pristine river in Kashmir, is facing increasing pollution and degradation due to unchecked waste disposal, deforestation, and encroachments. To save this vital water source, urgent steps must be taken: **Strict Pollution Control:** Implement strict regulations against dumping waste into the river.

**Establish proper sewage and waste management systems** in the surrounding areas.

**Public Awareness:** Launch awareness campaigns to educate locals and tourists about the importance of keeping the river clean.

**Afforestation and Conservation:** Promote tree plantation along the riverbanks to prevent soil erosion and maintain ecological balance.

**Regular Clean-up Drives:** Organise community-led river clean-up activities with support from local authorities and NGOs.

### A Call for Unity

While government intervention is critical, the people of Kashmir must also take ownership. Civil society, youth groups, environmental NGOs, and residents living along Doodh Ganga all have a part to play. Reviving the stream is not just about cleaning water; it’s about preserving a living symbol of Kashmiri heritage.

As climate change accelerates, the protection of freshwater resources like Doodh Ganga becomes more than an environmental issue—it becomes a matter of survival.

Unless swift and meaningful action is taken, the “milky stream” of Kashmir may soon become a memory—lost to pollution, neglect, and time.

“If you want to see the health of a land, look at its rivers.”

“Save Doodh Ganga Save Kashmir.”

**The writer is an environmental researcher**

## PAHALGAM MASSACRE ; This in No Way Represents Us As Kashmiris



***If you kill one innocent human being, it is as if you have killed entire humanity; (Al Qur'an 5:32).***

The mindless killings in Pahalgam have broken the back of every individual. This attack was on every Kashmiri, on Kashmir itself, because the outsiders were our guests. Our hearts are weeping tears of blood. Who can bear the thought of someone destroying the dreams of a nation that shed blood of its guests ? Even Islam teaches that killing one innocent person is like killing entire humanity. The entire nation is against this act, united in voice. Whoever committed this act, the voice of kashmir is clear; take our lives if you're thirsty for blood. Such treatment of our guests is unacceptable. Children's hearts are weeping, asking who killed their sisters, daughters, and brides.

Kashmir is a land of peace and hospitality; we cannot tolerate such acts. Every heart is weeping, every eye has tears, wondering why this attack on our guests in their hearts, but why this incident happened is leaving everyone breathless.

Another wound inflicted on the valleys of Kashmir, innocences joys stained with blood. Where tourists once came to celebrate festivals, death's silence now spreads its feet. The heart weeps at this scene of humanity. Children, elders and youth all slept together, killed. What will you gain from these tears? What happened in pahalgam is not just an attack on innocent tourists, it is also an attack on our souls and identity. Those who come to breathe our air, to touch our mountain, to share in the fragile peace of this land.

There's silence all around. What happened in pahalgam was utterly wrong. We can only say that this bloodshed must stop. Why are you committing such acts and oppressing kashmir and Kashmiri's, while also tarnishing their reputation.

As a kashmiri , my heart bleeds , Tourists come with smiles and they were met bullets. They were not at fault. They brought no harm. To those who lost their lives; we are really sorry. Seriously this was not the kashmiri you came to see. This is not the kashmir we know, or one we want the world to know. We grieve your families. We mourn your absence in our valleys. You will not be forgotten. Your blood

will remain in our conscience. And to the hand that did this , no justification, no cause, no claim can wipe this sin. We are in sorrow and in anger. Those who carried out this act must be brought to justice, swiftly, decisively. They must be hanged for what they've done. No mercy for the merciless, no shelter for the beast, who slaughtered the innocent. We will always remember.

Violence against the innocent isn't reflective of Islamic values or Kashmiri's principles. My thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones. This brutality doesn't represent our community's spirit.

Come with a thirst for blood, kill me , kill my souls, but what have my guests done to you ? I oppressors, in Pahalgam, you've not just attacked my precious guests, you have attacked all of kashmir and its people. We've always welcomed guests with open hearts, considering them the heartbeat of our existence. Today this brutal act has shattered my being. As Kashmiri, we're united in our protest against this attack. Today every home in kashmir is in mourning, every eye is filled with tears, and every heart is sorrowful.

Every Kashmiri condemns the attack on Pahalgam. However some people are trying to give it a religious colour, making baseless accusations against Kashmiri's. They don't realise that Kashmiri's have witnessed and experienced such atrocities firsthand. Many families in kashmir have lost loved ones to violence. Every Kashmiri has lost a dear one\_ a mother, father, brother, husband, or son \_ no one un-derstands this pain better than kashmiri. In the Pahalgam attack, many lives were lost including a Kashmiri named Syed Hussain who was the only bread earner of the family. Unfortunately, instead of acknowledging the suffering of Kashmiri's we're being blamed and stereotyped, as if this was a religious or muslim conflict. As a kashmiri, I want to say that Kashmir always upheld its values of Kashmiri-yat and will continue to do so. We welcome outsiders with open hearts, and today grief over this at-tack on social media.

To whom do I address this Plea ? "My city is burning, my people are dying as if the entire garden is being uprooted"

In conclusion "Tourists are our honor, Tourists are our pride. Kashmir welcomes tourists, Kashmir sup-ports tourists, rejecting all forms of terrorism."

**(The author has recently completed Graduation in B.Voc. Retail and logistics Management program in the department of management, Central University of Kashmir Green campus Ganderbal.**

**She can be reached at bmasrat989@gmail.com)**

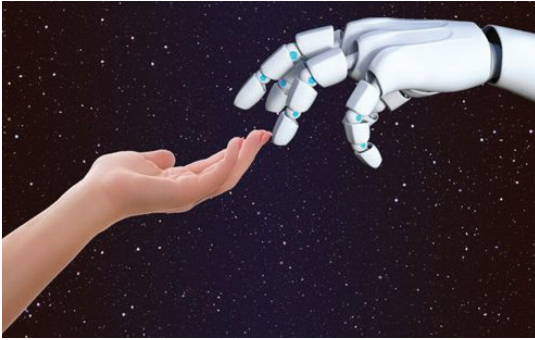
## Artificial Intelligence: A Bright Career Choice For Aspiring Students

ER ASHRAF FAZILI  
rayceesshaht57@gmail.com

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing a central role in this transformation. For students who have recently completed their 10th or 12th class, AI offers an exciting and rewarding career path filled with global opportunities. As technology advances, AI is becoming an essential part of almost every industry, making it one of the most promising fields for future generations.

Artificial Intelligence enables machines to think, learn, and make decisions similar to humans. Today, AI is widely used across various sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, banking, defence, and entertainment. From self-driving cars and smart farming to disease detection and personalised online shopping recommendations, AI is revolutionising every aspect of our lives. In the near future, AI will become a fundamental part of every industry, and the demand for skilled AI professionals will be higher than ever.

Students who wish to pursue a career in Artificial Intelligence must have completed their 12th class with Mathematics as one of their core subjects. A strong foundation in Mathematics and Statistics is crucial because AI systems rely heavily on data analysis, probability, pattern recognition, and decision-making models. In fact, Statistics form the backbone of Artificial Intelligence. Those who enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking, and working with numbers will find AI a highly suitable and excit-



ing career choice. Additionally, having a basic understanding of programming languages such as Python, R, or Java can provide a great advantage.

After passing the 12th class, students in Kashmir have several excellent opportunities to study Artificial Intelligence. The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora offers a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) programme in Artificial Intelligence, focusing on areas like Machine Learning, Robotics, and Data Science. Similarly, the University of Kashmir provides a five-year Integrated B.Sc.- M.Sc. course in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, which prepares students for both undergraduate and postgraduate expertise. Another unique option is the B.Tech Artificial Intelligence program at SKUAST-Kashmir, designed specifically to apply AI in agriculture and related fields like smart farming and crop management. Moreover, the Kashmir College of Engineering and Technology (KCET) also offers a B.Tech course in Artificial Intelligence, preparing students for roles in software development, AI research, and industry applications.

Graduating with a degree in Artificial Intelligence opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities. Students can work as Machine Learning Engineers, Data Scientists, AI Research Scientists, Robotics Engineers, or Natural Language Processing (NLP) Specialists. There are also growing opportunities for AI professionals in fields like healthcare, agriculture, education, defense, finance, and more. Other roles include Business Intelligence Developers, Computer Vision Engineers, and even AI Policy and Ethics Advisors. Given the rapid growth of AI in almost every sector, job prospects are excellent, and AI professionals are among the most highly paid experts globally.

To succeed in this field, students must work on developing strong skills in Mathematics and Statistics, along with programming abilities. Analytical thinking, creativity, understanding of algorithms, data structures, and experience with machine learning frameworks like TensorFlow or PyTorch are equally important. A spirit of curiosity and continuous learning is vital because the world of AI is constantly evolving with new discoveries and innovations.

Artificial Intelligence is not just a career option; it is the future. Students who begin their journey today by building strong skills in mathematics, statistics, and computer programming will be at the forefront of tomorrow's AI-driven world. Choosing AI means choosing a bright, impactful, and future-proof career.

### Tears are Life

Tears are life,  
I cry out  
In slender and gentle  
And my heart shares

A little thought  
Deep down into the ocean,  
The surface  
Of life  
I make the dream,  
Into a river

And it flows,  
Like the universe.

**Sidharth P K  
Kochi  
(Teacher/ Writer)**



# Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and UEED join hands for Pollution Abatement and Banganga rejuvenation

■ HT News Network

Katra, April 29: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Urban Environment Engineering Department (UEED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the year-2022 to collaborate on the rejuvenation of the Holy Banganga. The joint initiative aims to restore and conserve the Banganga through a comprehensive project approved at an estimated cost Rs.92.10 Crore under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India focusing on Banganga beautification by constructing a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to improve sewage conditions in & around Banganga area, besides development of bathing ghats, crema-

tion ghats, ecological restoration and promoting sustainable pilgrimage experiences. Before execution of the works, a joint visit led by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB accompanied by Jt. Chief Executive Officer & Dy. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra; Tehsildar & ACF, SMVDSB; a team of officers from the UEED, Engineering & Sanitation Departments of the Shrine Board and the local residents. The visit aimed to conduct a preliminary meeting with locals to understand their concerns and assess the area for the Banganga rejuvenation project, including the construction of a STP. The local habitants shared their concerns and suggestions during the meeting, providing valuable insights



that would inform the project's design and implementation. The issues highlighted were the removal of sheds adjacent to the Banganga embankments which are currently being used

for ponies and are contributing to the flow of horse dung into the holy river, greening of embankments, revival of existing vatikas, commencement of Banganga Arti, track

widening and construction of cremation ghat to improve the overall environment and aesthetic appeal of the Banganga area, while ensuring the sustainability of the project. The CEO instructed the concerned quarters to share the line diagram of the Banganga rejuvenation project with the stakeholders, ensuring everyone involved has a clear understanding of the project's scope and layout. He also reiterated that a copy of the diagram will also be kept in the office of the Incharge Banganga for reference and review as this will facilitate better coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project. The team conducted a thorough assessment of the Banganga area, identifying key works required for the project. This assessment

helped develop a comprehensive understanding of the project's requirements and opportunities, enabling the team to plan and execute the project effectively. The assessment also facilitated a sense of ownership and cooperation among the local community, crucial for the project's success and meeting the community's needs and expectations for a more sustainable and beneficial outcome. Notably, the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor JK-UT actively initiated works on rejuvenating the Banganga rivulet in Katra. The initiative includes synchronized development and contiguous embankments to enhance the natural environment and visual appeal, as well as desilting and renovation of bathing ghats.

## DJMC IUST Hosts Media Career Outreach at Tral Schools

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, April 28: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted Community Outreach initiatives at four higher secondary institutes in Tral, Pulwama, on Tuesday. A team of faculty members and research scholars visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School Tral, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Tral, Government Higher Secondary School Batagund Tral and Government Higher Secondary School Noorpora Awantipora.

The initiative was conducted to promote awareness about the diverse career opportunities available in the media industry. The outreach witnessed enthusiastic and active participation from the higher secondary students. As part of the programme, DJMC team engaged in meaningful interactions with the students. These exchanges facilitated the sharing of valuable insights, practical experiences and professional guidance related to building successful careers in various fields of media, including journalism, broadcasting, digital content creation, film production, advertising, public relations and so on.

Addressing students, Head, DJMC, Dr Rabia Noor, deliberated on the skill-oriented courses offered by DJMC under Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), which, she said, holds several benefits for the students. "The FYUGP aligns with India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and prepares students for both higher education and employability," she said, adding that the department offers courses that are truly skill-based like Content Creation, Podcasting, Multimedia Editing and so on.

Dr Mujeeb Ilyakat, Assistant Professor, DJMC, dealt at length with NEP 2020 and its implementation in the courses at DJMC. He also talked about the career prospects for the media students. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Tral, Riyaz Ahmad Mir, said, the community outreach programmes enhance quality education and guide students to pursue education of their own interest aligning with the NEP 2020.

The sessions concluded with the hands-on training in camera handling and videography, which was conducted by Zahoor Ahmad Gilkar from DJMC. The collaborative atmosphere fostered by the event not only broadened the participants' understanding of the media landscape but also inspired many to explore their potential within this dynamic and evolving industry.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name Parrantage D.O.B IS WRONGLY MENTIONED IN MY DRIVING LICENSE. MOOMIN ALTAZ S/O MOHD ALTAZ DAR, D.O.B 14-09-1999 INSTEAD OF MOMIN ALTAZ S/O ALTAZ AHMAD DAR D.O.B 07-03-2001. ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT RTO PULWAMA WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 7 DAYS.. MOMIN ALTAZ S/O ALTAZ AHMAD DAR D.O.B 17/03/2001

## Police attaches property of designated terrorist under UAPA in Sopore

■ HT News Network

Sopore April 29: In a significant crackdown on terror infrastructure, Police in Sopore today attached immovable property belonging to Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo, son of Abdul Khaliq Kandoo, resident of Kralteeng, Sopore a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and a key Pakistan-based handler of the proscribed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen. The attached property comprises land measuring 13x12 feet, including one shop and one room, situated under Survey No. 780 Min at Kralteeng, Sopore. The action is connected to FIR No. 201/2013 registered at Police Station Sopore in relation to terror-related activities. The property was attached under Sections 87 and 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) by a joint team of Sopore Police and Revenue officials, following due approval from the competent Court of Law. The asset was liable to be used for harbouring terrorists and facilitating unlawful activities in the district. This move marks a substantial step in dismantling the support network of terrorism in Sopore and sends a strong message to handlers operating from across the border. Jammu and Kashmir Police remain firmly committed to dismantling the terror.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my DAUGHTER'S Name and DOB, instead of the actual name Rahlha 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: RAHLHA ZAINAB  
DOB, 14/07/2013 D/O, Ashiq Hussain Dar  
R/o. Mirgund, hsil, Singpora, District Barmulla.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA )/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD INAAM GANIE S/O SHOWKAT AHMAD GANIE R/O TILGAM Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 07/07/2022 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

## اطلاع عام

میں گزار احمد گوری ولد حبیب اللہ گوری ساکن لدر و پہلگام ہر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دیتا ہوں کہ سبھی ادھار کا ڈیٹا نامنا مطلوب ہے اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر تحصیلدار افس پہلگام میں پیش کرے بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

### المستھر

گلزار احمد گوری

ولد حبیب اللہ گوری ساکن لدر و پہلگام کشمیر

## از نیابت پہلگام

درخواست منجانب عبدالغنی سخی ساکن لاری پور پہلگام بغرض حصول ڈیٹ سرٹفکٹ Death

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام اہل نے ایک درخواست دفتر حرا میں پیش کی ہے جس کے مطابق سائل کی بیوی سارا بیگم زوجہ عبدالغنی سخی ساکن لاری پور پہلگام 15-12-24 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اب سائل کے حق میں ڈیٹ سرٹفکٹ اجرا کرنی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

## از نیابت پہلگام

عبدالرسید بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکن لاری پور پہلگام

بحصول لیگل ہیر سرٹفکٹ

سائل کی بیوی زونی زوچہ عبدالرسید بٹ 24-03-25 کو فوت ہوئی ہے ورثہ جابر حسب ذیل

عبدلرسید بٹ سُوھر متوفی

فاروق احمد پسر

نسار احمد

رفیقہ بانود ختر

سادی سُوھر ویبی جان د ختر

سائل نے ایک درخواست دفتر حرا میں پیش کی ہے جس کے مطابق سائل کی بیوی عبدالرسید بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکن لاری پور پہلگام 24-03-25 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اب سائل کے حق میں ڈیٹ سرٹفکٹ اجرا کرنی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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

## Jabdi Karnah near LoC hosts powerful 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' campaign

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 29: 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 about the critical importance of water conservation. About 350 colorful activities were conducted in all educational institutions of the district. Through these initiatives, participants were made aware that water is not only a vital natural resource but also essential for sustaining life on earth.

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

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 29: 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 about the critical importance of water conservation. About 350 colorful activities were conducted in all educational institutions of the district. Through these initiatives, participants were made aware that water is not only a vital natural resource but also essential for sustaining life on earth. Chief Education Officer (CEO) and District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Kupwara appreciated the Heads of Institutions (HOIs) for their active role in organizing and conducting the week-long activities.

## اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار بداع مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میرا آدھار کارڈ ری نمبر اندراج Sakeena Shabir 808253820262 سے غلطی پڑی ہے اب اس کی درست کرانی Sakeena Akhter ہے جب کہ اصل نام مطلوب ہے اگر اس ضمن میں کسی بھی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر متعلقہ محکمے کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معاذ کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

## 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

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR  
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar  
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.  
E-mail:- phevwd@yahoo.com, Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

### Extension Notice 9<sup>th</sup>

Subject: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Well at Water Supply Shame Katchpora Baghatpora.  
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 62-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./ 12283-97, dated: 14-02-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_272611\_1.  
Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 29-04-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	07-05-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	08-05-2025 11:00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-938/25  
Dated: 29-04-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.





## DIPR Bandipora organises Awareness/ Cultural programme to strengthen fight against drug abuse

### Parents must identify early signs; invest time in nurturing youth towards positive pathways: DC Qadri

#### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 29: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora, in collaboration with the Cultural Unit DIPR Srinagar, Tuesday organized an awareness-cum-cultural programme at the Auditorium Hall of N.M. Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan. The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and witnessed the presence of ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan; District Information Officer,

Aadil Manzoor Wani; DySP DAR, Ahmad Shafee; Excise and Taxation Officer North Kashmir, Danishwar Shafi; DySP C.L. Verma, DyCEO Dr. G.M. Pujoo, principal N.M. Higher Secondary School and large gathering of students from various schools. Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of engaging families in addressing drug abuse. He urged parents to remain vigilant about behavioral changes in their children and to invest time in nurturing and guiding them towards constructive pathways. He called for collective efforts to protect society from the growing threat of substance abuse. In his message, Qadri called upon participants and all segments of society to actively spread awareness, identify vulnerable individuals, and support government initiatives aimed at creating a healthier and safer society.



ADC while presenting an overview of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, deliberated on the campaign's multidimensional approach, which includes awareness, educa-



tion, rehabilitation, and community mobilization. He laid emphasis on the active participation of students and the role of educational institutions in instilling awareness at an early age. He also elaborated on the importance of awareness through panchayat-level IEC activities. Earlier in his welcome address, District Information Officer highlighted the objective of the IEC campaign under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse in every corner of the district. DySP C.L. Verma, speaking on the occasion, detailed the initiatives undertaken by the police department in combating the drug menace. He elaborated on the social, eco-

nomie, and medical consequences of drug use, and advocated for youth participation in sports and other productive activities. Dr. Anjum Reshi, Medical Officer, Drug De-addiction Centre Bandipora, stressed the collective responsibility of parents, teachers, and society as a whole in addressing drug abuse. She also elaborated on the rehabilitation services available in the district, encouraging those in need to seek support without fear or stigma. The event also featured skits presented by the artists from the Cultural Unit DIPR Srinagar and students of HSS Mantrigram, which effectively portrayed the devastating consequences of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society.

## Baramulla achieves TB Mukta status in 242 Panchayats

### DC felicitates health teams

#### HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 29: Baramulla district marked a major achievement in its fight against tuberculosis, as 242 out of 402 panchayats were declared 'TB Mukta Panchayat 2024' under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Among these, 106 panchayats received Silver Status and 136 received Bronze Status in recognition of their sustained efforts in TB detection, treatment, and community engagement. The milestone was celebrated at a special award ceremony organized by the District Tuberculosis Control Society Baramulla, under the aegis of the State TB Cell, Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, at Dak Bungalow Baramulla. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, who presided over the function, lauded the tireless efforts of field-level officers, health workers, and volunteers in achieving this public health milestone. He highlighted that despite the dif-



ficult terrain and scattered population, the health teams worked with dedication to ensure early detection and treatment of TB cases, contributing significantly to the national goal. He further said, "Today's recognition reflects our district's strong collective resolve to eliminate tuberculosis. I sincerely hope that by 2025, the remaining panchayats will also achieve TB Mukta status, fulfilling our shared goal of a TB-free Baramulla ahead of the national target." DC also emphasized the importance

of community participation, awareness drives, and nutritional support for TB patients under schemes like the Nikshay Poshan Yojana. Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. Mastoora Iqbal, congratulated the health department teams for their remarkable performance. She appreciated the coordination between field workers, ASHAs, and TB programme staff, and called for continued vigilance in active case finding, contact tracing, and ensuring treatment adherence.

## Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal holds maiden review meeting of LSUM & LSUC

### Meeting aimed to strengthen legal services for vulnerable groups

#### HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 29: A significant maiden review meeting of the members of Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) was today held in the Office Chamber of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal. The meeting chaired by Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, aimed to discuss and review the implementation of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 and NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 for providing legal services to children and persons with mental illness & intellectual disabilities. Secretary, DLSA underscored the critical role of Legal Services Units in safeguarding the rights of two key vulnerable groups including children



and persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. Addressing the members of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), Hussain highlighted the need to ensure children have access to expert, specialized and competent legal services. He stressed that legal services units should provide age-appropriate and multi-disciplinary legal services tailored to the unique needs of children. He emphasized conducting outreach programs to identify and assist vulnerable children, spreading aware-

ness about their rights, entitlements, and legal remedies, and fostering a child-friendly environment within the justice system. Secretary DLSA stressed collaboration with communities, educational institutions, government departments, and NGOs to strengthen the ecosystem for implementing laws and policies safeguarding children's rights. In a parallel effort, Secretary DLSA assigned the members of the Legal Services Unit for Mentally Ill & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) with the responsibility of ensuring free & competent legal services in order to cater to the specific and unique needs of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. Through these initiatives, DLSA Ganderbal aims to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these vulnerable groups, ensuring their rights are protected and their voices are heard within the justice system.

## SP College organizes seminar to commemorate 'World Book, Copy Rights Day'

#### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Department of Library & Information Science S. P. College Srinagar organized a one day seminar on the theme 'Read your way: Printed Books vs E-Books' on the occasion of World Book and Copy Rights Day today at S P College Auditorium. Principal SP College cum Seminar Chief Patron, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Sheikh addressing the seminar stressed that everyone should read hard copies as well as e-books to shape better human development to serve society. He further explained Reading books is important because it expands knowledge, enhances cognitive function, stimulates imagination, and develops empathy. It also improves vocabulary, writing skills, and critical thinking, contributing to personal and professional growth. Reading can also be a source of entertainment and relaxation, offering a break from daily stressors. HOD Department of Library and Information Science Kashmir University, Dr. Sumeer Gul was invited as Key-Note speaker of the event. Dr. Gul presented a detailed paper on celebrating World Book & Copy Rights Day and explained that by celebrating this day humans connect their souls with the books and their authors as well. In his address to the gathering, he said World Book Day is a global event to promote the love of reading and the importance of books. It aims to encourage people of all ages to discover the joy of reading, celebrate authors and illustrators, and raise awareness about the power of books to shape our understanding of the world. The second guest speaker Librarian Govt. Degree College Womens Baramulla, Dr. Ruman Gull spoke on a broader topic 'Printed books vs e-Books'. He explained the importance of both and said aim should be reading to achieve academic and professional objectives. He briefed the gathering that the choice between e-books and printed books is largely a matter of personal preference, with each format offering distinct advantages. e-Books excel in portability, convenience, and cost-effectiveness, while printed books provide a more tangible, immersive reading experience. Librarian GDC Sogam, Aashiq Hussain Wafai, invited speaker, spoke on a topic 'How to assist physically challenged and blind library users' and provided detailed information on tools which can be used to serve physically challenged library users. Earlier, Librarian SP College Srinagar, Dr. M Iqbal Bhat explained why UNESCO is organizing World Book Day every year on 23rd April, he informed audience that 23rd April is death anniversary of William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso and this is the reason UNESCO chose this date to pay tribute to these authors. He provided information on bestselling authors around the world and informed the audience that good authored books can help people in earning a good amount of money also and gave examples of bestselling authors like William Shakespeare.

## DC Kupwara reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana

#### HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the implementation progress of the PM Surya Ghar (Muft Bijli Yojana) in the district. Speaking on the occasion, DC laid strong emphasis on proactive coordination among all departments to ensure speedy processing of applications and maximize outreach of the scheme. She directed the concerned to organize joint awareness camps



involving KPDC, vendors, bankers, and other stakeholders to guide the public and facilitate smooth execution of the scheme at the grassroots level. It was revealed in the meeting that a total of 788 applications have been received, out of

which 729 have been found technically feasible. So far, 278 vendors have been selected and 26 solar rooftop systems (SRTs) have already been successfully commissioned. To further accelerate the implementation, DC instructed officers to

clear all pending cases within a set timeframe. She also proposed a village-wise roster for awareness programs to be conducted at key government offices such as DC Office, RDD, Education, Health and other departments. A monthly target of 1000 installations was fixed for Kupwara and Handwara sub divisions, with a clear framework for documentation and monitoring. The meeting, held at the DC Office Meeting Hall, was attended by the CPO, EO MC Kupwara, LDM, officers from KPDC, and other concerned stakeholders.

## IUST Organized Program on National Credit Framework

#### HT News Network

Awantipora, April 29: As part of the ongoing NEP Lecture Series, the Office of the Dean, School of Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organized a lecture titled National Credit Framework: An Overview. The session was delivered by Dr. Peer Bilal Ahmad, Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences and Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), IUST. The lecture offered a detailed and insightful exposition of the National Credit Framework (NCF), a key initiative under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Dr. Bilal explained that the NCF aims to unify and streamline credit systems across various educational institutions and levels, thereby promoting flexibility, accessibility, and inclusivity in learning. He highlighted the framework's role in facilitating interdisciplinary learning, credit accumulation, and mobility for students across different streams and institutions. Emphasizing the transformative nature of the NCF, Dr. Ahmad discussed how it bridges the gap between academic learning and real-world skills by recognizing learning outcomes from formal, non-formal, and informal educational settings. This, he noted, would significantly enhance student employability and ensure greater alignment with evolving industry demands. He further stressed that the framework supports equity and inclusion by broadening access to quality education.

## MD JJM for pacing up execution of Water Supply projects in Kupwara

#### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of JJM in district Kupwara. The meeting was apprised about the various components under execution through a powerpoint presentation. As per the figures, the district comprises 355 villages with 1, 56,179 rural households out of which 1, 29,755 households have been provided with Functional Household Connections (FHTC's). MD directed the concerned officers to speed up the pace of execution of water supply schemes so that the remaining 26,000 odd households are provided with FHTC's soon. The meeting was informed about the failure of nine bore wells due to no or less discharge, impeding the progress in scheme completion. Shah sought response from the Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division, Srinagar who informed the chair that letter of intent for these wells has been issued and the contractor has mobilized the machinery. MD directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water to personally monitor the drilling of these bore wells in coordination with Superintending Engineer, concerned,



While reviewing the timelines for various works, MD inquired about non-starter of General Service Reservoir's (GSR's) in the Keran sector. He was assured that the allotments have been issued, and with the improvement of weather the works on these GSRs will be started within a week's time. MD directed the Executive Engineers to certify all Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) reported villages as a large number of HGJ reported villages remain uncertified. He directed Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara to

personally monitor the certification of reported HGJ villages. Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer, (Hydraulic) circle Kupwara, Executive Engineers of field divisions, AEEs and JEs besides their counterparts from the Mechanical wing through virtual mode. The meeting was apprised about the various components under execution through a powerpoint presentation. As per the figures, the district comprises 355 villages with 1, 56,179 rural households out of which 1, 29,755 households have been provided with Functional Household Connections (FHTC's). MD directed the concerned officers to speed up the pace of execution of water supply schemes so that the remaining 26,000 odd households are provided with FHTC's soon. The meeting was informed about the failure of nine bore wells due to no or less discharge, impeding the progress in scheme completion. Shah sought response from the Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division, Srinagar who informed the chair that letter of intent for these wells has been issued and the contractor has mobilized the machinery. MD directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water to personally monitor the drilling of these bore wells in coordination with Superintending Engineer, concerned,









# Kishtwar Admin organises awareness drive against drug abuse at village, panchayat level

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 29: Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the District Administration is intensifying its grassroots outreach to address drug abuse through a people-focused awareness drive held at the village and panchayat levels. This widespread campaign, spanning all 13 administrative blocks of the district, has drawn active involvement from various segments of the community, including residents, students, teachers, youth groups and local influencers. The central goal of the drive was to educate citizens about the harmful impact of drug misuse and to inspire collective efforts toward achieving a drug-free environment. Pertinently, every Monday awareness sessions are being organized across different panchayats, featuring resource persons appointed by the administration which are from Health, Police, Education



and Rural Development Department, among others. The sessions aim to maintain continuous engagement and provide meaningful education on the dangers of

drug abuse directly to rural populations. Today's focus was on conducting these awareness drives in educational institutions, making schools and colleges the epicenters of change and learning. Throughout the day, dedicated nodal officers and Nodal agencies led impactful information-sharing activities in multiple villages across all 13 Blocks of Kishtwar District. The overall events were organized under the guidance of DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed. The sessions aim to maintain continuous engagement and provide meaningful education on the dangers of drug abuse directly to rural populations. Today's focus was on conducting these awareness drives in educational institutions, making schools and colleges the epicenters of change and learning. Throughout the day, dedicated nodal officers and Nodal agencies led impactful information-sharing activities in multiple villages across all 13 Blocks of Kishtwar District.

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

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, APRIL 29: District Administration Doda today launched a comprehensive drive on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and under the leadership of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal to address the growing issues of traffic violations and encroachments to manage the overall traffic scenario in Bhaderwah town. The initiative saw the active participation of ASP Bhaderwah, SDPO Bhaderwah, Tehsildar Bhaderwah, EO Municipal Committee Bhaderwah, SHO Bhaderwah, and local traffic police. The objective of the drive was to ensure smooth vehicular movement and to improve pedestrian safety in the town. While interacting with the media, the ADC Bhaderwah stated that the administration had been receiving numerous complaints from residents and commuters regarding unauthorized encroachments by shopkeepers, traffic congestion, and frequent violations of traffic rules. In response, the district administration decided to launch a regular massive enforcement operation to streamline traffic flow and clear public spaces from illegal encroachments. During the drive, a joint team of officials visited various market areas to assess the ground situation. Shopkeepers were directed to remove goods displayed on footpaths and public roads, which were creating obstructions for both pedestrians and vehicles. The ADC emphasized that such practices not only cause inconvenience to the general public but also pose safety hazards and also contribute to traffic jams.

# DC Jammu chairs meeting to review food safety mechanism across district

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 29: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting to review and strengthen the food safety and legal metrology mechanism across the district. The meeting was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrates, Deputy Director Legal Metrology and Food Safety Officers and among other concerned officers. The DC emphasised the need for proactive and coordinated efforts to ensure that food products available in the market comply with prescribed safety and quality standards.



During the meeting, the DC directed the officers to conduct regular market inspections, focusing on food safety checks, weight and measure verifications and hygienic conditions of food establishments. He underscored the importance of surprise checks and strict enforcement against violators under relevant laws to safeguard consumer interests. The DC also instructed the officials to raise public awareness about food safety and grievance redressal mechanisms. In this regard, he stressed the promotion of the toll-free helpline 104, enabling citizens to report food safety concerns directly and promptly.

## DC Kishtwar reviews key development projects, emphasizes inter-agency coordination

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 29: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing and proposed development works in Kishtwar town and its peripheral areas. During the meeting, the DC directed the PWD, PDD and PHE departments to work in close coordination with the GREF authorities for the joint survey and timely submission of a proposal for constructing a central drainage system from Malipeth to Kuleed Chowk along the NH244. The initiative aims to address long-standing drainage issues and improve civic infrastructure in the town. The progress on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the iconic Clock Tower projects at Harra Pond and Dak Bungalow Chowk was also reviewed. These projects, proposed under the Town Beautification Plan, are expected to become prominent landmarks upon completion. The PWD authorities informed the DC that the DPR for these projects will be submitted within the next



two days. The DC stressed the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure the timely execution of development initiatives and urged all concerned departments to maintain close communication for efficient project delivery. The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kishtwar, Sunil Sharma; AEE PWD Kishtwar, Irshad Naik; besides other concerned AEEs and representatives from GREF. The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kishtwar, Sunil Sharma; AEE PWD Kishtwar, Irshad Naik; besides other concerned AEEs and representatives from GREF.

## DC Poonch hands over house key to 500th PMAY-U Beneficiary

HT News Network



POONCH, APRIL 29: The District Administration Poonch marked a significant milestone under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today handed over the house key to the 500th PMAY Urban beneficiary Lokesh Kumar, a street vendor by profession, resident of Ward No. 04 Poonch. The Deputy Commissioner commended the homeowners for effectively utilizing Government support and expressed satisfaction with the scheme's grassroots impact. The beneficiary also expressed gratitude to the government for the initiative, which has significantly improved his living conditions. The DC also reviewed the overall progress of PMAY(U), including the new phase, PMAY 2.0. He directed concerned officials to ensure timely completion of under-construction units and expedite the survey process including organization of awareness camps. He emphasized transparency, beneficiary satisfaction, and quality construction as key pillars of the scheme's success. Officials from Municipal Council Poonch and planning department

## DC Reasi chairs Vidyalaya Management Committee meeting at JNV

HT News Network



REASI, APRIL 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC) at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Reasi. The meeting aimed at reviewing key infrastructure and academic issues and devising action plans for further improvement of the institution. The Principal of JNV welcomed the Chairperson and committee members and presented a comprehensive overview of the school's academic and infrastructural achievements, along with pressing issues needing administrative intervention. During the meeting, several critical agenda points were discussed, including the need for alternate water connections, uninterrupted 24x7 power supply, safety and security enhancements, and the procurement of solar lights. The DC directed a thorough audit of all JNV buildings to ensure safety standards and compliance. She also instructed the Jal Shakti Department to conduct water quality testing and explore the feasibility of alternative water sources. Taking note of the infrastructural needs, the DC asked the Public Works Department (PWD) to inspect the site and prepare a detailed estimate for the construction of a protection wall around the school premises. Additionally, the Tehsildar was directed to demarcate the Vidyalaya land and submit a report within a week. To support holistic development, the DC suggested the identification of a suitable location within the campus for a multipurpose hall and asked the Principal to prepare and submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within a week. The DC also emphasized the importance of science education for girls and directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Reasi to identify nearby girl students and motivate them to enroll under the Vigyan Jyoti scheme, which aims to empower girls in the field of science and technology. In line with environmental sustainability, the DC instructed the Principal to sensitize students on waste segregation. She advised that organic waste be disposed of in compost pits while inorganic waste be collected and handed over to ragmen for appropriate disposal.

## DC Poonch reviews progress of NH 144-A, others BRO Projects

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 29: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a crucial meeting today to assess the progress of various developmental projects being executed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) in the district. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Collector Land Acquisition for Rajouri-Poonch, Officer Commanding GREF 79 RCC and Tehsildar Surankote. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner received comprehensive updates on the progress, structural assessments and land acquisitions related to National Highway 144-A (Jammu to Poonch) and other road projects in the district. He emphasized the need for expediting the work on NH 144-A highlighting the importance of these projects for enhancing regional connectivity. The DC urged the executing agencies to accelerate the removal of bottlenecks within the project alignments and to enhance their efforts to ensure the timely completion of all essential infrastructure. He underscored that these initiatives are crucial for the overall development and well-being of the general public.

# JPDCL launches "Bill Suvidha"; digital initiative aiming seamless, paperless electricity billing

## New App empowers consumers with seamless Bill Management, Real-Time Tracking, Smart Energy Solutions

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 29: The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation (JPDCCL) has launched its innovative mobile application, "Bill Suvidha," a transformative step towards modernizing the electricity bill management for the digital age. The user-friendly app offers a comprehensive suite of features designed to bring convenience, transparency and efficiency to every consumer's fingertips. The key features of "Bill Suvidha" inter alia included Instant Bill Access and Payment, Smart Consumption Monitoring, Multi

Account Management, Service Request Handling and Energy Saving Tips. In addition, it allows the prepaid consumers to view their deduction and recharge history. Through a detailed statement of accounts, they can view their detailed transactions for accounting and auditing purposes. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and improve service delivery in the region. The 'Bill Suvidha' app is testament to JPDCCL's commitment towards revolutionizing the billing experience through digital innovation. With a strong focus on consumer empowerment and technological advancement, Bill Suvidha eliminates traditional billing hassles,



offering a seamless digital alternative. The app is now available for downloading on the Google Play Store (Android) and Apple App Store (iOS). The JPDCCL encourages all the consumers to embrace this digital revolution by using the "Bill Suvidha" app for future electricity bill payments. For further information, the consumers can contact at 0191-2479122, 18001807183 and 1912. The user-friendly app offers a comprehensive suite of features designed to bring convenience, transparency and efficiency to every consumer's fingertips. The key features of "Bill Suvidha" inter alia included Instant Bill Access and Payment, Smart Consumption Monitoring, Multi

Account Management, Service Request Handling and Energy Saving Tips. In addition, it allows the prepaid consumers to view their deduction and recharge history. Through a detailed statement of accounts, they can view their detailed transactions for accounting and auditing purposes. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and improve service delivery in the region. The 'Bill Suvidha' app is testament to JPDCCL's commitment towards revolutionizing the billing experience through digital innovation. With a strong focus on consumer empowerment and technological advancement, Bill Suvidha eliminates traditional billing hassles.





# We are modernising education system to meet the needs of 21st century: PM

## AGENCIES

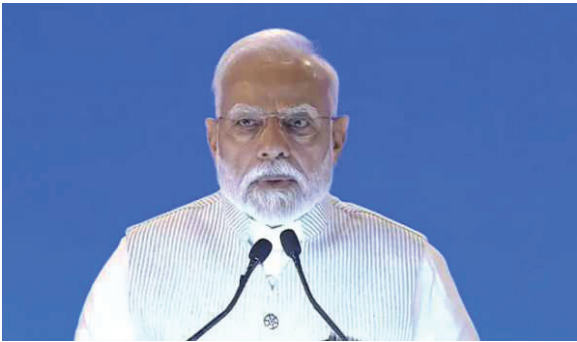
NEW DELHI, APR 29 (UNI)

Stating that the youth hold the key to a nation's future, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasized the crucial role of education in shaping their readiness for the challenges ahead and said that the government is modernising the country's education system to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Addressing the YUGM Innovation Conclave here, the Prime Minister said that the New National Education Policy which has been designed with global education standards in mind had brought significant changes to the Indian education system, an official statement said.

He highlighted the creation of AI-based and scalable digital education infrastructure platform 'One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure' under PM e-Vidya and DIKSHA platforms, enabling the preparation of textbooks in over 30 Indian languages and seven foreign languages.

Modi said the National Credit Framework has made it easier for students



to study diverse subjects simultaneously, providing modern education and opening new career paths. He emphasised the importance of strengthening India's research ecosystem to achieve national goals, highlighting the doubling of gross expenditure on R&D from Rs 60,000 crore in 2013-14 to over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, the establishment of state-of-the-art research parks, and the creation of Research and Development Cells in nearly 6,000 higher education institutions.

He spoke on the rapid development of an innovation culture in India, citing the increase in patent filings from around 40,000 in 2014 to over 80,000, reflecting the support provided by the intellectual property ecosystem to the youth.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the establishment of Rs 50,000 crore National Research Foundation, designed to strengthen the research culture along with the One Nation, One Subscription initiative, which has made world-class research journals accessible to students in higher education. He also stressed the significance of the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship in enabling talented individuals to pursue their academic and professional goals without barriers.

Modi said that today's youth are not only excelling in Research & Development but have also become ready and disruptive, highlighting the transformative contributions of India's young generation to research across various sectors.

He cited milestones like the commissioning of the world's longest hyperloop test track, a 422-meter hyperloop developed at IIT Madras in collaboration with Indian Railways.

Stating that "The trinity of Talent, Temperament and Technology will transform India's future", Prime Minister spoke about the initiatives such as Atal Tinkering Labs, with 10,000 labs already operational, and the announcement of 50,000 more in this year's budget to provide early exposure to children.

Underscoring the importance of meeting the goal of a developed India within the next 25 years, Modi said, "It is crucial that the journey from idea to prototype to product is completed in the shortest time possible".

He said that reducing the distance from lab to market will ensure faster delivery of research outcomes to the people, motivate researchers, and provides tangible incentives for their work. This accelerates the cycle of research, innovation, and value addition.

He called for a robust research ecosystem, urging academic insti-

tutions, investors, and industry to support and guide researchers.

Emphasising the need to consistently promote AI, quantum computing, advanced analytics, space tech, health tech, and synthetic biology, Modi highlighted India's leading position in AI development and adoption.

He mentioned the launch of the India-AI Mission to build world-class infrastructure, high-quality datasets, and research facilities.

The Prime Minister reiterated the commitment to the vision of "Make AI in India" and the goal to "Make AI work for India." He further noted the budgetary decision to expand IIT seat capacities and introduce Meditech courses, combining medical and technology education, in collaboration with IITs and AIIMS.

Modi appealed the timely completion of these initiatives, with a focus on positioning India among the "best in the world" in future technologies.

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Jitendra Singh, Jayant Chaudhary, Sukanta Majumdar were present on the occasion.

# 21-yr-old Indian student, daughter of AAP leader, found dead in Ottawa

## AGENCIES

OTTAWA/NEW DELHI, APR 29 (UNI)

A 21-year-old Indian student in Ottawa, Canada, the daughter of an AAP leader from Punjab, has been found dead.

Vanshika Saini, the daughter of AAP leader Davinder Saini, was from Dera Bassi in Punjab. She had gone missing since April 25. Her body was found on the beach near her college.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa said on X that the matter is under investigation.

"We are deeply saddened to be informed of the death of Ms. Vanshika, student from India in Ottawa.

"The matter has been taken up with concerned authorities and the cause is under investigation as per local police.

"We are in close contact with the bereaved kin and local community associations to provide all possible assistance.

"A massive search effort had been underway since the student, Vanshika, went missing on April 25."

Earlier, the HCI posted about her going missing.

"HCI Ottawa is in touch with local partner Indo Canadian community associations and concerned authorities regarding a missing person alert



for an Indian student in Ottawa. If any one has any information, please provide the same to the contacts as given below", it said with links to its facebook page.

Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Congress Lok Sabha MP from Amritsar, condoled the death on X:

"Deeply saddened by the tragic and mysterious death of Vanshika Saini a bright student from Dera Bassi, Punjab, found dead in Ottawa. My thoughts are with her family, especially her father Mr Devinder Singh ji of @AamAadmiParty.

"Urging @HCI Ottawa & Canadian authorities for a thorough, transparent investigation."

Vanshika had been studying in Ottawa for the past two and a half years.

A grieving Davinder Saini, an aide to AAP MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa, told the media:

"My daughter Vanshika went to Ottawa in 2023...

She wanted to win big in life... The last I talked to her was on 25 April when she was on her way to work... On the morning of 26 April, I received a message that she has gone missing... She was preparing for her IELTS exam."

According to reports, she had left her residence at 7 Majestic Drive between 8 and 9 pm to check out a rental room. Her phone was reportedly switched off by 11:40 pm the same night.

Alarm bells were raised the next day when she failed to show up for the IELTS examination.

Worried by her sudden disappearance, the Hindu community in Ottawa wrote a formal letter to the Ottawa Police urging immediate intervention.

Vanshika had left for Canada after completing her Class 12. She had finished her final examinations on April 18 and was pursuing a part-time job at a call center in Ottawa.

# UP govt to build homes for orphaned children in 10 districts

## AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, APR 29 (UNI)

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the construction of shelter homes for orphaned children in 10 districts across the state under 'Mukhyamantri Bal Ashray Yojana' in a step toward child welfare, official sources said here on Tuesday.

Sources said that the government has proposed a budget of Rs 100 crore for the project. "Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious 'Mukhyamantri Bal Ashray Yojana', orphaned, abandoned, surrendered and children living in adverse conditions are provided with proper care, upbringing and a safe shelter," they said

Sources said that under the scheme, the Department of Women Welfare will operate these homes for state-run care and protection of destitute children and those in conflict with the law, ensuring their safety and holistic development. "In the first phase, homes will be constructed and operated in 10 districts, including Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Amethi, Mathura, Firozabad, Basti, Jhansi and Kanpur Dehat, with a capacity of 100 children each in different cat-



egories," they said.

Sources said that these will include one Government Children's Home (Girls), one Government Home (Boys), seven Government Observation Homes (for juveniles) and one 'Place of Safety' home with Juvenile Justice Board provisions.

Sources said, "The Yogi Government aims to integrate orphaned and vulnerable children into the mainstream, helping them lead a life of dignity. The proposed shelter homes will provide a secure environment, nutritious food, quality education and skill development opportunities."

Sources said that the objective is to ensure that every child benefits from their rights and is empowered to live a respectable life in society. "This scheme marks a significant step toward shaping a brighter future for the state's children. Along

with shelter, the proposed homes will also offer counselling and recreational activities to ensure the mental and physical well-being of the children," they said.

Sources said that the Yogi government has already undertaken several child-centric initiatives, including Operation Kayakalp, reforms in the Mid-Day Meal scheme and broad educational improvements. "The launch of the Mukhyamantri Bal Ashray Yojana further reinforces its commitment to the protection and all-round development of children," they said.

Sources said that the proposed scheme will not only offer shelter to children in need but will also guide them toward a better and more secure future. "UP's initiative could serve as a model for other states across the country," they said.

# Pro-Khalistani Jagmeet Singh and his NDP suffer humiliating defeat in Canadian elections



## AGENCIES

TORONTO, APR 29 (UNI)

Pro-Khalistani leader Jagmeet Singh, leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP), was defeated in the just-concluded Canadian federal elections and has resigned.

The elections saw Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party emerging victorious.

Jagmeet Singh was defeated from the Burnaby Central seat in British Columbia, and his party could get only seven seats in the 343-member new parliament, thus losing its national political party status.

The NDP could get only two percent of the votes.

The New Democratic Party had 24 seats in the previous parliament.

After the results, Jagmeet

Singh said, "I am disappointed that we could not win more seats, but I am not disappointed in our movement. I am hopeful for our party."

Later, he announced that he would step down from the post of party chief. He remained president of the NDP for over eight years.

Jagmeet Singh has been a vocal supporter of Khalistani politics. His party was part of the ruling coalition with former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government, during which Trudeau hurled unproven allegations against India, including that New Delhi was involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia two years back. Relations between India and Canada went rapidly downhill under Trudeau.

# DMK Dravidian Model Version 2.0 Loading in 2026 : Stalin

## AGENCIES

CHENNAI, APR 29 (UNI)

Asserting that Tamil Nadu could neither be ransacked or looted by those trying to mortgage and usurp it, Chief Minister M K Stalin told the State Assembly that DMK's Dravidian Model government Version 2.0 Loading in 2026. Replying to the debate on the demand for grants to the police and fire services department in the Assembly, he said so far what has been witnessed is Dravidian Model government Part 1.

"Version 2.0 loading in 2026 in which will create more records...Tamil Nadu will create history", he declared, amid loud thumping of desks by the members of the Treasury Benches.

Winding his reply to the debate, Mr Stalin listed out the achievements of his four year long DMK rule and said it will step into its fifth year, which is just a few days away. The state has set records and scaled new heights in all the departments.

"With this confidence



and with people's confidence, I am telling that those trying to mortgage and snatch away, cannot ransack Tamil Nadu", he added.

The state has achieved great heights under the party-led government and Tamil Nadu was

"No.1" in 2024-25 with 9.69 per cent growth rate, Stalin, the DMK president, said.

Such a growth rate was unprecedented, he said, adding central statistics have also validated this.

He listed out achievements including "no dropout" in middle schools, the poverty eradication efforts and strides in higher education.

Further, law and order was being maintained well "although some yearn," it gets affected, the CM said.

He exuded confidence that the TN voters will give thumbs up for the DMK thanks to the implementation of various welfare schemes and projects.

Stating that he will be stepping into the fifth year as Chief Minister in May, and he was confident that the DMK would again form the government by retaining power in 2026.

Pointing out that the journey started by him was long, Mr Stalin said this journey will continue for the state of TN, for the people of TN and for the rights of TN".

# Kharge, Rahul urge PM to call special session of Parliament

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 29 (UNI)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a special session of Parliament "at the earliest" to deal with the situation arising out of the brutal terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam.

In a letter addressed to



the Prime Minister, Kharge said, "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, Opposition believes that it is important

to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest".

He said, "This will be a powerful demonstration

of our collective resolve and will to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens 22 April 2025. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened".

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi in his letter to Modi said that at this critical time, India must show that "we always stand together against terrorism". "The terrorist attack in

Pahalgam has outraged every Indian. At this critical time, India must show that we will always stand together against terrorism," Rahul said.

"The Opposition believes that a special session of both Houses of Parliament should be convened, where the representatives of the people can show their unity and determination," the former Congress president said.

# 1 killed, over 40 injured in oil tanker explosion in SW Pakistan

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, APR 29 (UNI)

At least one person was killed and over 40 others were injured when an oil tanker exploded in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province on Monday, police and government officials said.

The incident happened in Noshki district of the

province when a fuel tanker parked at a truck depot caught fire, resulting in an explosion and injuring multiple people standing nearby, Noshki Senior Superintendent of Police Hashim Momand told Xinhua.

He said that among the injured were police personnel and fire fighters, who have arrived at the scene to

manage the situation and put out the fire, adding that the injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals.

According to hospital sources, at least 16 people are in critical condition, with some suffering 70 to 80 percent burns. The severely injured people are being shifted to the provincial capital city of Quetta for better treatment.



## New curricula to set a benchmark for quality of healthcare professionals: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday launched competency-based curricula for 10 allied and healthcare professions, which are designed to produce globally competent allied and healthcare professionals to address the increasing prevalence of diseases, and the growing demand for allied services.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), have launched the curricula.

Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava underscored the government's steadfast commitment to strengthening capacity building and improving the quality of education and training across all domains of the healthcare sector.

She highlighted that "the comprehensive revision and standardization of the curricula represent a pivotal step toward establishing consistency in educational content and delivery".



"India is skilling its healthcare professionals not just for India, but for the globe. The curricula launched today will set a benchmark for the quality of healthcare professionals across various faculties," she noted.

Underlining the importance of the professions for which new curriculum has been launched, Srivastava stated that "these professions play a crucial role in preventive, promotive,

curative and rehabilitative healthcare".

This initiative is expected to significantly enhance the effectiveness of skill-based training, better align educational outcomes with industry needs, and promote greater career mobility and professional recognition for allied health professionals nationwide.

She further added that "the success of these curricula depends not only on their design and content but also on the strength of the systems that support their rollout".

"This includes adequate institutional prepared-

ness, faculty training, infrastructure development, and continuous monitoring to uphold quality standards. Digital modules of the curriculum will be crowd sourced to make them available to all for their capacity building so that the vision of Swastha Bharat can be promoted," she mentioned.

Dr Yagna Unmesh Shukla, chairperson NCAHP, stated that "these curricula will ensure uniformity and an important step in the direction of actualizing the vision of 'One Nation, One Curriculum'. It is important to note that this marks the first phase of the curriculum rollout".

Furthermore, the curricula have been carefully realigned with the regulatory standards and provisions outlined in the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021.

## Dr Tasaduk honored by prestigious European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)



Kashmiri doctor and columnist Dr Tasaduk Husain Itoo has been honored with a prestigious certificate in Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism by European Union of Medical Specialists(UEMS) with accreditation from European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical

Education(EACCME).

The certificate was conferred upon Dr Itoo following successfully attending the 34th post-graduate training program in Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism that was organized by European Society of Endocrinology(ESE).

Dr. Itoo has also

been awarded with ten European Continuing Medical Education Credits(ECMECs) for attending the program.

Currently serving as a doctor at Narayana Health, Dr Itoo is also a distinguished Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation(IDF Fellow, Belgium).

## Breast Cancer Risk Drops by 50% with Healthy Plant-Based Eating, Says Study

AGENCIES

Over the years, breast cancer has been among the most common illnesses affecting women. While several factors can cause breast cancer, including age, genetics, family history and hormone exposure, a recent study has found links between plant-based diet and exposure to breast cancer.

Several studies have revealed that plant-based diets are associated with a lower risk of breast cancer in comparison to a Western diet, which is high in processed meats and refined grains.

However, the latest study, published in the Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition, looks at the exposure to breast cancer by distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy plant-based foods. As many as 133 Iranian women with breast cancer and 267 healthy women were examined



for the study.

Healthy plant-based foods include whole fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes, while unhealthy foods include refined grains, sugary drinks and processed snacks.

The study revealed that women who consumed a

healthy plant-based diet had a 50% lower chance of developing breast cancer. The research also found that the risk of contracting breast cancer was 74% less in postmenopausal women who followed a healthy plant-based diet. Women with a low BMI (Body Mass Index) were

found to have more benefits due to high metabolism and reduced estrogen exposure.

However, researchers did raise concerns over the lack of analysis of the hormone receptor status and reliance on self-reported food data.

## SK bioscience wins patent case against Moderna in South Korea

AGENCIES  
SEOUL

SK bioscience, the biopharmaceutical arm of South Korea's SK Group, said on Wednesday it has achieved a "final victory" in a patent invalidation case against Moderna, the global developer of the messenger-RNA (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccine.

SK bioscience filed a nullity suit in 2023 challenging Moderna's patent on modified nucleosides, nucleotides and nucleic acids, as well as their uses, the company said in a press release.

Moderna's patent is the only registered patent in South Korea related to mRNA manufacturing technology, reports Yonhap news agency.

SK bioscience had argued the patent "unfairly granted priority rights, which hindered the development of mRNA technology."

The disputed patent



could be exported to developing countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia, regions where Moderna has not yet registered patents for its mRNA vaccines," a company spokesperson said.

The Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board ruled last month in favour of SK bioscience, a decision the company said will accelerate its efforts in the global race for mRNA vaccine technology.

Moderna did not appeal the ruling within the legal timeframe.

The global mRNA therapeutics market is expected to exceed 84 trillion won (\$58.9 billion) by 2033, according to global market research firm Nova One Advisor.

SK bioscience aims to establish an mRNA vaccine platform that addresses not only pandemics but also a broader range of infectious diseases.

was considered critical in mRNA manufacturing and was relevant to SK bioscience's own work, including its development of an mRNA-based Japanese encephalitis vaccine candidate, GBP560, the release said.

SK bioscience has been developing this vaccine in collaboration with the Coalition for Epidemic

Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a non-governmental organization founded by American billionaire Bill Gates.

CEPI has provided funding of US\$357 million over the past few years to South Korea's private and academic partners, including SK bioscience.

"If developed, SK bioscience's mRNA vaccines

## World Health Summit's regional meet to shape global agenda: Ayush Minister

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from April 25-27, is set to provide a vital platform for shaping the global health agenda, with a special focus on the integration and scaling up of traditional medicine systems, the government said on Wednesday.

According to Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, the WHS Regional Meeting is a timely opportunity to advance global dialogue on traditional medicine.

"The dedicated session reflects growing global interest in holistic health. As we prepare for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, hosted in Delhi and anchored by the WHO-GTMC in Jamnagar, India reaffirms its commitment to global well-being," he



said.

Among the key highlights of the summit is a session titled "Restoring Balance: Scaling up Access to Traditional Medicine for Health and Well-being", which promises to serve as a major milestone for the global traditional medicine sector.

The WHS Regional Meeting will bring together ministers, leading scientists, CEOs, UN officials, and civil society stakeholders to explore innovative, inclusive, and sustainable pathways to achieving health for all.

The session on tradi-

tional medicine will delve into how holistic health systems rooted in ancient wisdom can help meet the growing global demand for person-centred care and contribute to health equity.

Experts will examine opportunities to advance universal access to safe and effective traditional medicine practices by leveraging technological innovations, evidence-based research, and evolving regulatory frameworks.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, stated, "The WHS

Regional Meeting offers a crucial platform to promote evidence-based traditional medicine within global health discussions. The session on traditional medicine sets the stage for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, supported by the WHO-GTMC and reflecting India's leadership in advancing traditional medicine globally."

As anticipation builds for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit, the WHS Regional Meeting in New Delhi is poised to catalyse critical dialogues and partnerships that will shape the trajectory of traditional medicine in the global health landscape.

It will also amplify India's leadership role in promoting traditional medicine, reaffirming its commitment to global well-being and sustainable health solutions rooted in cultural heritage, said the ministry.

## Time to position India as global leader in preventive healthcare: Dr Jitendra Singh



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

With 25 per cent of global cervical cancer deaths occurring in India -- often due to late diagnosis -- there is a critical need for preventive screening strategies, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday, adding that the ultimate goal is to position India as a global leader in preventive healthcare.

Dr Singh convened a joint meeting of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), ICMR New Delhi, BIRAC, ICMR and industry partners here to review the indigenously developed HPV test kits for cervical cancer screening in India and described it as another milestone in preventive

healthcare achieved by the DBT, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

He drew attention to India ranking fourth globally in cervical cancer-related morbidity, underscoring the urgent need for action. He cautioned, however, that HPV is not the sole cause of cervical cancer, but studies have shown a 90 per cent correlation, supporting the case for targeted prevention.

The minister said that the ultimate objective is to enable affordable, accessible, and ideally mass screening for cervical cancer.

The minister said it is now the right time to acknowledge a series of significant milestones accomplished by the team at DBT and BIRAC, includ-

ing the development of the first-ever DNA vaccine, which brought India international recognition and restored esteem to Indian science in the field of healthcare.

"The DNA vaccine has projected India as a country capable of leading in preventive healthcare -- a stark contrast to the outdated perception that India neither prioritized preventive, nor even curative healthcare," said Dr Singh.

He also referred to Nafithromycin, India's first indigenous antibiotic, which has received encouraging feedback.

Dr Singh reiterated that the involvement of the private sector is integral to these success stories, highlighting a "whole-of-

science and whole-of-government approach."

Another breakthrough cited was the successful gene therapy trial in hemophilia, which earned a spot in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM). Notably, both the British Medical Journal and NEJM, among the world's oldest medical journals, have acknowledged India's pioneering healthcare research.

The minister coined the term "PPP plus PPP", referring to Public-Private Partnerships both within and beyond national borders, a model successfully adopted by several European nations, particularly in life sciences and healthcare.





# History made in IPL as Shastri forecasts next challenge for Suryavanshi

## AGENCIES

JAIPUR, APR 29

History was made in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Monday when 14-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed a sensational century for the Rajasthan Royals.

Suryavanshi became the youngest player to score a T20 century with his innings of 101 in an eight-wicket victory for the Royals against Gujarat Titans, with the left-hander eclipsing the previous record held by Maharashtra's Vijay Zol, who had scored a hundred at the age of 18 years and 118 days.

The teenager smashed seven fours and 11 sixes during his 38-ball innings, with his century coming from just 35 deliveries and the second fastest in the history of the IPL, only behind Chris Gayle's 30-ball effort.

It was only Suryavanshi's third innings in the IPL, with the opener having impressed earlier in the tournament and catching India legend Ravi Shastri's eye when he hit his first ball for six and scored 34 against the Lucknow Super Giants.

Shastri spoke glowingly



of the bevy of young openers on display in the IPL this year on the latest episode of The ICC Review and admitted he had been in awe of how Suryavanshi had commenced his cricketing career.

"I think the first shot he ever played against Lucknow, that would have taken everyone's breath away," Shastri told host Sanjana Ganesan on The ICC Review.

"But he's young, just let him play. I would say just let him play a bit because it's at that age, there's bound to failure as well," Shastri said.

"It's how he handles failure, as people will come up with new things," he said.

Shastri believes bowlers will target Suryavanshi with some short-pitched deliveries in the future and the real test will come with how he responds.

"There'll be lots of short stuff thrown at him the next time he comes out to bat because when you tonk someone's first ball for six, then you show no mercy," he said.

"Then you don't care whether he's 14 years old or 12 years old or 20 years old," Shastri said.

"The menu is the same that you dish out. So, he'll have to get used to that and once we see him handling that then you can make a proper judgement," he added. UNI

# Amid diminishing chances for play offs, CSK seeks redemption against PBKS

## AGENCIES

CHENNAI, APR 29 (UNI)

Having lost seven of the last nine matches, five time champions Chennai Super kings (CSK) seeks redemption and a face saving win when it clashes with Punjab Kings here on Wednesday.

Both the teams comes into this contest in contrasting styles with the visitors having lost and a no result in its last two contests, while CSK helmed back by iconic M S Dhoni still struggling to find its winning magic touch having being drubbed SRH at the same venue a few days back.

Though the play offs chances appeared to be a long distant dream with successive losses, with the visiting teams breaching the Yellow brigade bastion, there still seems to be faint a chance for CSK to entertain any hopes of making it to the qualifying stages, despite languishing at the bottom of the table, while PBKS with 11 points in nine matches will seek to get back to its winning ways to enhance its chances for a knock out berth.

The wash out of PBKS last match has given little hope for CSK in its fortune revival as it needs to win all the remaining matches with massive margins and also hope that the top



teams in the table lose their remaining contests triggering an equation for the play offs spot.

For that, CSK, which had tried several combinations right from the top order and shuffled its batting line up, need to get its balance right, while PBKS rides high on confidence having being placed ahead of its rivals in the table that would give enough cushion for it.

The pitch, which had so far favoured the seamers unlike assisting the traditional spinners, might hold the key CSK for its fortunes to turn.

If the 22-yard strip behaves true to its tradition, Dhoni could bring in offie Ashwin to strengthen the spin attack to share with all rounder Ravindra Jadeja, while not tinkering with the pacers led by Khaleel Ahmed and Mukesh Choudhry with

Anshul Kamboj providing the support with slinger Matheesha Pathirana.

On the batting front, CSK will persist with teenager Mhatre, who shone briefly but brightly in his earlier encounter with SRH, which it easily won, while Dewald Brevis after his debut, looking solid in the middle.

Return of Devon Conway could not be ruled out to pair with Shaik Rasheed/or bringing back Rachin Ravindra at the top.

The issue what the home team needs to address is to scoring maximum runs in the power play without losing wickets, which proved to be its nemesis for it this season.

On the other hand, PBKS has a combative opening pair with Prabhsimran singh and Priyansh Arya and skipper Shreyas Iyer providing

solidity along with Josh Inglis, Nehal Wadhwa and Vishnu Vinod, besides the Aussie Marcus Stoinis, who is still to explode, in the batting department.

Bowling too is a strength for PBKS with Marco Jansen, Harpreet Brar and A.Omarazai have talent, though Arhdeep Singh, Lockie fergusoon and Yash Thakur have been the dominant force so far.

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal's experience will come in handy and is expected to pose a problem or two for the home team.

On the whole, a tight contest is on the cards, whether CSK will resurrect its chances for play offs in a must win situation or the visitors will try to improve its standings in the table for its sixth win, that will propel it to the second spot.

# Hockey India congratulates PR Sreejesh on receiving prestigious Padma Bhushan

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 29 (UNI)

Hockey India has extended its warmest congratulations to PR Sreejesh, former Indian Men's Hockey Team goalkeeper and the current coach of the Indian Junior Men's Team, for being honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award.

This remarkable recognition places Sreejesh alongside the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, making him only the second hockey player in history to receive the Padma Bhushan. Dhyan Chand was bestowed with this honour in 1956, and nearly seven decades later, Sreejesh's contribution to Indian hockey earns him a place among the greats.

Celebrated as the "God of Modern Indian Hockey," Sreejesh enjoyed a glittering 18-year international career, earning 336 caps for India before bidding farewell to professional hockey after the Paris 2024 Olympics. True to form, he delivered a series of stunning performances to help India clinch a Bronze medal, following up on the historic Bronze win at Tokyo 2020.

Throughout his distinguished career, Sreejesh collected numerous accolades, including the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Award three times (2021, 2022, and 2024), the Arjuna Award in 2015, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021, and the World Games Athlete of the Year in 2021. Since making his senior international debut in 2010, he

became a backbone of the Indian defense, known for his composure and brilliance under pressure.

Transitioning smoothly into coaching, Sreejesh led the Indian junior team to a memorable Junior Asia Cup title win in November 2024, continuing to con-

tribute to Indian hockey's growing success story.

Sreejesh's impressive resume also includes appearances at four Olympic Games (London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024), two Asian Games Gold medals (2014 and 2022), an Asian

Games Bronze medal (2018), and two Commonwealth Games Silver medals (2014 and 2022). He also played a pivotal role in India's triumph at the Asian Champions Trophy on four occasions (2011, 2016, 2018, and 2023).

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