

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit, urine or stool
- Redness on the skin

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Big carnage in Kashmir: Terrorists kill 28, injure 10 at tourist destination Pahalgam

UNI
PAHALGAM (KASHMIR), APR 22

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

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

The biggest terror attack in Kashmir since



the February 2019 strike at CRPF convoy targeted tourists who were enjoying the beauty of Baisaran meadow, a picturesque but non-motorable location some kilometres away from the main town

of Pahalgam at around lunch time. According to eyewitnesses, the terrorists were 4 in number and specifically targeted the tourists from

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Hours after Pahalgam terror attack, HM Shah arrives in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

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

Officials told the news agency the Home Minister was received by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, his advisor Nasir Aslam



Wani, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar and others at the airport.

Sources said that the Chief Minister briefed

the Union Home Minister about the Pahalgam attack at the airport itself.

Shah drove straight to the Raj Bhavan

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Restoring traffic within 24 hrs govt's priority: CM Omar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government will try its best to open the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway within 24 hours.

Speaking to reporters, Omar, as reported by the news agency, said the government's top priority was to protect the innocent lives stuck in the landslides, who were evacuated swiftly.

"Now our priority is to

reconnect the national highway because until we reconnect and reconstruct the road, it is not possible for us to send the material to Ramban," he said.

Omar said officials have assured him that they will restore single traffic towards the highway. "For three consecutive days, the administration visited the Ramban. On the first day, the Deputy Chief Minister and the concerned MLA visited Ramban

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

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

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

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

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

An official told the news agency that the security forces have launched a large-scale search and cordon operation in the area to trace the attackers.

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

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LG Sinha says anti-terror ops launched to neutralise terrorists

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

The security forces have launched a massive anti-terror operation in the Pahalgam area following a terror attack in the Baisaran area today afternoon.

In a post on X, LG Manoj Sinha, as per news agency said that anti-terror operation has been launched to neutralise terrorists.

"Entire nation is angry & blood of our forces is boiling. I want to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

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

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

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

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

"It is a dastardly and inhuman act which must

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

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

"I strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and

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

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed anguish over the attack and said that

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CCI Jammu calls for Jammu Bandh today

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22 (KNO)

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

The attack, which occurred at Baisaran meadow, claimed dozens of lives, mostly tourists from various states, and left several others

injured, marking it as one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in recent years.

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

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

the victims and stringent action against the perpetrators of this heinous act.

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

"This bandh is a collective stand against those who seek to disrupt peace and harmony in our region. We urge the

government to identify and punish the culprits swiftly and ensure the safety of all citizens and visitors," Gupta said. He further appealed to all traders, businesses, and citizens to observe a complete shutdown to honor the victims and press for immediate action.

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

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J&K mourns death of tourists in Pahalgam terror attack

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MANOJ SINHA

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha while expressing shock and grief over the cowardly terror attack on tourists, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Perpetrators won't be spared."

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

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

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

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

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

The proposed legislations also seeks to make amendments in section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 to align J&K's state

poll cycle with Lok Sabha elections.

The bill specifies that simultaneous elections will take effect from an "appointed date" to be notified by the President following the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election. Since the first sitting of the Lok Sabha elected in 2024 has already taken place, the earliest possible

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Statehood our promise, will be restored to J&K: BJP MP Anurag Thakur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP), Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said the restoration of statehood is the government's promise, which will be fulfilled.

He further said the simultaneous polls in the country under 'One Nation, One Election' will lead to the growth of the country's GDP by 1.5 per cent.

"Statehood is our promise and it will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir," Thakur, as per the news agency, said



while addressing the reporters here.

Asserting that there is no place for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Thakur, said the fight against Naxalism and terrorism is going on across the country. "Many naxalists have

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Salal Dam gates opened to manage heavy water inflow into Chenab River

AGENCIES
JAMMU, APR 22

Authorities on Tuesday opened the gates of the Salal hydroelectric power project dam to ease the heavy inflow of water into the Chenab river in the wake of continuous rains in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said.

Locals have been asked to remain

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At least 14 from JK qualify UPSC CSE 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 22 (KNO)

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday declared the results of Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2024 in which at least fourteen candidates from Jammu and Kashmir have qualified it.

Besides, two other candidates have qualified from the Union Territory of Ladakh.

According to the news agency, Iram Choudhary has topped in Jammu and



Kashmir and has secured 40th All India Rank (AIR) in the UPSC 2024 exams. The official list further

reveals that Mohammad Muneeb Bhat has secured 131AIR rank, Akshay Parihar with 261st.

It also states that Haris Mir from Jammu and Kashmir has secured 314th AIR rank followed by Manil Bejotra with 401st, Aakash Gupta with 467th, Ghulam Hadir with 633rd, Sadaf Malik with 742nd, Yassar Ahmed Bhatti with 768th, Vishal with 439th, Nazir Ahmad Bijran with 847th, Harjot Singh with 948th and Arshad Aziz Qureshi with 993rd respectively.

The UPSC statement said that out of 5,83,213 candidates that appeared in the exams, 1,009 qualified for the civil services

examinations. It also said that a total of 14,627 candidates had qualified for appearance in the Written (Main) Examination out of which 2,845 candidates qualified for the personality test of the examination.

Speaking to KNO, Nazir Ahmad Bijran who had secured 847th rank said that it was not an easy task for him to achieve the success. "Ever good position where we can serve the public demands some extra effort."

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GDC Ramkote celebrates Earth Day 2025



JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APRIL 22

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

The celebration started with a Plantation Drive in the college premises by planting saplings of Arjun, Sahjan and Guava. Thereafter, an Awareness Lecture on "Earth Day and its Importance" was organised to sensitise the

students about environmental protection and conservation in this era of climate change.

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

that protect and preserve our natural resources.

The resource person for the lecture was Dr. Shakeeb Manzer, faculty from the Department of Sociology, who talked about the significance of Earth Day and various efforts that need to be made for saving the planet from deforestation. A Pledge Taking Ceremony was also organised in which faculty and students took an oath to make individual and collective efforts for the

planet's well being and commit to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle. Nearly 50 NSS volunteers participated in the programme that was organised by Prof. Anu Sharma, NSS PO of the college.

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

DLSA Budgam organizes review/introductory meeting of LADCs

JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam today conducted a review and introductory meeting of all Legal Aid Defence Counsels in the office chamber of the Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

The meeting was convened by the Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak, to assess the performance of Pervious Legal Aid Defence Counsel and ensure that the newly selected LADCs shall meet the standards of Service delivery.

The meeting was attended by LADCs including Lateef Ahmad Khan (Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel); Javaid Ahmad Mir, Abdul Rouf Parray and Nazeer Ahmad Wagay



(Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel); Shaista Ganai, Fozia Shafi and Zahoor Ahmad Malik Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels. They shared their experiences, challenges, and suggestions for improving the delivery of legal aid.

Discussions focused on ensuring quality legal representation, expediting pending cases, and enhancing coordination among counsels

to strengthen access to justice. Secretary, DLSA Budgam emphasized the importance of efficient and accessible legal aid services and reiterated the commitment of DLSA to providing free and effective legal assistance to those in need.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to further streamline legal aid mechanisms and enhance the efficiency of legal services in the district.

Artisans, weavers advised to avail benefit of educational scholarship for their kin

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has called upon all registered artisans and weavers to take advantage of the Educational Assistance Scheme for their kin, which has been introduced by Jammu & Kashmir Government in 2022.

This initiative is aimed at supporting educational aspirations of children from families of registered artisans and weavers across the region. The scheme offers financial assistance to students from Class I up to Post Graduation in technical and professional courses and is open to families with an annual income up to Rs 90,000.

Explaining the key features, a spokesperson of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department said, that the level of financial support is determined by the student's course or class and all assistance shall be transferred directly to beneficiaries in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode, to ensure transparency and timely disbursement. "Applications can be submitted through the Department's district offices," he added.

Laying stress upon its broader impact, the spokesman stated apart from financial aid, the scheme is an investment in the future of artisan families. "Education is the bridge that connects our rich heritage with a promising future," he said, adding that empowering the younger generation through education shall foster a self-reliant and resilient artisan community capable of preserving traditional crafts while embracing modern knowledge and opportunities.

He further urged all eligible families to make use of this valuable opportunity and advised them to approach the respective District Handicrafts and Handloom Offices or access the official departmental website, for detailed information and application guidelines.

GCOE organises series of awareness events to mark Earth Day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Nature Club in collaboration with Department of EVS of Government College of Education Canal Road on Tuesday celebrated Earth Day by organizing a series of events under the patronage of the Principal Prof.(Dr.) Jyoti Parihar.

The activities included documentary screening on the theme 'Our Power, Our Planet', promotional rally on the theme and slogan writing. Pledge to 'Save Earth, Save Environment' was also taken by all. The activities were organised in different schools by the pupil teachers and their group Supervisors with school students.

The main objective behind this celebration aimed to endow the environmental significance and to protect and restore the planet through actionable and sustainable solutions.

'Vidya Pravesh' launched in Poonch Schools

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 22

The Vidya Pravesh program—a three-month, play-based preparatory module for Grade-I students—was formally launched across all primary and middle schools in Poonch district.

The initiative is being implemented on the direction of SCERT Jammu and under the guidance of Principal DIET Parkash Lal Thapa and Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ifikhar Ali Shah Kazmi, with the aim of bridging early learning gaps and strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

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

The first was a district-



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

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

and monitor the program's rollout in their respective schools. As the module officially began at the school level, Ms. Sapna Sharma, School Nodal Officer of MS Dhant, launched Vidya Pravesh in her school and said, "The Vidya Pravesh module is really practicable and well-structured. It will definitely bring fruitful results after three months. Through this, we will bridge the learning gaps of students entering Class I."

Key contributors in the online discussions included educationists and members of the District and State Resource Groups such as Anwar

Khan (Principal HSS Mandi), Ajay Maini (SNO Kanuyian), Tariq Chugtai, Harish Sharma, and Darshan Kumar.

CEO Poonch, Mr. Iftikhar Ali Shah, addressed the participants and urged all school heads and SNOs to implement the module in true letter and spirit. He stressed the importance of this initiative in laying a strong educational foundation for young learners.

Principal DIET Poonch, Mr. Parkash Lal Thapa, played a key role in coordinating the rollout. He emphasized that the entire district team—teachers, ZEOs, and SNOs—has already been trained at DIET, and is now fully prepared to execute the module across schools.

He encouraged HOIs to ensure that daily classroom activities remain aligned with the objectives of Vidya Pravesh.

Khan (Principal HSS Mandi), Ajay Maini (SNO Kanuyian), Tariq Chugtai, Harish Sharma, and Darshan Kumar.

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JKPCC Jammu North conducts Public Hearing at village Bhalwal

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

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

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

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

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

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar



presided over the public hearing on behalf of District Magistrate Jammu and conducted under his supervision as per the provisions of EIA.

Commissioner JMC Devansh Yadav apprised the general public that the purpose of conducting public hearing was to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the upcoming Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant.

Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan; MLA Jammu North Sham Lal

Sharma and prominent citizens of the area presented their viewpoints and suggestions before the panel.

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

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

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 22

In a considerate gesture to ease the hardship of grieving families, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today disbursed Rs 15 lakh as compensation among Next of the Kin (NoK).

A total of Rs. 1 lakh each was distributed among the legal heirs of fifteen deceased victims of road accidents under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund.

The event, held in the Office Chamber of the DC Kishtwar, witnessed the presence of ADC Pawan Kotwal, ARTO Tasleem Wani and other concerned officials.

The government's initiative aims to extend support to those affected by such tragic incidents and underscores its ongoing commitment to assist bereaved families.

This distribution marks an essential step in providing financial assistance and acknowledging the distress faced by the families of road accident victims.

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

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 22

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

During the recent inspection and legal proceedings, five cases of food safety violations were disposed of.

The defaulters, involved in selling items like Rajmash, Mong Dal, Milk Products, and Desi Ghee, were found guilty under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) 2006. A total penalty of Rs 82,000 was imposed on the violators.

ADC Anil Kumar Thakur stated that the administration is fully committed to ensuring the availability of safe and quality food for the public. He warned that any negligence in following food

safety norms will not be tolerated.

The administration has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards food safety violations and urged all food business operators in the district to strictly follow FSSAI 2006 guidelines.

This action is intended to serve as a strong warning to all traders to maintain proper hygiene and food quality standards, ensuring public health remains a top priority.

Sakeena Itoo visits Tangmarg

JNEWS SERVICE
TANGMARG (BARAMULLA), APRIL 22

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Tangmarg area of Gulmarg Constituency, wherein she inaugurated Dialysis Centre at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tangmarg and laid foundation stone for 20-bedded pre-fabricated ward and a new Primary Health Centre (PHC) block.

MLA, Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; Director Tourism Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Coordination New GMCs, Director Colleges, Director Social Welfare Kashmir, MD J&K Cable Car Corporation, district and sectoral officers of various departments accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While visiting SDH Tangmarg, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated a state-of-the-art Dialysis Centre.

Interacting with the doctors and other medical staff on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that this facility will provide critical support to patients suffering from renal ailments by ensuring access to life-saving dialysis treatment within their area.

While interacting with some locals on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government towards improving healthcare delivery in rural and semi-urban areas. "Access to quality healthcare is basic right of public. Our Government will ensure that the people of Tangmarg and surrounding areas receive timely and effective medical care", she stated.



During her interaction, the Minister elaborated healthcare and education as top priorities of the government. She stated that these sectors form the backbone of a strong society and Government is making concerted efforts to improve infrastructure and service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir. She also mentioned that sustained investments are being made to upgrade hospitals, enhance educational institutions and ensure equitable access to quality services in both rural and urban areas.

The Minister further said that establishment of Dialysis Center at SDH Tangmarg aligns with the government's commitment of decentralizing specialized healthcare facilities in peripheral areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that this 20 bedded ward after completion will certainly expand inpatient capacity and improve service delivery at the hospital. She added that it will considerably enhance patient care facilities and decongest the existing hospital

infrastructure, which was long-standing demand of the local population.

Reiterating the Government's commitment of improving health care infrastructure in peripheral areas, Sakeena said with the establishment of upgraded infrastructure, dependency of locals of these areas will significantly reduce on tertiary care hospitals for specialized treatments.

Later, the Minister visited Baderkoot, Ringawari and Gogaldara areas of Tangmarg where a local tourism festival was organized. She appreciated the local initiative in showcasing the region's beauty and reaffirmed that all rural tourism hotspot areas of J&K will be developed into viable tourist destinations. She laid emphasis on promoting tourism not only as a recreational avenue but also as a source of livelihood for the local population.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Itoo also held a brief review of all ongoing developmental works. She instructed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of works for timely completion of these works. She asked them to maintain synergy for smooth execution of works while maintaining quality and standards.

Vaccination Camp held for Haj Pilgrims, Girl Children at SDH Bhandarwah

JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APRIL 22

A special vaccination camp was organized at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bhandarwah for the Haj pilgrims registered for the 2025 pilgrimage. The event was held in the presence of DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal, who emphasized the importance of health preparedness and preventive care for the sacred journey. A total of 17 pilgrims were administered essential vaccinations and underwent medical check-ups to ensure their fitness and well-being before departing for Haj.

Meanwhile, the camp also focused on preventive healthcare for girls.



Under the Prime Minister's 'Suraksha' initiative, HPV vaccines were administered to girl children for protection against cervical cancer. This crucial step in women's health was also supervised by the DDC Chairman, who appreciated the medical team's commitment to community welfare.

The health drive was conducted under the

supervision of a dedicated medical team, with full adherence to health protocols. Local Tehsildar BMO and other doctors were present to support the initiative, reflecting a strong collaboration between civil and health departments.

The comprehensive vaccination effort was widely appreciated by the local community and the beneficiaries.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

The Chief Electoral Officer Jammu & Kashmir has appealed the eligible citizens of the Assembly Constituency 77 Nagrota and 27 Budgam, to participate in the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls.

The SSR, which commenced on April 8, 2025, will conclude on April 24, 2025. With only two days remaining, till now in assembly constituency 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota only 1069 Form 6 and 1575 Form 6 have been received respectively. It is crucial that all citizens who have attained the age of 18 years as on 1st April 2025 and are not yet registered as voter are once again requested to get registration as voter before 24th April, 2025.

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

All citizens who have attained the age of 18 years



as on 1st April 2025 and are residents of Assembly Constituency 77 Nagrota or 27 Budgam and are not yet registered as voters, are strongly urged to register using the given methods. The eligible candidates can contact their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs), contact their respective Assistant Registration Officers/Tehsildar (AROs), Contact their respective Electoral Registration Officer/SDM/ACR (ERO) and can also apply online through the Voter Helpline App/ www.eci.gov.in./ Call 1950.

The citizen must provide required documents including proof of age and residence. They can use Form 6 for addition as new voter, Form 7 for deletion and Form 8 for shifting of residence, correction in existing entries, issuance of replacement EPIC or request for marking as Person with Disabilities.

The EROs emphasized the urgency of this matter and requested all eligible citizens to utilize this final opportunity to ensure their inclusion in the electoral rolls.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch leads Plantation Drive to mark Earth Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 22

In celebration of Earth Day, a large-scale plantation drive was organized today in Poonch under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal. The event was organised by the Forest Department in collaboration with the Forest Protection Force (FPF) aimed at promoting environmental awareness, sustainability and fostering a greener, healthier surroundings.

The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the event by planting a Chinar sapling at FPF Complex, City Forest, marking the beginning of the campaign. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, government officials, members of civil society, and volunteers.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the participating students & shared valuable information regarding various local species and importance of tree plantation & forest conservation, particularly in wake of rising global environmental problems. "Planting trees



is one of the simplest and most effective ways to combat climate change and restore ecological balance. Today's saplings are tomorrow's forests. It is our collective duty to preserve & protect them" he said. Saplings of various indigenous species were planted during the drive, with the Forest Department ensuring proper

maintenance and follow-up care. This initiative marked a meaningful celebration of World Earth Day and reflected the district administration's commitment to sustainable development in the region.

World Earth Day, observed globally on April 22, serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the planet.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 22

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

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



try. During the event, the DC Rajouri highlighted the transformational impact of the Aspirational Block Programme in the district, with a focus on key sectors such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, basic infrastructure and skill development. He presented success stories, innovations, and convergence efforts that have led to significant improvement in services delivery and quality of life in the Khawas block.

The efforts of District

Administration Rajouri under the leadership of DC Abhishek Sharma were lauded for adopting data-driven governance, community participation, and inter-departmental coordination to bridge development gaps in remote areas.

The 17th Civil Services Day served as a platform for knowledge sharing and best practices among civil servants and recognized exemplary contributions in public administration aimed at improving citizen-centric services.

Food Craft Institute Jammu hosts Food Festival



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

A one day food festival - MILAAP was organized by Food Craft Institute Jammu today. The students of Food Production and Bakery and Confectionery showcased the ethnic, regional, continental dishes with fusion so as to come up with mouth watering delicacies. The students undergoing 1½ year diploma programme in various trades in the institute as part of their final practical had to undertake such preparations which were judged by external examiner Dr. Tariq Ahmed from Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar.

The Principal of the Institute Jyoti Bhatti, in his

welcome address, highlighted the importance of holding this event. The food festival was organized in order to promote the ethnic, regional and continental cuisines.

Further, it was an effort to promote the activities being undertaken by students of FCI Jammu, undergoing 1½ year diploma courses in various streams like Food Production, F&B Service, Front Office and Bakery & Confectionery. It was apprised by the Principal that all the present trainees have been selected for six months industrial training in different 5 star hotels across the country. The students/trainees shall be joining the respective Hotels after their final examinations by

end of May or first week of June.

Director, Skill Development Department J&K, O.P. Bhagat, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, also encouraged the students to pursue a career in the hospitality sector for which there are ample opportunities at their doorstep. He encouraged the students to become entrepreneurs. He conveyed the message to all those who have passed 10+2 so as to pursue a career in the Hospitality Sector. The admissions in the FCI Jammu are open and students can enroll online as well as offline by visiting the campus or by visiting the website.

DC reviews implementation of Credit-Linked Schemes of Holistic Agricultural Development program in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal convened an important meeting today with officers from the line departments and representatives of banking institutions at the DC Office complex to review the implementation of credit-linked schemes of Holistic Agricultural Development program (HADP).

The meeting focused on assessing the performance matrix, as well as the sanctioning and disbursement status of the Credit Link schemes in the district. The DC comprehensively reviewed the progress and achievements of several key initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises Scheme (MFME), PM KISAN, Kisan

Credit Card (KCC) and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that achieving the desired targets in the agricultural sector relies heavily on the proactive involvement of banks in providing hassle-free credit facilities to farmers. He directed the Lead District Manager to ensure that all pending cases under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) are disbursed by April 31. Additionally, he instructed the Chief Agriculture Officer to clear all E-KYC pending cases for active land-seeded beneficiaries of PM KISAN.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the executing departments and banks to maximize outreach, ensur-

ing that every farmer and farming family in the district is covered under these schemes. He set clear targets for all departments, highlighting the need for close coordination between banks and government agencies to facilitate seamless implementation that directly benefits the farming community.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including the PO ICDS, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Area Marketing Officer, District Head KVK, and the Lead District Manager of J&K Bank and other concerned.

Agriculture Deptt Kashmir commemorates 'World Earth Day'



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Agriculture Department Kashmir today organized an event to observe 'World Earth Day' at the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir.

The event was organised under the theme 'Our Power Our Planet.' The function was presided over by the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb.

Addressing the participants, Director Agriculture said Earth day is observed to spread awareness about the issues, including global warming, deforestation, increasing

pollution, which result in the destruction of the planet. He said this day provides us an opportunity to raise awareness among the farming community.

He said the day is aimed to underline the issues the environment is facing and to strategize the initiatives and actions against these issues. Joint Director Agriculture highlighted various initiatives by the department to make different agriculture activities eco-friendly and sustainable. The program was attended by officers and officials of the department.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out replacement of 33KV CT Set at Receiving Station Kurhama & Repairing of 33KV VCB at R. Safapora, the shutdown of 33KV Badampora-Kur-

hama line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Kurhama, Dab, GCET shall remain off while power supply to Kurhama, Yangoora, Baroosa, Old Dab, Checki Baba, Salun and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 23 & 24 April, 2025.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

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

The keynote speaker for the session was senior advocate and President of the Bar Association D.K. Singh, who shared his valuable insights on the legal rights and protections available to women under Indian law. He emphasized the importance of awareness, legal literacy, and institutional mechanisms in combating sexual harassment, and was well-received by faculty and students alike.

The event was held under the patronage of the College Principal Dr. Shalun Samy, who in her address, underscored the

role of educational institutions in empowering students, especially women, through informed discourse and proactive measures. She commended the efforts of both the Women Development Cell and CASH for organizing such a vital program.

The lecture was convened by Convener CASH Committee Prof. Anju Bala, and Convener Women Development Cell Dr. Rashmi Arya.

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

The interactive session allowed participants to raise concerns and ask questions, making it a meaningful and engaging experience. Such awareness programs play a crucial role in sensitizing the academic community and reinforcing the institutional commitment to gender equity and justice.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR-02-2025-26-ADEN-JAT (to be opened on 13.05.2025) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 13.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Open | Works | Single Packet System |
| Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time |
| 15.04.2025 | 29.05.2025 | 13.05.2025 |

| S. No. | Tender No. | Details of Tender |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | 02-2025-26-ADEN-JAT | Raising Walls and Cleaning of side Drains, De-Weeding of shrubs and vegetation along Railway Tracks in the SSE/P section. Way/JAT & SSE/P/Way/KTHU under ADEN/JAT. |
| | | Advertised Value (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completion |
| | | 89,99,775.27 60 Days 06 Months |

NOTE: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. 1185/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Big carnage in Kashmir...

various parts of the country. They included women and children.

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

The slain people included two foreigners and two locals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modi, in a post on X, strongly condemned the attack and said "those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice. They will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed."

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

The Prime Minister also expressed condolences to the families who lost their dear ones and said all possible assistance is being provided to those affected. Shah, in his post on X, "Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences."

He said he held a meeting with the officials concerned via video conferencing. J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha who oversees security and law and order in the Union Territory, said that a search operation has been launched to trace the attackers.

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

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

A day later Pakistan retaliated and it triggered a brief dog-fight. The Pulwama attack had brought India and Pakistan at the brink of war. In July 2017, eight pilgrims on the way from Amarnath Cave were killed and over a dozen were injured in a terror attack in south Kashmir.

Hours after Pahalgam...

where he will chair a high level security meet.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Security beefed up...

to forests and highlands," he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LG Sinha says anti-terror...

assure the nation that perpetrators of Pahalgam attack will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families," he said.

Terrorists attacked a group of tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam today afternoon with many casualties feared in the attack while official confirmation about death count is still awaited.

Following the attack, Home Minister Amit Shah left for Srinagar to hold urgent meeting with all security agencies. He also briefed PM Modi, who is on a visit to Saudi Arabia, over phone about the incident. KNO

Prez Murmu, PM Modi...

those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared.

"Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased. Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared, and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences. Briefed PM Shri @narendramodi Ji about the incident and held a meeting with the concerned officials via video conferencing. Will shortly leave for Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with all the agencies," the Union HM wrote.

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

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

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

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

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

CCI Jammu calls...

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

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

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

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

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

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

J&K mourns death...

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chief Minister has been in constant touch with senior officials and has spoken to the Minister of Health, Sakina Itoo, who immediately rushed to the hospital to oversee treatment and support arrangements for the injured.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He highlighted that terrorism, which had shifted towards Jammu recently, appears to be returning to Kashmir, as evident

by the Pahalgam attack. "If the situation is so good, as claimed by the BJP, then why are such incidents still taking place," he asked.

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

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

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

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

SAJAD GANI LONE
Handwara legislator and Peoples Conference (PC) Chief, Sajad Gani Lone condemned the attack and said that these terror attacks are aimed at yet again disempowering us economically.

"Condemn strongly the dastardly and cowardly attack in Pahalgam. For decades we have been identified with being great hosts. We have a history of hospitality. And some cowardly terrorists want to destroy it all. Tourism industry has suffered. And people involved in tourism have after a long time begun to restart their lives. They had begun to dream. And here are the ugly villains to shatter it all," Sajad wrote.

"Make no mistake. These terror attacks are aimed at yet again disempowering us economically. Those who do this are the worst enemies of Kashmiris. They defile our history of hospitality, smearing our glorious past. And they are a curse on our present. They are enemies of our children of our young generation. We have to unitedly send a message that there is no tolerance for terror. Let us live our lives in peace and economic dignity. Please get out of our lives. These tourists are our revered guests," he added.

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

M Y TARIGAMI
Condemning the dastardly attack on tourists in Pahalgam, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said the inhuman act of violence must be denounced in the strongest possible terms. "Violence serves no purpose and must be condemned from all quarters. Such cowardly attacks on innocent civilians have no place in any civilised society. The perpetrators must be identified and brought to justice without delay," Tarigami said.

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

ILTIJA MUFTI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KASHMIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
Meanwhile, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has expressed deep anguish over the attack on tourists in Pahalgam and strongly condemned this dastardly act of violence.

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

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

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

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

FRUIT GROWERS CUM DEALERS UNION
Also, the Management of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum

Dealers Union, an umbrella Body of all Fruit Growers Associations of the Valley and the members of The New Kashmir Fruit Association Fruit Marketing Complex, Parimpora, Srinagar, strongly condemned the terrorist attack.

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

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

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

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

Restoring traffic...

on the spot on the very first day. On the second day, I reached the spot to ensure that no life was harmed because of the massive landslides," he said.

The CM said he believes any work that can be done at a rapid pace is more beneficial. "As of now, the situation in Ramban is very bad. I spoke to the officials and we are hopeful that one-way traffic will be thrown open," he said.

As far as the essential services are concerned, the chief minister said he has directed the officials to ensure that convoys of fuel tankers are being sent through the Mughal Road towards Kashmir so that the locals won't feel cut off.

He warned that the government won't tolerate black marketing and hoarding. "We will take strict action if such complaints arise," he said.

Omar urged the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to keep a check and balance on the prices of air tickets. "As of now, we are trying to provide temporary relief to the victims and we will ensure that they will get the compensation through the Red Cross at the earliest," he said.

About the compensation, the CM said the government will assess the damage to the properties of the victims and accordingly provide them with compensation through NDRF and SDRF norms.

"We will request the Government of India (GoI) to declare the area a disaster zone. I'm sure that they will help the victims," he said.

Omar further said the Jammu and Kashmir government was expecting relief from the Supreme Court with regard to the Waqf Bill.

Speaking about the One Nation One Election (ONOE), he said, "If the ruling party in the Centre tries to bulldoze and implement new laws on us, we will approach the SC the way we did in the Waqf Act." KNO

Joint Parliamentary Committee...

appointed date for simultaneous elections would coincide with the first sitting of the House elected in 2029. Consequently, simultaneous polls could begin by 2034, marking the end of that Lok Sabha's term.

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

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

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

Statehood our promise...

surrendered while there has been a relief in J&K as the security forces have taken stringent measures against terrorism," he said, adding that the BJP has a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

On 'One Nation, One Election', Thakur said it is in the interest of the country. "While the JPC formed in this regard has been discussing the issue, I believe that the simultaneous elections will save money, increase the voting percentage and also save time for employees, who are being deputed on election duties," he said, adding that if the bill is passed, India's GDP can see an economic growth of 1.5 percent.

The BJP MP further said there was no pressure on the Supreme Court (SC) on the Waqf Amendment Act, saying the court has already validated the government's decisions on Triple Talaq, Article 370 and other issues.

He accused the Congress and opposition leaders of misleading the people on the issues. "In J&K, development has taken place, we are witnessing a tourism boom here. Similarly, Triple Talaq has brought relief to the Muslim women," he added. KNO

At least 14...

Hailing from Kangan area of Ganderbal, Nazir studied in a local private school and after the 12th standard he pursued B.Tech in Civil Engineering from the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

He later pursued a Master's degree in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi.

Before qualifying UPSC, Nazir had cracked JKAS exams and is currently working as BDO Langate. "I always dreamed of cracking the UPSC. My success in the UPSC exams is not merely my hard-work. There has been a immense support from my family to achieve this milestone." KNO

Salal Dam gates opened...

vigilant and keep away from the banks of the river. "Due to the high inflow and increasing trend in the Chenab River, the gates of the Salal Dam have been opened as a precautionary safety measure," a senior National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) official said.

He said the discharge into the Chenab River is very high, causing the water level downstream of the Salal dam to rise.

"Due to this, it is not advisable for people, vehicles, livestock, and animals to approach the river. Therefore, the general public in the area is informed to take proper precautions and avoid going near the banks of the Chenab river during this period," he said.

The district administration has issued an alert in Reasi as water levels rise in river rise.

DDC Reasi conducts extensive tour of Mahore; assures swift action to public demands

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, APRIL 22

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive tour of Block Mahore to assess the developmental needs of the area and to engage directly with local residents. During the visit DDC interacted with locals and listened to various issues related to daily wagers, welfare schemes, threats from wild animals, and improvement in infrastructure such as roads, drainage, and healthcare facilities including. Concerns also included MGN-REGA payment delays, pending contractor dues, and staffing shortages.

DDC Reasi assured swift action and timely redressal of grievances. She directed XEN Jal Shakti to ensure wage disbursement by the 10th of each month for daily wagers. She instructed Agro and allied departments to conduct regular awareness camps so that people can avail benefits of both Central and UT government-sponsored schemes.

Responding to PMAY grievances, DDC directed that concerned officers must inspect the construction status of each PMAY beneficiary to ensure compliance with the scheme's guidelines. Action will be taken against those who have received payments but failed to initiate or



complete construction of their houses.

She directed Gram Sevaks to ensure regular field visits, while the CDPO Mahore was instructed to conduct regular inspections of ICDS centers to improve nutrition delivery for children. The Labour

Department was also directed to hold awareness camps in Mahore to inform the public about various welfare initiatives.

As part of her tour of Mahore, District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, visited PALASSH - the Children's

Home for Boys. During the inspection, she reviewed staff deployment, assessed the nutritional provisions being provided to the children, and interacted with the officers. She instructed the XEN PWD Mahore to renovate the building within the stipulated time-frame.

DDC also visited the Community Health Centre (CHC) Mahore and conducted a thorough inspection of all its sections. She directed the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Mahore to ensure proper cleanliness and upkeep of each section, stressing that a clean environment is essential for quality healthcare and patient satisfaction. She also visited the Boys Hostel

and the Plastic Waste Management Unit to review facilities and assess ongoing operations.

In addition to this DDC Reasi, Nidhi Malik today also inaugurated a newly constructed water reservoir at Phadi, completed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The project, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakh, aims to improve access to clean and safe drinking water for the local population.

ADC Rakesh Kumar, SDM Mahore Shafiqat Majeed Bhat, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, DFO Mahore, CAO, XEN PWD and Jal Shakti, Tehsildar Mahore and other senior officers were present.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 22

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

The ADDC underscored the importance of seamless transition to a digital workflow to enhance administrative efficiency by timely processing of files, enhancing transparency, and ensuring accountability in government functioning.

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



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

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

DC Budgam inaugurates Public Convenience at District Headquarters

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo today inaugurated the public toilet complex at Old DC Office, and conducted the inspection of the completed repair and renovation works across the premises.

The upgradation project, carried out by the District Administration Budgam, has transformed the old office complex with the improvements including plastering and fresh painting of the entire building facade, complete overhaul of existing washrooms, including new tiling and installation of modern sanitary fittings, repainting of all doors and windows for uniformity and durability, concealment of electrical wiring in corridors, installation of a centrally placed public information notice board, replacement of worn-out dustbins, construction of accessibility ramps and seating space for visiting public.

These upgraded facilities will greatly enhance comfort, accessibility, and



service delivery for both staff and public visiting the DC office complex.

The Old DC Office Complex stands renewed and ready to meet the growing needs of the district's administration and its citizens, DC said.

He added that the new public washroom adheres to high standards of privacy, cleanliness and universal access.

The upgradation of the DC office complex will provide improved services and facilities, benefiting both staff and the general public visiting the offices.

Besides, ADDC, Aashiq Hussain; ADC, ACR, CPO, engineers of the R&B Division Budgam and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Mega Surgical Camp concludes successfully at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 22

A week-long Mega Surgical Camp, jointly organized by the Department of Health UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Rotary International, and the District Administration Kishtwar, concluded successfully here today at District Hospital.

The camp was e-inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT Shri Manoj Sinha on April 17, 2025.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today visited the camp to inspect the ongoing medical services and interacted with patients who underwent various surgical procedures.

During his visit, he appreciated the efforts of the medical team and ensured that all necessary facilities were provided to the patients.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajinder Kumar briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the achievements of the camp. It was informed that a total 226 patients



underwent successful surgeries for various ailments, which included Cataract Surgeries: 156, Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (Lap Chole): 46, Hernia Repairs: 2, Hysterectomies: 19 and Orthopedic Surgeries: 3.

A team of 11 specialist surgeons from across the country participated in the camp, delivering advanced surgical care to residents of this remote region. Their contribution was instrumental in addressing long-pending

medical cases and enhancing the accessibility of specialized healthcare.

The initiative has been widely lauded for its impact in strengthening the healthcare delivery system in far-flung areas and bridging the gap in specialist medical services.

Present on the occasion were ACR Idrees Lone, Medical Superintendent DH Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, BMO and other dedicated staff of the District Hospital.

Nagrota Bypolls: District Election Office shares Form 9, 10, 11 with political parties

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

As part of the ongoing Special Summary Revision for the upcoming by-election for Assembly Constituency 77-Nagrota, the District Election Office Jammu has handed over the lists of rejections, objections and claims through Forms number 9, 10 and 11 to representatives of various political parties. The exercise marked the final leg of voter registration efforts ahead of the Nagrota bypoll. All eligible citizens who are yet to enroll have



been urged to apply by April 24. The Applications for the enrollment are to be submitted to the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO), Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) or Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

Prioritizing Health: DLSA Budgam, District Hospital organize Medical Camp at ADR Center



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 22

Ensuring holistic well-being of community, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a day-long medical camp at court complex Budgam in collaboration with District Hospital Budgam.

The camp was held under the directions and guidance of O.P Baghat, Chairman DLSA (Pr. & Distt. & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam and Chief Medical Officer Budgam.

The camp aimed to promote health awareness

and provide basic medical assistance to litigants, Advocates, students, staff and local community by providing health education and screening.

Various healthcare professionals conducted the screening and provided guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Large numbers of persons were screened and tests were conducted, including blood pressure check-up, blood sugar level testing, general eye checkups, general dental checkups and BMI calculation.

The overall health check-up was a successful initiative in promoting health awareness and ensuring holistic well-being of our community.

Mission YUVA: Training/Orientation programme for YUVA Doots held at Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, APRIL 22

For effective and efficient implementation of MISSION YUVA and as part of its training and capacity-building initiative, a day-long orientation and training program was conducted today for Yuva Doots here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional District Development Commissioner Sukhdev Singh Sanyal emphasized the importance of fostering entrepreneurship and promoting self-employment opportunities among youth at the grassroots level. He stressed its basic objective of guiding potential entrepreneurs and urged the YUVA Doots to approach the task with dedication.

The training aimed to equip Yuva Doots with the necessary skills and knowledge to connect with and support potential entrepreneurs in their respective Pan-



chayat. They were sensitized about their role and responsibilities and how they can effectively support and guide aspiring entrepreneurs in the district.

Assistant Director DE&CC Annie Vaid also urged the Yuva Doots to attend the training sincerely and implement the knowledge in the field with dedication. She stressed that good coordination among banks, EDI, Employment, and Industries departments is crucial for the successful execution of the mission.

The training included

discussion on different components of the Mission YUVA right from Nano Entrepreneurship to MSMEs and startups.

The insights from the baseline survey were thoroughly discussed so as to make the Yuva Doots aware about the peculiarities of the district.

Yuva Doots were urged to conduct IEC activities and inform local youth in their respective Panchayats about the Mission YUVA app. Hands on training on the app was also imparted to them during the sessions.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Salehar, Khour, Rathana, Jinder Mehlu, Makhampur, Kool Kalian, Baspur, Kotli, Kalyana, Sai Kalan, Khanachak, Abdullah, Nikowal and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 24 from 7 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to old Arnia, Jabowal, BSF, Mulachak, Treva and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 25 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Sehora, Kunjwani, Industrial Estate Digiana, Sanjay Nagar, Jeevan Nagar, Maha Kali Nagar, Ajit Nagar, Raina Colony, Sant Nagar, Vishal Colony and IIKV feeders emanating from Babilana will remain affected on April 24 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Jakh and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 23 from 7 am to 8 am. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, (Distribution), JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Telli Basti, Bari Brahmana city and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 23 from 7 am to 10 am.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 22

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

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

The Deputy Commissioner asked the stakeholder departments to classify the identified land parcels according

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

A Grim Setback to Kashmir's Tourism Revival

The devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran area, which claimed the lives of 27 innocent tourists, has delivered a brutal blow to Kashmir's delicate tourism recovery. At a time when the Valley was finally witnessing a steady uptick in visitor footfall, this tragedy has plunged the region back into fear and uncertainty, just ahead of the crucial peak travel season.

Pahalgam, with its lush meadows and breathtaking vistas, is not merely a scenic retreat; it represents the economic heartbeat of thousands of local families whose livelihoods depend on tourism. For them, this attack is more than a security incident — it is a shattering of hope.

Over the past few years, painstaking efforts by local stakeholders, authorities, and civil society had begun to bear fruit. The gradual return of tourists, improved infrastructure, and enhanced security measures were slowly reshaping the narrative around Kashmir. Yet, this heinous act has not only claimed lives but threatens to erase the fragile trust that had started to build among domestic and international travellers.

Stakeholders across the region — hoteliers, tour operators, guides, and pony handlers — are left reeling. Their anguish is both economic and emotional. Bookings are already being cancelled, and the ripple effect will be felt in every corner of Kashmir's service sector. More critically, the attack sends a chilling message that safety — the cornerstone of tourism — remains vulnerable.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has rightly condemned the attack and called for swift justice. But beyond condemnation, what is urgently needed is a robust and sustained security framework that prioritizes tourist safety in known hotspots like Pahalgam. The government must reassure the world that Kashmir is safe — not through words alone, but with decisive and visible action.

This attack must not be allowed to define the Valley. The people of Kashmir have always welcomed guests with unmatched warmth and hospitality. It is this spirit that must prevail. The attackers' goal was to instill fear, divide communities, and derail progress. The response must be unity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to peace.

It is imperative now, more than ever, that all stakeholders — local and national — come together to protect Kashmir's tourism revival, safeguard the livelihoods of its people, and ensure that the Valley continues to be a place not of tragedy, but of beauty, culture, and welcome.

The Supreme Court roars for the forests

VK BAHUGUNA

The Supreme Court of India, on December 12, 1996, in its epoch-making order on TN Godavarman Thirumullapad vs Union of India and Others, had set into motion a marvellous judicial intervention on forest conservation in the country — and the rest is the history of an innumerable number of orders in correcting the several wrong decisions affecting forest and wildlife conservation in the country.

After 29 years of experience of judicial intervention, in yet another suo motu intervention on April 3, 2025 — thanks to the students of Hyderabad University and the media — the Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih, helped by Senior Advocate K Parmeshwar (the amicus curiae in the Godavarman forest cases, who alerted the Court to media reports about the deforestation), acted.

The Bench acted swiftly, expressing shock at the scale of the tree felling and the use of heavy machinery to clear approximately 100 acres in just a few days — directing the Registrar General of Andhra High Court to visit the site of the felling and submit the report the same day in the afternoon of April 3 itself.

The Registrar General, after visiting the site in the afternoon, sent the report; and then the Bench, in a very forthright, acerbic tone, warned the state Chief Secretary and senior bureaucrats of putting them in jail in the same location by constructing a temporary jail.

The Court comments are scathing for the Telangana Government but in favour of trees, wildlife and the natural environment, which are part



of our ecosystem but cannot speak and protest, yet they are the resource base for human survival.

The Court heard the case again on 16 April and again warned the Chief Secretary and other officers of sending them to imprisonment for felling trees over 100 acres if the damage was not addressed through a restoration plan and directed the Telangana government to submit the same in the next four weeks.

While hearing the case, the Bench reiterated that the 1996 Supreme Court order is sacrosanct in defining what constitutes forests — irrespective of the status of the land.

The Bench, while reiterating its warning to the officers of state, directed the state Chief Wildlife Warden to ensure protection to wildlife and asked for a restoration plan for the 100-acre felled forests, while also stating that high-rise buildings cannot be made in the company of wildlife. It made it clear that the State Government had to take permission for felling of all kinds of trees — be it recorded forests or otherwise — if it comes under the purview of deemed forests as outlined in the 1996 order of the Supreme Court.

So, the die has been cast so far as the definition of forest is concerned, coming as it did after the Forest Conservation (Amend-

ment) Act was passed by Parliament in 2023. The amendment primarily clarifies the scope of forest land and simplifies procedures for certain activities.

The amendment clarifies that forest land includes areas notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or recorded in Government records as forest land as on the 1980 Act's enforcement date.

The Act exempts certain types of land from its purview, such as land within 100 km of India's border needed for national security projects, small roadside amenities, and public roads leading to a habitation.

Now, the observations of the Supreme Court Bench have restored the 1996 order of the Supreme Court, and hence all states are duty-bound to obtain permission for non-forest use of deemed forest land.

Now let us examine the context of such virulent observations of sending state officers to jail by the Apex Court on April 3, as well as reiterating it on April 16, 2025. After this, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also sought a report from the Telangana Government.

It is a stark fact that the forests of the country are not in good shape — and the most important reason is the public apathy for conservation of forests at all levels, be it the public at large,

administrative or political leaders of all hues, though they keep tom-tomming on solemn occasions and provide lip service to the forests, biodiversity and river systems.

This is quite revealed from the way our Government functions at both the Centre and state level. We need to look at the State of Forest Report 2023, which clearly brought out that more than 37 per cent of tree cover out of the 82 million ha of forest and tree cover is created by the farmers of the country — and it is worth pondering the fate of forest-related biodiversity on these farmers' land.

Another grim reminder is the lack of adequate regeneration in recorded forests, as only 48 per cent of the forest areas have adequate regeneration. The degradation is also increasing, as 46,000 ha of recorded forests have nearly completely lost their tree cover.

There is a need that the IAS and IFS officers sitting in the Ministry decide to change this matrix of degradation and work sincerely to ensure a policy framework for better forest and biodiversity management.

This writer is very forthright in asking the forest service mandarins to get over the clique syndrome and speak in a single voice for the trees, wild animals and our rivers and rivulets. The professionalism these days is seen more in acquiescence and lobbying than in standing for the real cause.

It is because of this that the Supreme Court Bench made these sarcastic comments — and it is time now that the officers work honestly and balance the need for development with conservation. Once they stand firm and truthful, then the political masters shall follow.

There is a need for increasing

the budget of the forestry sector and empowerment of communities under the Joint Forest Management Programme.

But one of the biggest causes of deforestation is the lopsided and open-ended implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, who — along with foreign-funded NGOs and 'Jhola chhap' social activists and phoney foresters — portray the romantic vision of promoting encroachments on forest land.

They must desist or must be sidelined by the Government and asked to work to make the land so far allotted to tribals productive so that their socioeconomic status improves.

It is hoped that this intervention of the Apex Court will force all concerned to change track. In conclusion, the Supreme Court's timely intervention once again underscores the vital role of the judiciary in safeguarding India's forests and wildlife.

The strong stance taken by the Court, including warnings of imprisonment for errant officials — reaffirms the sanctity of the 1996 Godavarman order and its relevance despite recent legislative changes. It also highlights the growing civic engagement, especially from students and media, in environmental issues.

Moving forward, it is imperative for administrative leadership and policymakers to prioritise ecological integrity, implement restoration measures, and foster genuine, professional commitment to forest conservation — balancing development with sustainability for future generations.

(The writer is former Director-General & Chancellor of ICFRE, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Views are personal)

Bridging the agritech divide with advanced farming technology

SAT KUMAR TOMAR

The farming industry is one of the significant pillars of the Indian economy, contributing a significant 16 per cent of India's GDP and engaging more than half of the country's population. However, to date, there has been a slow uptake of advanced technologies in agriculture. While several agritech start-ups have been launched and well-funded by investors, the connection between these ventures and farmers remains a challenge. One of the main problems that these start-ups have to contend with is that of high costs, which tend to be associated with technology.

There are many tools — including those used in precision farming, machinery such as weather stations, and sensors that can be applied to the soil — that hold the future of increased yields and sustainable farming. However, the cost associated with such technologies might be unaffordable for small farmers, who form the largest percentage of India's farming community. Devices such as IoT sensors can cost hundreds of dollars per year, meaning that while a slight increase in yield for such farmers is hard to come by, the devices do not offer value for money.

More than 80 per cent of farmers in India are marginal farmers, cultivating landholdings of less than five acres. These marginal lands are often fragmented into multiple smaller plots, allowing farmers to grow different crops on the same holding.

This fragmentation poses a challenge for agritech solutions designed for large-scale farming. However, satellite-based data solutions can bridge this gap by providing precise, farm-specific insights even for farms having an area of only a quarter of an acre (about 10,000 square feet), enabling even smallholder farmers to optimise their crop management and improve productivity.

The policies of the Indian agricultural sector fluctuate, and some crucial aspects like water



— which is a basic necessity for agriculture — are controlled by the state government.

While such interventions as subsidies and grants are useful, they have led to a situation where agritech remains a state-subsidised model rather than a market-driven one.

Many new agritechs have come to depend on these Government partnerships for revenue instead of selling directly to farmers, which has impacted the growth and sustainability of most of them in the private market.

Among the challenges that have limited the embrace of agritech is ignorance among farmers.

It is essential to understand that large-scale farmers might invest time and resources to evaluate and consider adopting new technologies, while smallholder farmers are more likely to make decisions by word of mouth or based on regular practices.

This is mainly due to the poor development of facilities and capacity-building to form the basis for adopting innovations in farming technologies.

Cost-Effective Solutions
The first area of intervention for farmer uptake can be increased through improved adoption of technologies that are cheaper to develop.

Although IoT-based sensors are costly, satellite remote sensing is feasible.

While IoT sensors can cost several hundred dollars and give localised information, satellite technology offers information for the whole farm area at a considerably lower cost — usually less than 5 per cent of the price of sensors. Satellite remote sensing, combined with artificial intelligence and machine learning, can be used to monitor soil nutrient levels, manage pest and disease risks, and support irrigation water management across large areas of farmland.

These solutions are especially practical and accessible for smallholder farmers. In this way, satellite-based solutions represent a constrained set of technological tools whereby agritech companies can propose complete and high-quality products and services at more competitive prices.

Localised Solutions
Given the highly heterogeneous climate of the country and the different farming practices followed across regions, it can be said that a market solution carved in one casting will not fit this agritech market. Start-ups must provide region-specific products.

They can, therefore, apply different ways of ensuring their solution reaches farms in vary-

ing regions so that farmers can adopt it.

Pricing Models
Long-term, technology must be accessible to small and marginal farmers and useful even for field crops like wheat — especially in terms of the ultimate cost of the technology delivered to the farm. A scholar cited that the cost of any new technology farmers must consider has to be less than or equal to 10 per cent of the total farming cost. This is crucial for adoption.

Affordability is another value that agritech start-ups should embrace, enabling them to offer their products at a cheaper cost and within reach of many farmers. Other revenue models that can be used include fee-for-service or usage plans in which the farmer pays only for what is used.

Fostering Education
Guaranteeing extensive use of such technology — even if it is cheap — requires more education and support. Agritech companies must incorporate education campaigns as a key means of informing farmers about the benefits of using these products.

This might be achievable through human capital development programmes, farmer organisations or local associations. This paper contends that hands-on training and demonstrations enable farmers to

overcome hesitance stemming from a lack of familiarity. Current strategies point to the need to make technology simple and easy to use to minimise the chances of farmers being unable to adopt it on the farm.

Government and Private Sector Collaboration

Although major funding is currently being attracted to agritech start-ups via government grants, the long-term model will require the involvement of both public and private entities.

This implies a need for policies that encourage agritech growth while avoiding excessive dependence on state subsidies. This includes strengthening policy content, creating private-sector incentives, and guaranteeing support for farmers transitioning to better technologies. Scaling efforts via public-private partnerships may help deliver appropriate support to farmers.

Final Thoughts
The Indian agritech industry is at a turning point. Although there is hope in the power of technology to transform agriculture, challenges such as cost, accessibility and uptake remain significant. High-end technologies like IoT sensors and UAVs are often too expensive for small and marginal farmers.

However, affordable and scalable solutions — such as satellite remote sensing, regionalised products, optional pricing structures and farmers' sensitisation — are available. When combined with agricultural expertise and AI/ML, satellite remote sensing emerges as a practical and inclusive solution, making advanced technology accessible even to small and marginal farmers.

India, being one of the top agricultural producers globally, has a wealth of insights from its diverse farming landscape. These learnings not only improve Indian agriculture but are also leveraged globally to assist small and marginal farmers elsewhere.

(The writer is Founder, Co-founder & CEO, Satyukt Analytics. Views are personal)

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

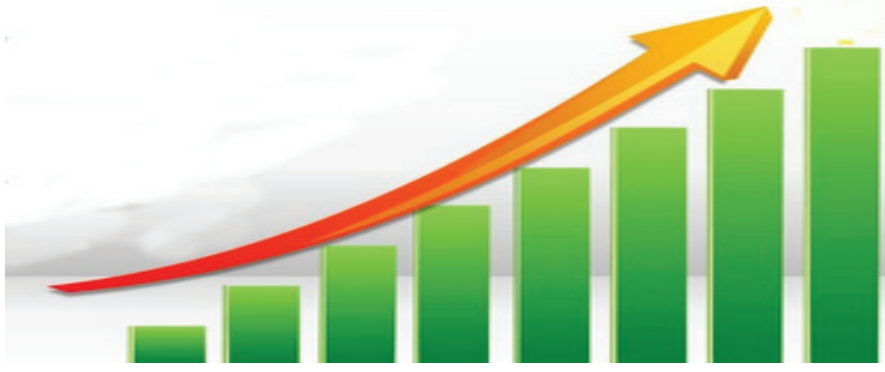
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

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

The report by Omnivore, in collaboration with AgFunder, a global investment platform, showed that investment increased in five of the top 10 countries in 2024. India topped with investments in the agrifood tech startups jumping over 3-fold to \$2.5 billion last year. It was followed by Singapore \$172m (+3 per cent), Mexico \$97m (+250 per cent), Vietnam \$87m (+350 per cent), and Chile \$58m (+33 per cent), noted the report.

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

Zepto was 2024's best-



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

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

According to a state-

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

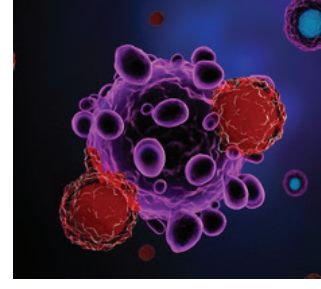
Stem cell therapies are a safe and effective way of treating Parkinson's disease, according to results of two independent clinical trials.

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

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

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

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



producing (dopaminergic) neurons in the brain. This provided a potentially more effective treatment with fewer adverse effects.

The first phase I/II trial led by researchers from Kyoto University in Japan focussed on seven patients (aged from 50 to 69) who received transplantation of dopaminergic progenitors derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells into both sides of the brain.

No serious adverse events were reported during the study period of 24 months, and the transplanted cells produced dopamine without overgrowth or forming

tumours -- a risk associated with stem cell therapy.

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

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

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

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

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

There was no incidence of dyskinesia. In addition, some improvement in motor function was also observed in patients in both the low-dose and high-dose cohorts.

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

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

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

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

According to European Standard, protective clothing for specialised

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

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

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

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

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

Health Benefits of Eating Leafy Greens Daily!

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

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

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

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



reduces the risk of breast and prostate cancer.

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

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

bone health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



food products.

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

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

"What we need today

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

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

"India has the potential to lead the world in this

direction," the Minister said.

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

The Minister of State for Ayush also held an informal open consultation session with stakeholders, providing them an opportunity to share their challenges and discuss future avenues for improvement and growth. The consultation brought together over 1,500 stakeholders representing food businesses, packaging industries, recycling associations, regulatory bodies, environmental organisations, consumer groups, farmer groups, government departments to deliberate on the future of sustainable food packaging in India.

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

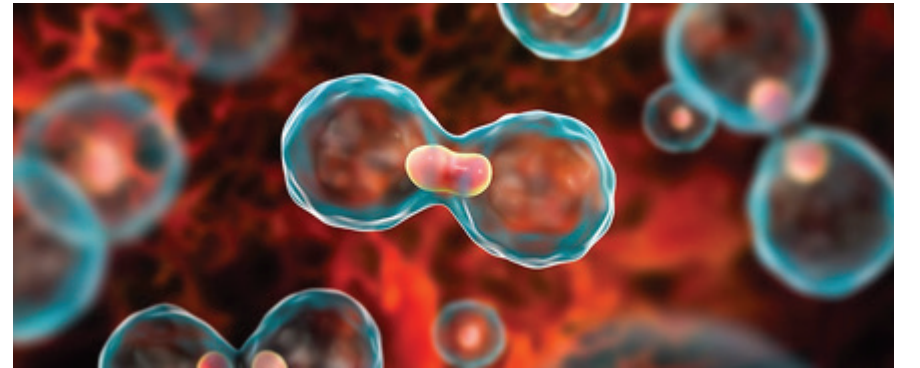
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

common mutations in the genetic code in melanoma cells.

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

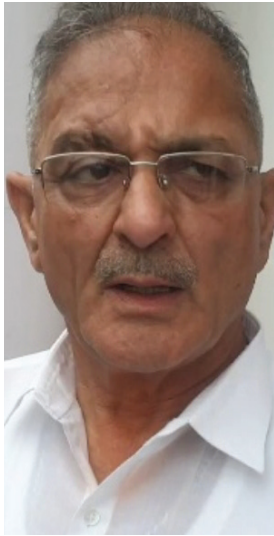
Further, the team showed that assessing ctDNA levels were as good or better at predicting recurrence than other experimental tests that examine a tumour itself, such as those that measure immune activity within a group of cancer cells.

Kavinder strongly condemns Pahalgam terror attack, blames Pakistan for attempting to destabilize Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on innocent tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam, Anantnag district. Terming the attack as a shameful and barbaric act, he said such incidents are a desperate attempt by Pakistan to disturb the hard-earned peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making all-out efforts to transform J&K into a hub of development, tourism, and prosperity, our rogue neighbour Pakistan continues to push its evil agenda by aiding terrorism and creating an atmosphere of fear," he said in a state-



ment issued here today. Kavinder expressed serious concern over the targeting of civilians and tourists who are the ambassadors of peace and harmony. "These attacks are not just against individuals, but against the soul of Kashmir. They are

designed to derail progress and sow seeds of terror, but they will not succeed," he said.

The senior BJP leader appealed to the people of Kashmir, particularly the youth, to rise above fear and unite against the nefarious designs of terror sponsors. "It is high time that Kashmir-based politicians shed their ambiguity and stand firm with the nation and the security forces. There should be no place for sympathy or silence when innocent lives are being attacked," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader praised the bravery and swift response of the security forces and urged the government to intensify the counter-terror operations to neutralize the perpetrators of this heinous crime. Kavinder further stated

that the people of Jammu and Kashmir must collectively reject the agenda of terror and support the government's vision of a peaceful and prosperous Union Territory. "Terrorism has no place in the new Jammu and Kashmir, and those trying to revive it will be dealt with an iron hand," he added.

He also appealed to the Government to ensure that the injured tourists receive the best possible medical treatment without any delay. "It is the duty of the administration to extend every necessary support to the victims and their families in this hour of distress. The Union Territory cannot afford to send a message of helplessness—swift medical care and compassionate handling of the situation is essential," he emphasized.

Diva International Foundation organizes Free Medical Camp

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 23

Diva International Foundation A National NGO in Collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police Organised Free Mega Multi-Speciality Health Camp under Civic Action Programme at Baspur, R. S. Pura.

The Camp Was Inaugurated by DIG / SSP Jammu in Presence of Team of Doctors, Team of Diva International Foundation, Local Administration and Local Police Department.

More than 400 plus Patients took benefit of the Camp.

The Camp was Mainly Supported by Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital, Sharp Sight Hospital and Directorate of ISM, J&K.

Free Distribution of Both Allopathic And Ayurvedic Medicines were Provided



to the Beneficiaries and basic Tests of Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure monitoring was done by Medical Experts.

All Doctors, Para Medics and Volunteers were facilitated by SP Security Sh. Irshad Ahmed.

S. Amardeep Singh Sasan CEO and Director of Diva International Foundation and Diva Group (International) thanked Specially Er. Ajay Bhagat for his Unconditional Sup-

port, Local Media, Local Administration, Police Department, Dinesh Sharma (Head: Sales and Marketing) Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital, Sh. Deepak and Sh Rahul and Team of Sharp Sight Hospital & Dr. Vandana Sharma District Officer and Medical Superintendent ISM Hospital and Participation of Volunteers and Team Kashmir Barsat & KB Production to make this Programme A Grand Success.

Congress condoles passing away of senior NC Leader G N Shaheen

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of Ex.MLC and Senior NC Leader Ghulam Nabi Shaheen.

JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra has expressed profound grief over the passing away of Ghulam Nabi Shaheen Senior and expressed heartfelt condolences to family, friends and relatives of the deceased. Karra expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Bharti Kaul crowned 1st Runner-Up in Mrs. India Classic Queen 2025

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

Bharti Kaul, a graceful and resilient Kashmiri Pandit woman from Faridabad, has been crowned *1st Runner-Up* in the prestigious *Mrs. India Classic Queen 2025* pageant, held at Zirakpur, Chandigarh on April 20.

This national-level competition brought together talented contestants from various states across India, celebrating beauty, grace, and inner strength. Amidst a competitive and diverse group of participants, Bharti Kaul stood out with her confidence, elegance, and cultural depth.

In her concluding remarks, Bharti Kaul extended her *heartfelt gratitude* to the entire organizing team* especially *Founder Meet Sandhu* and *Co-Founder Shivani Kaul*, for curating such a powerful platform that



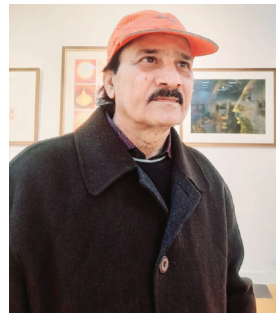
ing through graceful movements. Her talent, composure, and charismatic presence left a lasting impression on the judges and the audience alike.

celebrates womanhood and individuality. She also gave *special thanks* to her husband* for his unwavering support and encouragement throughout her journey. Bharti Kaul's achievement is not just a personal milestone but also a source of *inspiration* for many women* who aspire to rediscover themselves through confidence, culture, and courage.

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Ganesh Sharma conferred "Nobel Prize for Good Morals" by UNCWP



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

Ganesh Kumar Sharma Eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed sculptor of Jammu and Kashmir UT has been Conferred "Nobel Prize for Good Morals" by United Nations Center for World Peace (UNCWP). The International Nobel Prize presented to Ganesh Kumar Sharma for his good morals and dedications, noble efforts in spreading love,



The United Nations Center Secretary General Ambassador of Peace Dr. Samira Mohammed Al - Sharif Al - Haded and Center Chairman Ambassador Colonel Dr Sayeed All Mousavi presented the Nobel Prize virtually to Ganesh Kumar Sharma and wishes more success in future endeavors.

Ganesh Sharma recipient of so many International, National and State Awards is working for promotion of art and culture from more than forty five years and participating regularly in major art exhibitions, art events, and group shows, across the globe.

brotherhood, equality, tolerance and peace through his artistic creativity works in the world and for his distinguished efforts in serving civil society, social coexistence and promoting the cultural movement at International level.

Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags to Gujjar, Bakkarwal at Balmatkote, Reasi



J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI: 22 APR 2025

In a continued effort to support and strengthen ties with local communities in remote and high-altitude regions, the Indian Army conducted a humanitarian outreach program by distribution of high-quality sleeping bags to members of the Gujjar & Bakkarwal communities at Shikari and Balmatkote in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative aimed to provide essential assistance to these nomadic tribes who frequently endure harsh weather conditions during their seasonal migration. The sleeping bags, specifically designed for cold climates,

will enhance the comfort and safety of the community members as they navigate difficult terrains in extreme temperatures. This outreach programme reaffirms the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of local population, especially in remote areas with limited access to basic amenities. Local leaders and residents expressed heartfelt gratitude acknowledging the Army's constant support and empathetic approach to addressing ground realities. The Indian Army remains dedicated to fostering peace, security and cooperation through sustained civic action and goodwill initiatives in the region.

The National Herald Case is a BJP invention for digression, diversion, distortion: Akhilesh Pratap Singh

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Senior AICC leader and National Spokesperson Mr. Akhilesh Pratap Singh has said that the National Herald Case is a BJP invention for digression, diversion and distortion. Diversion of public attention from crucial issues facing the nation. Distortion of the Freedom Struggle and disparaging its heritage.

Stung by the Congress Party's historic Gujarat Session, held recently, wherein Shri Rahul Gandhi aggressively exposed the BJP, the Modi-Shah duo has again unleashed the ED - their favourite criminalized extortion machine on the congress party - said AICC leader and National Spokesperson Shri Akhilesh Pratap Singh.

Addressing a crowded Press conference at PCC HQ here today Shri Akhilesh Pratap Singh said that the so-called charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate against Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and leader of opposition Shri Rahul Gandhi is nothing but pure political witch-hunt. Every member of the Gandhi



family - whether in politics or not is being targeted by the BJP.

He was flanked by JKPC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Spokespersons Namrata Sharma, Kapil Singh, Rajiv Saraf, Chief Media coordinator Neeraj Gupta and Chairman PCC Social Media Jatin Raina.

He said that ironically for the first time, charges of money laundering are being made in a case where not a single penny or asset has been transferred! Debt is converted into equity to make the balance sheet debt free. It is common practice and perfectly legal in nature. Where is the laundering when there is no money?

Selective justice is nothing but political thuggery. Modi Govt has made the ED its election department and is shamelessly and repeatedly misusing it for vendetta. The conviction rate of ED cases is just 1%. Moreover, 98% of the political cases the ED has regis-

tered are against political rivals of the ruling party.

The witchhunt against Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shri Rahul Gandhi, and the family of Smt. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the fabricated cases is nothing short of a grotesque abuse of state machinery. By targeting the leadership and their families through fabricated and false cases, the BJP Govt is desperately trying to muzzle the Congress party—the only force that has consistently stood with the people and for the soul of this nation. This is a direct and dangerous assault on the very idea of democratic opposition. It is a crude attempt at political intimidation, orchestrated by a Prime Minister and Home Minister. This is vendetta politics at its worst.

No matter how much they try to silence us, we won't be silenced. Those who try to scare others are scared themselves. This is a political witchhunt, and the Congress Party will face it head-on. Truth will prevail.

Bhaderwah Campus hosts "Bon Voyage Bash 2K25" – A Heartfelt Farewell-cum-Fresher Celebration

J I NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APRIL 22

The School of Management Studies (SOMS), Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, came alive with music, emotions, and memories during its Farewell-cum-Fresher celebration, "Bon Voyage Bash 2K25", organized to bid an affectionate farewell to the outgoing students of BBA, B.Com, and MBA while extending a warm welcome to the new entrants.

The vibrant event began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, signifying the triumph of knowledge over ignorance. Dr. Umesh Choudhary, Head of the Department, SOMS, along with faculty members, led the ceremony and set the tone for an evening filled with joy, gratitude, and celebration.

Rector Bhaderwah Campus Prof Rahul Gupta graced the occasion virtually as the Chief Guest. Addressing the students, he commended the School of Management Studies for nurturing a culture of academic excellence and holistic development.

"Such events mirror the vibrant spirit and progressive outlook of SOMS. Education is not just about



academics—it's about nurturing confidence, character, and community," he remarked. He urged students to stay committed to continuous learning and adaptability in the face of changing industry dynamics.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Choudhary welcomed all students and faculty members from various departments. He extended heartfelt wishes to the outgoing batch, encouraging them to uphold the values, discipline, and managerial wisdom cultivated during their academic journey.

"Your success will reflect the strength of your foundation and the pride of your alma mater," Dr. Choudhary

said. He emphasized the importance of applying classroom learnings in real-world situations and announced key initiatives, including an upcoming industrial visit for MBA students and a series of online expert lectures to foster industry-readiness and personal growth. He also appreciated the students' dedication in planning the event and acknowledged the constant support of Rector Bhaderwah Campus.

The event showcased a spectacular lineup of cultural performances, including soulful poetry recitations, group and solo dances, ramp walks, and musical renditions

Sadhotra, Gupta conveyed condolences

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

National Conference Additional General Secretary Jammu and former minister Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Provincial President Jammu JKNC Mr Rattan Lal Gupta expressed grief over the passing away after a brief illness of Ghulam Nabi Shaheen former MLC and former Provincial President Kashmir JKNC and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Mr Rattan Lal Gupta prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardhy Vice President Jammu Province, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo Zonal President Chenab Valley and former minister, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Abdul Gani Malik Zonal President Udhampur Reasi and former

minister, Bimla Luthra, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat former MLC, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Ch. Rahim Daad former MLC, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Jammu, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing, S. Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu YNC, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, D.S Chouhan President legal Cell, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, Ashwani Abrol have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Day 2 of Inter Battalion Sports meet-2025 witnesses high-octane athleticism across Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

The second day of the ongoing Inter Battalion Sports Meet-2025 continued to captivate with a display of fierce athleticism and spirited competition as police personnel from various battalions clashed across 13 different events held at Gulshan Ground, Jammu University, DPL Jammu, KK Haku Stadium, and Sunjwan Firing Range.

Athletes showcased their prowess in events including fencing, Wushu, Judo, Cross Country, and Volleyball. In fencing, the Epee Individual gold was bagged by Constable Sukhvinder Singh of JKAP 8th Battalion, with Constable Aijaz Ahmed from IRP 14th Battalion claiming silver. Bronze medals went to Constables Kishan Singh

and Owais Ahmad. In the Sabre Individual event, SGCT Diwakar Singh of IRP 17th Battalion won gold, PSI Ravi Kumar Bhagat from IRP 8th took silver, while bronze medals went to Constables Jugmohan Singh and Shokat Ali. Foil Individual gold and silver were won by Constables Vinay Kumar and Neeraj Sharma from IRP 1st Battalion respectively, while bronze was shared by Constables Atul Sharma and Syed Aasim.

In the team fencing events, JKAP 8th Battalion emerged victorious in Epee, IRP 1st Battalion topped Foil, and IRP 17th Battalion claimed gold in Sabre. Silver medals in these categories went to IRP 14th, IRP 2nd, and IRP 12th Battalions respectively, while IRP 9th Battalion secured bronze in Sabre.



Wushu events were equally thrilling, with notable wins across multiple weight categories. Among men, Constable Bilal Ahmad of IRP 14th Battalion won gold in the below 60kg category, Constable Rakesh Kumar of IRP 17th in below 70kg, and SGCT Balwan Singh of IRP 9th in above 90kg. In the women's section, Constable Nusrat Jan from 1st Women Battalion clinched gold in below 52kg, SGCT Rita Devi of IRP 15th in below 65kg, and SGCT Fatima Bibi of IRP

15th in the open category. The Judo arena witnessed gripping bouts. Among men, Foll Lal Hussain of IRP 12th won gold in the 60kg category, Constable Rakesh Singh of IRP 1st took gold in 90kg, and SGCT Suram Din of IRP 2nd triumphed in the +100kg category. In women's Judo, Constable Nirmala Devi of 1st Women Battalion secured gold in 48kg, Constable Usrat of IRP 15th in 70kg, and SGCT Fatima Bibi of IRP 15th added another gold in the

+78kg division.

The Cross Country event drew great enthusiasm. IRP 14th Battalion bagged the team gold among men, followed by IRP 5th and IRP 3rd Battalions. In the men's individual category, Constable Hilal Ahmad of IRP 14th won gold, while Constable Rayees Ahmad of IRP 5th and Constable Vikas Gandotra of IRP 14th followed with silver and bronze respectively. The women's individual category was swept by 1st Women Battalion, with Constable Surya Banoo taking gold, Constable Shamshad Begum silver, and Constable Radha Devi bronze.

On the Volleyball court, 19 matches were played with intensity and skill. IRP 5th Battalion defeated IRP 22nd Battalion 2-0 in Match 11. In Match 13, IRP 17th beat IRP 1st 2-0, while Match 24 saw

AP 6th Battalion overpower IRP 17th 2-0. Several other teams showcased strong performances, adding to the excitement of the day.

The day culminated with a vibrant medal ceremony held at Gulshan Ground. Shri Vinod Kumar, IPS, DIG Armed Jammu, presided over the event as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Shri Raj Singh Gorla, SSP and Commandant IR 18th Battalion, and Shri Rajinder Katoch, SSP and SO to DIG JKS Range, along with other senior officers.

The Inter Battalion Sports Meet-2025 continues to be a celebration of discipline, resilience, and brotherhood among the ranks of Jammu and Kashmir Police, highlighting not only athletic skill but also the enduring spirit of service and teamwork.

Indian Army organizes Interaction and ESM Meet with Zila Sainik Welfare Officer at Draba, Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 22 APR 2025

The Romeo Force, Indian Army organized an interaction and ESM Meet with Zila Sainik Welfare Officer at Daraba, Poonch. All the Veterans of Surankote and neighboring areas gathered at Battalion headquarters Draba. The Zila Sainik Welfare Officer (ZSWO), conducted an interactive session with the ex-servicemen community. The primary object of the visit was to address the concerns of veterans, provide updates on welfare schemes and ensure the continued engagement of the veteran's community in various developmental and social initiatives. The session was attended by a large number of veterans and their families. The ZSWO initiated the interaction by acknowledging the invaluable contribu-

tion of the veterans to the nation and reaffirming the commitment of the welfare office towards their well-being. Key points discussed during the interaction included pension and financial support, health and medical facilities, employment and resettlement, documentation support and welfare scheme & financial grants. The session concluded with an open forum discussion, where the veterans voiced their individual issues, which were noted for prompt follow-up. The ZSWO assured regular outreach activities and encouraged veterans to remain connected with the welfare office. The interaction reinforced the bond between the Sainik Welfare Department and the veteran community, underlining mutual respect and ongoing support.

Rolls Nation opens Its First Outlet in Banur

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANUR, APR 22

The famous fast-food brand "Rolls Nation" has opened its first outlet in Banur and the 41st outlet in India, becoming a new destination for fast-food lovers. The cafe located near PNB bank, Zirakpur-Patiala highway, Banur. This new cafe offers customers the chance to indulge in Kolkata's famous kathi rolls, fresh burgers, crispy sandwiches, fries, pasta, and tangy chaat. On the occasion of the grand opening of Rolls Nation Banur, founder and managing director Uday Deep said that, "We are very excited to provide fast-food lovers in Banur with a new experience. Our aim is to deliver not only quality and taste but also a fantastic dining experience for our customers. Rolls Nation started its brand in 2016 from Khanna, Punjab, and so far, they have expanded to 6 states with a total of



40 outlets in various cities across the country."

This outlet will serve as a unique spot for fast food enthusiasts on campus, where they can enjoy both freshness and flavor. On its very first day, a large number of customers visited the outlet and delighted in the variety of dishes offered. Franchise Owner, Makhan Singh & Harnarinder Singh Lalli

said that, "The Rolls Nation outlet in Banur is set to become a great place not just for fast-food lovers, but also for families and friends to enjoy a meal together. With the opening of this new outlet, another imaginative experience has been added to the fast-food world that the people of Banur, Rajpura and Mohali can now make a part of their lives."

GDC Ramnagar organizes Seminar on "Drugs, Youth and The Future"

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMNAGAR, APRIL 22

The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ramnagar, in collaboration with the NCC unit and NCORD Cell, organized a seminar on the theme "Drugs, Youth and The Future", while the Internship Cell of the college hosted a Felicitation Programme under the esteemed patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal, Principal of the College.

The event was graced by Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, Hon'ble MLA Ramnagar, as the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with a warm welcome address delivered by Prof. Tanmeet Kour, setting the tone for the day's proceedings.

In his inaugural address, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal emphasized the need for active youth engagement in nation-building and warned against the dangers of substance abuse. He appreciated the collaborative efforts of various cells of the college in shaping the future of students through awareness, discipline and recognition.

The seminar witnessed participation from nine students who presented insightful and thought-provoking presentations on the harmful impact of drugs on youth and soci-



ety. Among the participants, Dalip Singh, Preeti Sharma and Arpit Bandral secured the first, second and third positions respectively.

Following the seminar, the Hon'ble MLA Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj addressed the gathering and lauded the college for taking commendable initiatives in sensitizing students about socially relevant issues. He motivated the students to become ambassadors of change in their communities. He emphasized, "It is imperative that we equip our youth with awareness and resilience to combat the threat of drugs. Educational institutions must take the lead in igniting a sense of purpose and responsibility among students."

The felicitation segment of the programme began with the recognition of meritorious sportspersons of the college, followed by the felicitation of NCC Cadet SUO Ravi Kumar for his exemplary service. The event also featured the Rank Ceremony of NCC Cadets, highlighting

their achievements and commitment. There was a physical test, written exam and interview and finally Cadet Rishav Bandral was selected as the Senior Under Officer of NCC, Cadet Rahul Kumar as Under Officers and Cadet Sandeep Singh as sergeant. Worthy MLA and Principal did the honour of putting Ranks on the shoulders of these cadets.

Subsequently, the college felicitated the resource persons who successfully conducted the Summer Internship Programme during the academic session 2024-25, acknowledging their valuable contribution to students academic development.

The event concluded with a formal felicitation of the Chief Guest by the Principal, followed by a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, marking the end of a memorable and inspiring occasion. The programme was attended by faculty members, staff and a large number of enthusiastic students.

Ambedkar's message of "Be Educated" - a source of inspiration: Balbir Ram



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

The message of "Be Educated" by Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar continues to be a source of inspiration for millions of people even today. As the architect of the Indian Constitution and a prominent social reformer, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar viewed education as a tool of liberation. For him, knowledge was not just a means of personal growth but a powerful weapon to fight social discrimination and promote equality.

Balbir Ram Ratan, BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, shared this with senior activists of his party's Scheduled Caste Morcha.

Balbir Ram Rattan

explained that Dr. Ambedkar believed that education was essential to achieving dignity, justice, and self-respect, especially for the marginalized and oppressed castes of India. Born into a socially backward family himself, Ambedkar overcame immense hardships to attain higher education and earned doctorates from both Columbia University and the London School of Economics. His life itself stands as proof of the transformative power of education.

He believed that social reform and political awareness begins with education—it is the foundation through which people can understand their rights, question inequality, and demand justice. Dr. B. R. Ambed-

kar repeatedly emphasized that without education, the struggle against caste hierarchy and social inequality would remain incomplete.

His call to "Be Educated" is not limited to formal education alone; it also inspires continuous learning and active participation in society.

Balbir Ram Ratan said that when we remember and honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's legacy, it is necessary that educational institutions, policymakers, and citizens reaffirm their commitment to inclusive and accessible education. Guided by Dr. Ambedkar's vision, we must direct our efforts toward building a more equitable and enlightened India.

Dr. Akshay Deep honored with Best Thesis Award at National Symposium

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Dr. Akshay Deep S/o Sh. Vishno Sharma and Smt. Kamlesh Sharma R/o Bishnah Jammu conferred with the Best Thesis Award for Ph.D. at the 3rd Annual Convention and National Symposium on "Next Generation Agriculture, Horticulture, and Livestock Farming (NGA-25)". The event was organized by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology (SVPUAT) in collaboration with Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences (SIDAVES) at Modipuram, Meerut.

Dr. Deep received this honor for his outstanding



research on the topic "Economic Analysis of Direct Seeded Rice and Transplanted Rice in Irrigated Sub-Tropics of Jammu Region," conducted under the guidance of Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Director

Research, SKUAST-Jammu. The award was presented by Padma Shri Dr. Vijai Singh, a renowned Plant Breeder of India. Dr. Akshay Deep is presently working as Project Associate in SKUAST-Jammu.

Movement Kalki, others launch Tree Plantation Drive on Earth Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

On the occasion of Earth Day 2025, members of Movement Kalki along with students and teachers of Spring Dales Higher Secondary School conducted a tree plantation drive at Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, aiming to spread awareness about protecting the environment. The initiative was led by Movement Kalki board member and Anti-Drug Campaign In-Charge Pawan Sharma.

During the drive, students, teachers, and members of Movement Kalki planted several saplings and pledged to protect nature. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Sharma said, "The recent disaster in Ramban is a wake-up call. If we don't act to conserve the environment in time, the future could be more disastrous. Trees, plants, and mountains must remain protected for humanity to be safe."

He further added, "Our ancestors, just 50-100 years ago, were healthier and lived longer lives. But today's children have weaker immune systems and are more prone to dis-

eases – a direct result of environmental destruction. We have cut down forests, killed animals for taste, and polluted our planet."

A student from Spring Dales School shared, "We must protect the environment ourselves. Our elders made many mistakes, and today we are paying the price with poor health and rising illnesses. Plant trees to save the planet and ourselves."

Another student emotionally said, "The disaster in Ramban is a result of cow slaughter, deforestation, and mountain destruction. Had we not indulged in this environmental exploitation, we would not be facing such tragedies."

Movement Kalki urged citizens to plant more trees, protect the environment, safeguard Gau Mata (Mother Cow), and raise their voice to declare her as the 'National Mother'. Protecting creation is a moral duty of all.

The event saw the presence of students and staff of Spring Dales Higher Secondary School and Movement Kalki members Sapna Hindu, Saurabh Sharma, Sanjeev Dubey, among others.

Labour Commissioner J&K holds Awareness Camp at Industrial Estate Rangreth, Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

The Labour Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, and Director of J&K Employees State Insurance (JKESI), S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted an awareness camp at the Industrial Estate Rangreth, Srinagar. The event aimed to sensitize ESI Insured Persons, HR representatives from various establishments and factories, and other stakeholders about the provisions and benefits of the ESI scheme.

A comprehensive and interactive discussion was held during the session, providing a platform for insured persons and employers to voice their concerns. Issues related to ESI coverage, medical benefits, and administrative processes were raised and deliberated in detail. S. Charandeep Singh gave a patient and attentive hearing to the concerns and assured participants that their grievances would be addressed in a time-bound and effective manner.

All Insurance Medical Officers (IMOs) of the Kashmir Division were present at the camp, actively engaging with participants and providing valuable insights into the range of medical facilities available under the ESI scheme. They addressed health-related



queries with clarity and commitment, reinforcing the department's dedication to employee well-being.

The Inspector of Factories, Kashmir Division also attended the event, contributing meaningfully to discussions on workplace safety, industrial compliance, and the regulatory framework—adding depth to the overall dialogue.

The camp was further enriched by the presence of senior officials including Chief Accounts Officer (CAO) Ms. Nimisha Anand, JKAS, Assistant Labour Commissioner Srinagar

Dr. Adnan Khawaja (KAS), and Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam Dr. Zameer Ali. Their active participation and thoughtful engagement reflected the Labour Department's strong emphasis on proactive governance, transparent communication, and sustained stakeholder collaboration.

This awareness camp is part of the Labour Department's ongoing initiative to strengthen dialogue with the industrial sector and ensure effective implementation of employee welfare schemes across Jammu & Kashmir.

IYA, VKMI organize World Earth Day at HLF HS School



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Indian Yoga Association and Vichar Kranti Manch International Celebrate World Earth Day at Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School

The Indian Yoga Association, in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), celebrated World Earth Day with great enthusiasm and awareness at Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School, Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event brought together educators, students, yoga practitioners, and social leaders with a shared mission to protect and preserve our planet.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman of Indian Yoga Association, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI, presided over the event. Mr. Yesh Paul Sharma, renowned Life Coach and trained Yoga Teacher, was the Guest of Honour.

Mr. C. M. Sharma, Chairman of Himmat Learning Field School, welcomed the guests and participants with warm words and introduced the significance of the Earth Day celebration. He invited Dr. Jain to deliver the keynote address.

Dr. Jain elaborated on the historical background of Earth Day, initiated in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote environmental conservation amidst growing industrialization, pollution, and ecological degradation. He emphasized the need to understand the deeper purpose of Earth Day, especially in today's world, where climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss pose grave threats to life on Earth.

This year's theme—"The Earth: Our Power, Our Planet"—was passionately explained by Dr. Jain, who reminded the audience that Earth is the source of all energy and existence, and protecting it is a moral obligation, not a choice.

Dr. Jain highlighted key environmental challenges such as: Climate change and global warming, Pollution (air, water, soil), Overuse of plastics, Deforestation and habitat loss, Loss of biodiversity.

He called upon everyone to adopt sustainable habits: plant more trees, reduce plastic use, save water and energy, support eco-friendly products, and educate younger generations to become guardians of nature. His message resonated strongly:

"We are not the masters of Earth, but its caretakers. If not now, then when?"

Mr. Ashok Gupta moved the audience with a heartfelt poem dedicated to the Earth, while Mr. Yesh Paul Sharma inspired students and staff to take real actions to preserve Mother Earth.

As a thoughtful gesture, Mr. Sanjiv Parihaar, Founder President of Social Reform & Charitable Organisation, arranged for fruit juice packs from Dabur India Ltd., which were distributed among the students and staff. The initiative was supported by Mr. Ashok Bhat and Mr. Amarjeet Singh.

The cultural segment of the event saw Mrs. Indu Sharma, Principal of the school, delight the gathering with a melodious rendition of a classic song by legendary actor Manoj Kumar, evoking emotions and appreciation from all. The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. C. K. Sharma, who also conducted the proceedings with warmth and efficiency. Following the main event, a symbolic Earth Day march was held through the markets and lanes of Channi Himmat to spread awareness about environmental conservation among the local community.

Hakeem mourns demise of Senior NC leader G N Shaheen

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Ghulam Nabi Shaheen, a senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and father of state spokesperson Sara Hayat Shah.

In his condolence message, Hakeem described the late Ghulam Nabi Shaheen as a respected political figure who dedicated his life to the service of the people and played a key role in shaping public dis-

course in the region. "His contribution to the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in strengthening democratic values and promoting dialogue, will always be remembered," Hakeem said.

He further extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, especially Sara Hayat Shah, praying for courage and strength during this difficult time. "The loss is not just personal but a collective one for all who valued wisdom, humility, and sincere public service," he added.

Hakeem prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and offered solidarity with the grieving family.

Ranvijay Singh strongly condemns cowardly Terrorist Attack on tourists in Pahalgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Ranvijay Singh, scion of the Royal Dogra Family, has strongly condemned the barbaric terrorist attack on tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam, Anantnag district, terming it a cowardly act aimed at disturbing the peace and harmony of Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing deep anguish over the incident that left several innocent tourists injured, Ranvijay Singh said such acts of terror are the handiwork of those who cannot digest the return of peace, stability, and tourism in the Union Territory. "Attacking unarmed civilians who came to experience the beauty and hospitality of Kashmir is a despicable act that must be condemned by all right-thinking citi-



zens," he said. Ranvijay Singh urged the security forces to act with full might against the perpetrators and those supporting the terror ecosystem. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have long suffered due to such senseless violence. It is time for the entire society to rise above political divides and stand in solidarity with the victims and the forces fighting terrorism," he added.

He also called upon the administration to ensure the best medical treatment to the injured tourists and provide all necessary support to their families.

Karra strongly condemns Pehalgam terror attack, call for more effective measures to counter terrorism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on tourists at Pehalgam today and termed it a dastardly and disturbing incident.

Reacting strongly over the incident, ahead of Shri Amarnath Yatra JKPCC Chief expressed their grave concern over the worsening security situation and call for more effective measures to

strengthen the security network. He said that the security situation has worsened in the past couple of years and has spread in most parts of Jammu region, which was almost normal in the past two decades.

He said that Centre Govt. was cautioned time and again to control the worsening situation by further strengthening the security grips besides taking on board the political parties and elected Govt. to adopt more effec-

tive counter terrorism strategy.

He reiterated the demands for all party meet to discuss the security situation in order to deal effectively the threat of terrorism and ensure the safety and security of citizens as well as security forces who are bravely fighting terrorists. The party expressed solidarity to the victims of today's terrorism attack and their families and prayed for early recovery of the injured.

Pak-sponsored terrorist trying to destroy tourism industry in J&K: Chugh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today said that Pakistan ISI's nefarious designs of disturbing peace in Jammu and Kashmir would be decisively defeated by the security forces. While condemning the terrorists' attack on tourists in the Pahalgam district in which at least six tourists have been injured, Chugh said it was an act of cowardice and was strongly reprehensible. He said terrorists are trying to destroy the tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir and have been trying to create an atmosphere of fear and panic in the tourist places. He said the security forces would give a befitting reply to them and bring the Pakistan-sponsored culprits to book. Chugh said people in J&K have been reviving the economic condition by the virtue of their hard work depending largely on tourism. But now the terrorists seem to be designing to defeat the tourism industry which the people of J&K would outrightly reject.

GCoE conducts PoshanPakhwada Awareness Campaign in Local Government Schools

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

In line with the national initiative PoshanPakhwada, the NSS Unit of Government College of Education, Jammu, undertook a significant awareness campaign aimed at promoting nutritional health and well-being among students of various government schools in Jammu.

Under the visionary leadership of Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar and the supervision of NSS Programme Officer Professor Sarita Dogra, the awareness activities were conducted across multiple institutions, including Government High School TophSherkhania, Government Model School Satwari, Government Middle School Narwal Pain, Government High School Reshamgarh, Government High School Bhagwati Nagar, and Government Middle School Rehari.

The campaign witnessed the active involvement and guidance of faculty members Dr. Shalini Raina, Dr. Shubra Jamwal, Professor



Kiran Thapa, Professor Deepali Kundal, and Professor Roopa Kumari. The NSS volunteers engaged students through interactive sessions, skits, poster-making, and informative talks focusing on balanced nutrition, hygiene, and the importance of healthy lifestyle choices.

The initiative aimed to empower young minds with knowledge on combating malnutrition, boosting immunity, and adopting

sustainable health practices, in alignment with the objectives of the PoshanAbhiyaan.

The event received positive feedback from school authorities and students alike, who appreciated the effort and dedication of the NSS team in spreading valuable awareness.

The NSS Unit remains committed to social outreach and community well-being through education and service.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 30 of 2025-26

Dated: 21.04.2025
Due : 30.04.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

| S. No | Description of work | Project Authority | Estt | Earnest Money Deposit | Cost of tender document | Time of completion | Eligibility Criterion of Bidder |
|-------|---|---|------------|---|--|--------------------|--|
| 1 | Providing RO Water Connection to Dialysis Unit in HDU Ward, along with allied works in GMCH, Jammu. | Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu | 3.798 LACS | Rs.8000.00 in the Shape of DR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu | Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. | 15 days | Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work |

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

DIP/J-496/25
Date: 22-4-25

Shiv Sena demands special rail service between Jammu-Banihal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded special relief package from the Modi government at the center for the devastation caused by the natural disaster in Ramban district of Jammu division and to start special train service between Jammu railway station and Banihal and develop Mughal Road as an all-weather road as an alternative.

In a press conference held today at the party's state centre office, state chief Manish Sahni expressed deep sorrow over the devastation caused by cloudburst and floods with heavy debris from the mountains in Ramban district on Jammu-Srinagar highway and demanded a special relief package from the central government. Along with this, to provide immediate relief to thousands of passengers strand-



ed on both sides due to the blockage of the national highway, demanded to start special train service from Jammu to Banihal and further journey.

Sahni said that the work of rail track between Jammu and Kashmir has been completed. The dates of starting of Vande Bharat trains are being extended. In this time of disaster, the Railway Department should start special trains to provide relief to tourists and local citizens, especially patients going out of Kashmir Valley to other parts of the country for treatment and passengers and students going across

the country for business.

He said that the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra is also going to start from July 3. If such a situation arises again, then the common people and pilgrims may have to face huge problems. To avoid this, the work of preparing the Mughal Road as an all-weather route along with starting the railway route immediately as an alternative to the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway should be completed on a war footing. Sahni has also demanded to tighten the noose on the airlines companies which are looting at this time of disaster.

NCC Group Commander, visits various Govt Colleges in and around Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR: 22 APR 2025

Brig Deepak Sajjanhar, SM, Group Commander NCC Group, Srinagar along with Colonel Saubh Saxena, Commanding Officer, 1 J&K Bn NCC, Srinagar visited Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College Anantnag, Government Degree College Bijbehara and Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar wherein they were received by their Principals Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Prof Yasmeen Bashir and Dr Gulam Jeevani and by their respective ANOs. Group Commander interacted with cadets and encouraged them to identify their talents, enhance their potential and thereby partici-



pate in centrally organized camps like Republic Day Parade, Special National Integration Camp, Thal Sainik Camp and other NCC activities. Group Commander also appreciated their hard work, past performance and results were secured by their cadets in Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2024 and 2025.

The Group Commander emphasized for timely enrolment, correct refreshment allowances claims, increasing registration for Alumni Association and improving the training infrastructure

such as construction of an obstacle course and firing range by the NCC battalion in the college premises also procurement of training charts and dummy weapons for cadets by NCC Battalion to enhance the potential of cadets of the region. Colonel Saubh Saxena, Commanding Officer, 1 J&K Bn NCC, Srinagar also encouraged all cadets to participate in unit Combined Annual Training Camp commencing from 17 May to 26 May 2025 to get trained for Directorate Pre Republic Day Camp.

Sant Samaj Nyas expresses concern over Ramban cloudburst, forms team to assess damage

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

A significant meeting was organized by the Sant Samaj Nyas under the leadership of Mahant Shri Rajesh Bittu Ji Sanghatan Mantri Jammu Kashmir Along with Mahant Dutt Giri ji maharaj Jammu Kashmir surkshani samiti President, Mahant Shanti giri ji maharaj President Jammu Kashmir sant samaj Nyas, sabhapati Sadhu Dharam sathan Surkshani samiti Rameshwar giri ji maharaj, Sr vice president Mahant Mohan giri ji maharaj, Mahant Mohan bharti ji maharaj, ram narayan shastri ji maharaj Rehal, Jasmer jangam ji maharaj. During the meeting, deep concern was expressed over the recent cloudburst incident in Ramban. To assess the extent of damage, especially to temples, monasteries, and samadhis (spiritual memorials), a special team was formed.

Mahant Mohan Giri Ji was appointed as the head of the team, with Mahant Mohan Bharti Ji as the General Secretary and Sanjay Giri Kotwal as a key member. The team will soon visit the affected areas in Ramban and submit a detailed report to the Nyas regarding the damage.

It was also decided in the meeting that the Sant Samaj Nyas will extend all possible support to the victims and will make efforts toward the reconstruction of damaged religious sites. The Nyas also urged the



administration to expedite relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji stated that the team's primary objective is to visit the affected sites and assess the damage, particularly to temples and religious establishments. Based on the team's findings, a follow-up meeting will be held to plan further action.

Sant Samaj Nyas Expresses Concern Over Ramban Cloudburst, Forms Team to Assess Damage

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Mahant Dutt Giri Ji Maharaj, President of the Surakshani Samiti Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a stern warning to the Mamata Banerjee government over the ongoing atrocities against Hindus in Bengal. He demanded an immediate end to the violence and urged the Modi government and the President of India to impose President's Rule in Bengal to restore peace and stop the persecution of the Hindu community.

Watershed Public Participation Cup organized under PMKSY 2.0 in Gudar



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APR 22

In the spirit of community collaboration and sustainable agriculture, the Watershed Janbhagidari Cup-A step towards sustainable development, was organized on April 22, 2025, at Gudar village District Udhampur under the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0.

The event was spearheaded by the Yusuf Meher Ali Centre, with active support from various stakeholders and farmers from Gudar and nearby areas such as Roun Mel-1 and Roun Mel-2.

The event commenced with a warm welcome and farmer introductions by Rajeshwar, a dedicated worker from the Yusuf Meher Ali Centre.

He encouraged local communities to actively participate in the Watershed Janbhagidari Cup.

"This nationwide initiative aims to accelerate watershed development in drought-prone and rain-fed agriculture regions, ensuring better soil and water conservation and sustainable livelihoods," he said.

He explained the objectives and progress of PMKSY 2.0 in the region, emphasizing its multifaceted impact – from soil and water conservation to the promotion of organic farming and agroforestry. These initiatives have

not only rejuvenated the local ecosystem but have significantly enhanced the income of the farming community, he said.

Yogesh Kumar presented insights into the water conservation efforts in the village, highlighting the construction of ponds and water retention structures. These developments have proven to be a boon, especially during the harsh summer months when earlier the village faced acute drinking water shortages, he said.

"Prior to the construction of check dams, water had to be transported from outside the village using tankers. However, due to PMKSY 2.0, drinking water is now available throughout the year," he added.

The Watershed Janbhagidari Cup not only celebrated the spirit of collective effort but also empowered local farmers with the knowledge and tools to build a more resilient agricultural future, he said.

A field visit to the watershed outlets was also organized, where farmers were educated about the benefits of rainwater harvesting and sustainable water management techniques. The event witnessed the presence of key figures including Rajeshwar and Yogesh from the Yusuf Meher Ali Centre, Rahul Gupta from IWMP, and village head Yogesh.

Shriram General Insurance sets Industry Benchmark with 24-Hour Claim Settlement Following Cloudburst in Jammu & Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Shriram General Insurance (SGI), one of India's leading non-life insurers, recently set an industry benchmark by settling two motor insurance claims within 24 hours in the Ramban district of Jammu & Kashmir.

In the aftermath of the recent cloudburst and landslide in Ramban one TATA 1616, a Goods Carrying Commercial Vehicle (GCCV), and one TATA Magic, a Passenger Carrying Commercial Vehicle (PCCV) were engulfed in a massive landslide triggered due to a heavy cloudburst.

SGI claims team swung into action promptly on receipt of the claim intimation, activated its emer-



gency response protocols and settled both claims were processed and efficiently within 24 hours ensuring immediate financial and emotional relief to the owners of both vehicles.

Anil Aggarwal, MD and CEO, Shriram General Insurance said, "Any calamity, manmade or natural, affects people in the worst possible manner. It is at times like these that they need support and empathy. As an insurance company, we understand these feelings extremely well and

ensure that all our systems and processes are aligned to help and support our customers in their time of need. We are committed to driving a robust claims management framework focused on ensuring our policyholders can lead a peaceful, protected and insured life."

SGI continues to provide swift, innovative support to policyholders with reduced TATs which highlights their dedication to excellence and reinforces its reputation as a dependable, compassionate and empathetic insurer.

Hakeem expresses deep concern over collapse of Sgr-Jmu highway

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Hakeem Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Tuesday voiced serious concern over the alarming condition of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway from the past three days. The continuous disruption of this vital road link has left thousands of passengers and vehicles stranded, causing immense distress to people from all walks of life, he said.

Terming the situation as "a humanitarian crisis," Hakeem said the highway, once considered the backbone of connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country, has become unreliable and dangerous. This is not just a traffic issue. This is a matter of survival. Entire families are stuck for days in harsh conditions. Goods, patients, students, and tourists are all suffering," he said.

Hakeem said that despite repeated claims by the administration, no lasting measures have been taken to address the vulnerability of the highway to natural disasters. "For the past 15



years, we have seen endless announcements and patchwork repairs. Every time disaster strikes, we are back to square one. Leaders come, take photos, make promises, and leave—while people continue to suffer," he said.

Calling the current crisis the worst natural disaster since the 2014 floods, Hakeem appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to declare it a national disaster as a special case. He stressed that the scale of damage and suffering has overwhelmed the capacity of the Union Territory administration and needs immediate central intervention.

"I request the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to announce a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package. People have lost

their homes, vehicles, and livelihoods. Some are still missing. A special project must be launched to support their recovery and long-term sustainability," Hakeem said.

According to the officials National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the highway has suffered serious damage at 22 locations, and while restoration work is underway, the scale of destruction is immense. Landslides triggered by flash floods in the Ramban district on Sunday claimed the lives of three people, and over 100 had to be rescued.

Nearly 4 to 5 kilometers of the highway were completely washed away, and many vehicles were buried under debris. Relief operations are ongoing, and stranded passengers are being provided temporary shelter and food by the authorities.

He also demanded serious attention to alternative road connectivity, calling for the immediate widening and upgradation of the Mughal Road. "This road must be declared a National Highway and developed with the same urgency as the main corridor," he said.

Shiv Sena warns terrorists to desist from their nefarious, cowardly activities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 22

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has strongly condemned the cowardly and nefarious terrorist attack on innocent and unarmed tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran village by asking their religion, and has demanded to crush terrorism and take strong military action against their masters sitting in Pakistan. According to the press release issued



from the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni has expressed deep sorrow over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, in which one tourist died

and about 10 people were injured. Sahni said that once again target killing has been carried out in Kashmir. He said that according to the information received from the local people, bullets were fired after asking their religion. Sahni said that the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra is going to start from July 3, the terrorist attack is an attempt to affect the Yatra. Sahni has warned the terrorists to desist from their nefarious and cowardly activities.

GCW Udhampur celebrates Earth Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR APRIL 22

The Department of Zoology and ECO Club of Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur under the aegis of Inter-national Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in collaboration with Department of Geography organized a series of events to commemorate Earth Day 2025 on the theme "Our power our planet" here today.

The celebrations aimed to raise awareness about environmental conservation and promote sustainable practices. The programme was organised under the able guidance of Principal (Dr.) Nalini Pathania.

The Programme commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Anita Kumari, Assistant Professor of Zoology.

Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted the importance of the theme "Our power our planet" and urged everyone to unite for use of renewable energy and make an effort to triple the clean energy by 2030.

The proceedings of the

programme were carried out by Dr. Neha Antal, Convenor ECO Club. She emphasized on adoption of sustainable practices to ensure a greener future.

Main events of the programme were conducted viz Poster and Slogan Making: Students showcased their creativity through posters and slogans highlighting the importance of protecting our planet, Hand Print Campaign: Students participated in a hand print campaign, leaving their mark with messages to save the earth, Student Speeches: Students delivered passionate speeches emphasizing the need for collective action to protect the environment.

The whole programme was coordinated by department of Zoology and ECO Club.

The programme was attended by large number of students and senior faculty members including Dr. Indu Khajuria, HOD, Chemistry, Dr. Monika Gupta, Associate professor in Chemistry, Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Om Parkash, Prof. Pooja Bharti, Prof. Yash Kumar and several others.

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

J I NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 22

In a first of its kind mobile initiative, the 'Democracy on Wheels' Election Van, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme was today flagged-off from Government Degree College, Budgam under the flagship outreach campaign of the Election Commission of India.

The Van, flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo, marks a unique addition to the electoral process, which blends accessibility with innovation.

This event was initiated under the supervision of Chief Electoral Officer J&K, J&K Bank & District Administration, Budgam

The Election Vanity Van is set to traverse



across both urban and rural areas, carrying with it registration forms and electronic devices besides powerful messages of civic responsibility, democratic values, and equal representation.

More than just a vehicle, this Van symbolizes inclu-

sivity, awareness, and active participation in the democratic process. It reaffirms the commitment of the Election Commission of India to ensure that no voice goes unheard and no voter is left behind.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said the Van

will serve as a one-stop destination for all election-related queries, simplifying the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process and making it more transparent and accessible to citizens across 27-AC of Budgam.

He said SSR activities are currently underway in full swing across the 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency. DC said the initiative aims to encourage eligible voters to register, modify or update their voter details and ensure a more inclusive electoral roll. ACR Budgam, Afroza

Bano, who also serves as ERO for Assembly Constituency-27 Budgam spoke on the importance of every citizen's vote.

Special Secretary in the Chief Electoral Office Manzoor Ahmad, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Kashmir, Muhammad Altaf Zullah and officers from the District Election Cell Budgam, senior Officers of the district, principal, staff and students of the college also participated in the proceedings

The District Administration urges all residents of Budgam to engage with the SSR campaign, visit the Vanity Van during its scheduled halts, and contribute to the strengthening of our democratic fabric. For more information, citizens may contact their respective Booth Level Officers, AEROs, or call the voter helpline at 1950.

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



J I NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 22

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

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

A total of 82 Haj pilgrims were vaccinated at various designated centres across the district.

These included 39 pilgrims at AH GMC Doda, 17 at SDH Bhaderwah and 26 at SDH Gandoh.

Similar vaccination programmes were also conducted at SDH Bhaderwah and SDH Gandoh, where the registered Haj pilgrims were given the required vaccinations as per protocol.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, while giving details, said that different vaccines including OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine), QMMV (Quadrivalent Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccine), and SIV (Seasonal Influenza Vaccine) were administered to the Hajis for protection against various communicable diseases during the pil-

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

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

The event marked a crucial step in ensuring that all Haj pilgrims from the district are medically fit and well-prepared for the journey.

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

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), officially launched a comprehensive awareness campaign on the identification and management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo today.

The campaign was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, in the presence of Joint Director Agriculture Extension Satish Sharma; Regional Director South Asia, CABI Dr. Vinod Pandit; Deputy Director Central Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Deputy Director Trainings Alok Pandotra; Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma; PWPlus Country Coordinator India (CABI) Dr. Manju Thakur and Subject Matter Specialist, RL Darmesh Vaid.

In his inaugural address,



Director A.S. Reen emphasized the serious threat posed by Fall Armyworm to Kharif crops, particularly maize. He highlighted several preventive and management strategies, including deep ploughing before the cropping season, manual removal of egg masses, use of pheromone traps, and drone-based pesticide applications. He stressed that integrated pest management (IPM)—including cultural, mechanical, and biological methods—should be prioritized, with chemical controls considered as a last resort.

He further noted the

importance of such awareness campaigns in empowering farmers with the knowledge needed to protect their crops and livelihood. "Training of master trainers is crucial," said A.S. Reen, "so that they in turn can educate extension officers, progressive farmers, SHGs, FPOs, and agri-dealers in identifying and managing FAW infestations." He also announced that the department would be providing farmers with handbooks, literature, and regular training programs.

Regional Director South Asia CABI Dr. Vinod Pandit spoke about CABI's global efforts in tackling FAW

and informed the gathering about the CABI FAW Portal, an online resource available to both farmers and extension personnel for information and updates on FAW management.

Joint Director Extension Satish Sharma delivered the introductory remarks and shared that the campaign will be rolled out across all districts of Jammu Division throughout the Kharif season. He added that a comprehensive FAW fact sheet and action plan, developed with support from CABI, SKUAST-Jammu, and the Department of Agricul-

ture, are ready for district-level implementation.

Dr. Manju Thakur presented the strategic framework for the FAW campaign, covering aspects such as location selection, community involvement, and campaign monitoring. She also highlighted the significance of the FAW field handbook in aiding both plant doctors and farmers in identifying the pest in the field.

As part of the program, a cluster meeting of plant doctors under the Plantwise Plus initiative was conducted, featuring technical sessions on FAW data management, campaign tracking, and a review of plant clinics' progress for 2024-25. Key resource persons included Rajesh Verma, Assistant Entomologist, Arun Khajuria, SMS, and Rajiv Singh, Data Manager I/c PHC Jammu. The proceedings of the program were efficiently conducted by Rajeev Katoch.

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

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 22

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

During the visit, DC

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

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

standards of facilities at the transit camp.

DC directed the departments to work in synergy to ensure that the infrastructure and services are in place well ahead of the Yatra commencement.

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

Education for all is our prime motto: Dy CM

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

Education for all is one of our prime agendas and the government will take comprehensive measures to enhance educational standards while addressing the concerns of the teacher fraternity.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, stated this while addressing a one day convention on "How To Raise Standard Of Education" organised by the Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) here today.

Joint Director School Education, Shuba Mehta, Chairman JKTJAC, Saleem Sagar, President JKTJAC, Vinod Sharma, General Secretary, Najam Jafri besides teachers were present during the convention.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister lauded the role of teachers in building the society. He hailed the efforts of JKTJAC in highlighting the demands and grievances of teacher fra-



ternity. He asserted that standard of education can be raised through various strategies, including building educational partnerships, providing individualized learning, embracing technology and increasing global awareness.

The Dy CM stressed on exploring new strategies for teachers to adapt their instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners in the classroom. He suggested for revising curriculum to include global issues, cultural diversity and critical thinking skills to prepare the students for a globalized world.

Choudhary also advocated professional devel-

opment for teachers through workshops, training programs and collaborations. He emphasized the importance of teacher mentorship and coaching to support new and experienced educators in their professional growth.

The Dy CM said that focus should be on improving teachers' training, reducing rote learning and creating more inclusive learning environment. He also emphasized the need for creating opportunities for students to connect classroom learning with practical, real-world applications through internships, mentorships and project-based learning.

Earlier, the President JKTJAC highlighted the genuine issues of the teaching fraternity while seeking speedy redress for the same. These included revival of ReT scheme, transfer policy for regularised ReT teachers, exemption of teachers from all sorts of non teaching assignments, revival of Old Pension Scheme, clearance of GP Fund bills and Gratuity of the employees and timely DPC of staff.

The Dy CM assured the Association that the government would look into all their issues for redress in a phased manner.

Labour Commissioner holds awareness camp at Industrial Estate Rangreth

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 22

Labour Commissioner and Director J&K Employees State Insurance (JKESI), S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted an awareness camp at the Industrial Estate Rangreth, Srinagar.

The event aimed to sensitize the ESI Insured Persons, HR representatives from various establishments and factories besides other stakeholders about the provisions and benefits of the ESI scheme.

A comprehensive and interactive discussion was held during the session, providing a platform for insured persons and employers to voice their concerns. Besides, issues related to ESI coverage, medical benefits and administrative processes were raised and deliberated in detail.

S. Charandeep Singh assured the participants that their grievances would be addressed in a time bound manner.



All Insurance Medical Officers (IMOs) of Kashmir division were present at the camp, actively engaging with the participants and providing valuable insights into the range of

medical facilities available under the ESI scheme. They addressed health-related queries with clarity and commitment, reinforcing the department's dedication to employee

well-being.

The Inspector of Factories, Kashmir Division also attended the event, contributing meaningfully to discussions on workplace safety, industrial compliance and the regulatory framework.

The camp was further enriched by the presence of senior officials including Chief Accounts Officer Nimisha Anand, Assistant Labour Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Adnan Khawaja and Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam Dr. Zameer Ali.

This awareness camp is part of the Labour Department's ongoing initiative to strengthen dialogue with the industrial sector and ensure effective implementation of employee welfare schemes across Jammu & Kashmir.