

**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 headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Dizziness
- Steady ten pulse or less, blood in sweat, urine or stool
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## BLOOD AND WATER CAN'T RUN TOGETHER

# After Pahalgam massacre, India pulls plug on Pakistan

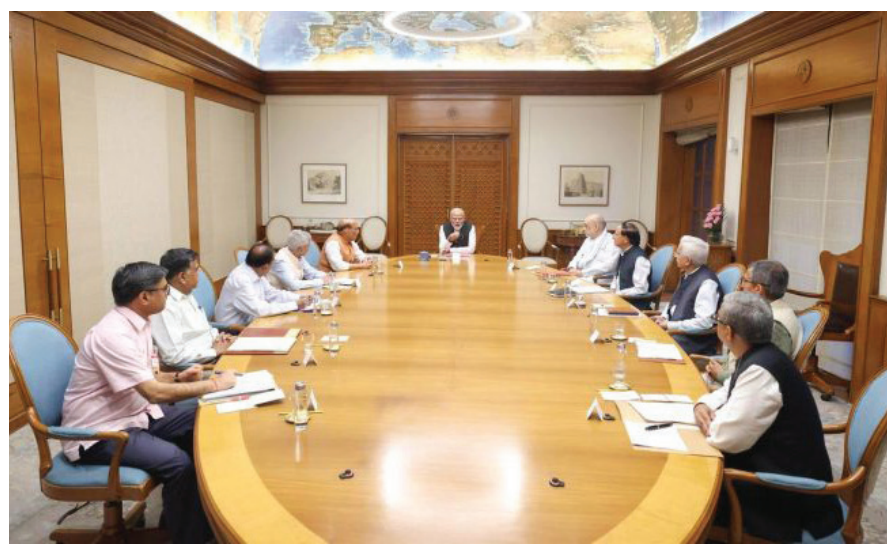
**Indus treaty suspended | Attari border shut | visas scrapped | Pakistani defence staff expelled | military advisors withdrawn | forces put on high alert**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, APR 23 (KNO)

A day after terrorists killed 26 civilians, including one Nepali citizen, at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, the Government of India on Tuesday announced that "blood and water" cannot run together.

According to the details available with the news agency the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met here this afternoon and announced a series of



measures targeting Pakistan.

The decisions were taken at the CCS meeting following a detailed briefing on the Pahalgam terror attack and its cross-border linkages.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri while addressing a news conference soon after the CCS meeting in New Delhi said the government has decided to put the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance with immediate effect. "The decision will

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

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



**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

A day after terrorists shot dead 26 civilians, mostly tourists, at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that perpetrators won't be

spared.

Shah, who arrived in Srinagar on Tuesday evening, according to the news agency, chaired a crucial security review meeting last night and before winding up his Kashmir visit, paid tributes to victims at the

Police Control Room Srinagar, visited the terror attack site at Baisaran and met the injured at Anantnag hospital.

**PERPETRATORS WON'T BE SPARED**

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Major terror plot averted in Uri as 2 infiltrators gunned down: Army

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

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

Addressing a press conference, Commander of the 161 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Mayank Shukla, as reported by the news agency, revealed that the operation was carried out based on consistent intel-



ligence inputs received over the past week regarding possible infiltration by Pakistani terrorists. He said the infiltrators were reportedly planning a major terror strike to disturb the fragile peace in Kashmir.

"Given the credible

inputs, we enhanced both aerial and ground surveillance. Special focus was laid on sensitive points along the LoC in Uri sector," Brigadier Shukla said.

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

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

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, APR 23 (KNO)

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

Expressing solidarity with the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency said, "Yesterday, in Pahalgam, targeting a particular religion, terrorists executed a cowardly act, in which we lost many



innocent lives... I want to assure the countrymen that the government will take every necessary step. We will not only reach the perpetrators of this act but also the actors behind the

scenes... The accused will soon see a loud and clear response, I want to assure the country."

He said, "We are deeply distressed."

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

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

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

As reported by the news agency, Lal Chowk, the heart of Srinagar city, reverberated with powerful chants like "Insaan Ka Qatle Aam Band Karo," symbolising the collective grief and fury felt across the valley.

All shops in the commercial hub Lal Chowk and other districts of the valley remained shut. The usually bustling Jamia Market and commercial pockets of Downtown



and uptown Srinagar also remained closed, including bakeries and essential stores.

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

A shopkeeper in Lal Chowk said they received formal calls from trade bodies asking them to observe the shutdown. "We are with the victims. Today, business takes a backseat to humanity," he

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

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

All markets, schools, transport services and private institutions remained closed in 10 districts of the division as people expressed solidarity with the victims and called for decisive action against terrorism. Only the shops dealing in essential commodities were open across the Jammu city. Public transport was also sparse, but private vehicles were plying normally.

From political

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## CM chairs crucial cabinet meet in wake of Pahalgam attack



**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

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

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

They said that the meeting took strong note of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 tourists including a local horse ride operator on Tuesday afternoon. "The meeting also discussed the prevailing

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## CM announces ex-gratia relief for victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

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

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

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed profound shock and anguish over the heinous terrorist attack that took place in Pahalgam yesterday, terming it a barbaric and senseless act

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## Pahalgam Attack Aftermath:

### Sgr-Delhi ticket prices soar to Rs 28,000, people cry foul

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

In the aftermath of the recent attack in Pahalgam, where at least 27 people were killed in a terrorist attack, a sharp and distressing hike has occurred in airfares.

One-way ticket prices from Srinagar to Delhi have soared to a staggering Rs 28,000, leaving travellers helpless and outraged. What is usually a journey costing Rs 3,000-Rs 6,000 has now turned into a financial burden that many can no longer afford, especially in urgent or emergency situations.

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### Govt employees observe 2-minute silence

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

The government employees in different departments on Wednesday observed 2-minute silence as a mark of respect following the killing of 26 civilians in Pahalgam.

The government had asked all employees to observe a 2-minute silence at 3:30 pm today.

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### Pahalgam horse rider dies protecting tourists

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that a local horse rider, Adil Shah, was killed in a terrorist attack in Pahalgam while heroically attempting to save the lives of tourists.

Speaking to reporters, the chief minister, as reported by the news agency, said that words fall short to condemn the attack. "We express our solidarity with the individuals who were killed and injured. Our guests, who arrived from various places to enjoy their holidays, have tragically been sent back in coffins," he said.

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### Special train to address transportation challenges faced by stranded passengers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, APRIL 23

Launch of a Special Train from SMVD Katra to New Delhi to assist the stranded passengers and accommodate the extra rush, a special train service has been launched. The tickets shall be available over the counter from Katra, Udhampur and Jammu stations.

Train Number: 04612

Departure Station: Shri Mata Vaishno

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## AJKPC strongly condemns terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

Jammu and Kashmir – Anil Sharma, President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), has strongly condemned the barbaric terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam, South Kashmir. In a powerful statement, Mr. Sharma described the incident as a heinous crime against humanity, expressing profound sorrow and outrage over the massacre.

“What kind of humanity is this, where bullets are fired at innocent people? Tourists who came to experience the beauty of Kashmir were mercilessly attacked. This is nothing short of a massacre and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances,” said Mr. Sharma.

Calling it one of the most brutal attacks in recent decades, Mr. Sharma noted that this is the first large-scale assault on tourists in the

valley since the 1990s, once again exposing the ongoing threat of Pakistan’s state-sponsored terrorism.

“We condemn this barbaric act in the strongest possible terms. The government must ensure that all those involved—whether directly or indirectly—are identified and brought to justice. Terrorism must be eradicated completely from Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

Expressing anguish over the indiscriminate nature of the assault, Mr. Sharma highlighted that the attack spared no one—women, children, the elderly, and youth were all targeted.

“This attack clearly bears the signature of Pakistan, the ISI, and the extremist ideologies they cultivate. The international community must recognize the urgency of uprooting such ideologies to establish lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir,” he stated.

Reaffirming the AJKPC’s unwavering support to the



security forces and the Home Department, Mr. Sharma pledged the full cooperation of the Panchayat Conference in the fight against terrorism.

“I, Anil Sharma, and the entire Panchayat Conference stand firmly with the Home Department and our brave security personnel. Should our team or our former panchs and sarpanchs be required, we are ready to respond at a moment’s notice,” he affirmed.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Sharma made an impassioned appeal for peace, justice, and unity:

“Our only wish is the com-

plete eradication of terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. The bloodshed must end. Every day we hear of brave innocent tourists being martyred, sacred places being desecrated, and now even innocent tourists being attacked. This reflects the vile and cowardly mindset of Pakistan, the ISI, and separatist elements. The government must ensure full support and compensation for the victims and their families. The Panchayat Conference stands in deep solidarity and conveys heartfelt condolences. We will continue to stand united with our security forces until

terrorism and separatism are eliminated from this land.”

Major Terrorist Attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in Recent Years

April 22, 2025 - Pahalgam Attack (Kashmir Division):

Terrorists opened fire on tourists in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, killing 28 and injuring several others. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba, is believed to be responsible.

June 9, 2024 - Reasi Attack (Jammu Division):

A bus carrying Hindu pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khori shrine was fired upon, causing it to plunge into a gorge. The attack left 9 dead and over 40 injured. TRF initially claimed responsibility but later retracted.

May 4, 2024 - Poonch Attack (Jammu Division):

Terrorists ambushed an Indian Air Force convoy in Poonch, killing one person and injuring four others.

January 12, 2024 - Poonch Firing Incident (Jammu Division):

An army convoy was targeted by terrorist gunfire in the Dhar Dhullian area of Poonch. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

Throughout 2024 - Surge in Militancy in Jammu Division:

Militancy escalated across 8 of the 10 districts of Jammu—Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur, Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch. In 2024 alone, 44 individuals were killed in militant attacks, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists.

This disturbing surge in terrorist violence highlights the urgent need for resolute and unified action. The AJKPC urges both the Union Territory administration and the Central Government to implement swift, strong, and sustained measures to root out terrorism and restore peace in the region. Jammu and Kashmir must once again become a symbol of harmony, hospitality, and hope.

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



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, APRIL 23

As a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, officers and officials across District Samba observed a two-minute silence today. The observance was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

The administrative officers, staff, and other officials gathered to express their condolences and strongly condemn the horrific act of violence. Similar moments of silence were observed in government offices throughout the district, reflecting a unified stand against terrorism and a deep sense of grief for the lives lost.

## Terror Strikes at Soul of J&K: IHRO Mourns, demands justice

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

Advocate P.S. Chib, Chairman of the International Human Rights Organisation (J&K), along with the entire IHRO team, strongly condemns the horrific and cowardly militant attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir.

Chib said, with a heart heavy with grief and eyes wet with sorrow, “The barbaric militant attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, is not just an assault on innocent lives—it is an attack on the very soul of humanity. We, at the International Human Rights Organisation (IHRO), stand in mourning with the families of the victims, and with every peace-loving citizen of our great nation.”

Chib continued, “How long will our soil be soaked in the blood of innocents? How many mothers will be forced to cradle the



corpses of their children? The cries echo from the valleys of Kashmir to the corners of the world, yet justice remains distant and peace elusive.”

“This ruthless violence, backed and bred across the border, demands not just condemnation but concrete, historic action. We appeal to the Government of India to respond with such resolve and strength that Pakistan learns a lesson it never

forgets—a lesson that prevents such carnage from ever being repeated.”

“We urge the Hon’ble Prime Minister and the Hon’ble Home Minister to rise beyond politics and policy, and answer the call of every Indian who today asks: When will we live without fear? When will our land breathe freely without the shadow of terror?”

Joining the call for justice, Shubham Langer,

State Youth President of IHRO J&K, and Akash Bhagat, Provincial Youth President of IHRO Jammu, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives. They emphasized that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir stand united against terrorism and will continue to be the voice of resilience and peace.

“IHRO pledges to continue its fight for justice, for peace, and for the dignity of every life lost. We demand the strictest action against the perpetrators and those who shelter them—across any border.”

“Let this black day in Kashmir be remembered not just for the pain it caused, but for the unity and strength it awakened in us all. Today, we cry. Tomorrow, we rise.”

May the souls of the martyrs rest in eternal peace. We shall not forget. We shall not forgive.

## Focused, 2-day capacity building programme for electoral field functionaries from Bihar begins

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

The Election Commission is organising a 2-day training and capacity building of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIDEM), New Delhi. This is the third such batch of BLOs to be trained from the poll-bound state of Bihar. 229 BLOs, 12 EROs and 2 DEOs from the State are participating in the 2-day training programme. A specialised one-day training programme for the State Police Nodal Officer (SPNO) and Police Officers from Bihar also commenced today. The training programme was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Gyanesh Kumar in the presence of Election Commissioner Dr. Vivek Joshi at IIDEM, New Delhi and was followed by an interaction with the participants. The training is planned to familiarise the BLOs with their roles and responsibilities as per statutory framework and equip them to ensure error-free electoral rolls. They will also be trained in the IT applications



designed to support their roles.

This is the latest in the first phase of the ongoing physical training programmes at IIDEM in which 555 BLOs from poll-bound states of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam and 279 Booth Level Agents (BLA-1s) of 10 recognised national and state political parties from Bihar have already been trained.

These well-trained BLOs will form a corps of Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs) to strengthen the entire network of BLOs nationwide.

The training of SPNOs and Police Officers from Bihar aims to improve

coordination between election authorities and the police for enhanced electoral management, especially in the areas of law and order, vulnerability assessment, Paramilitary forces (CAPF) deployment, and model code of conduct (MCC) enforcement. Till date over 3000 participants from 141 countries including large democracies such as Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Brazil, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Israel, Russia and South Africa have benefited from training programmes from India’s globally acclaimed election management practices at IIDEM.

### Advocate General's office condemns Pahalgam terror attack

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Joining the Nationwide condemnation of the tragic and reprehensible incident occurred at Pahalgam that has shaken the conscience of the nation, especially people of Jammu & Kashmir, a meeting was convened today in the Office of the Advocate General upon the collective response of the Law officers/Government Counsels.

During the meeting, the participants expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the heinous act perpetrated by the terrorists. They unanimously resolved that such acts of inhuman violence must be condemned unequivocally and collectively.

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

## Pahalgam attack condemned widely across all the schools of Kashmir



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

The heart wrenching attack on tourists at Pahalgam has been widely condemned across all the schools of Kashmir, and in this connection, condolence meetings and special prayers were offered in favour of all the deceased tourists during the morning assemblies.

In this regard, a divisional level condolence meet was held in the conference hall of Directorate of School Education Kashmir early in the morning.

All officers/officials of the Directorate participated in the meeting wherein

Director School Education, Dr G N Itoo prayed for the deceased souls and also for the patience of the bereaved families.

Director reiterated that every employee of the Department of School Education stands with the bereaved families at this hour of grief and also prayed for speedy recovery of the injured persons. During the condolence meet, two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect for deceased souls.

Condolence meetings were also held at District and Zonal Levels in all the offices of respective Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Offices.

## Congress condemns attack on senior journalist in Kathua in BJP press conference

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma has strongly condemned the attack upon a senior journalist of Dainik Jagran Mr Rakesh Sharma during the course of press conference of BJP MLAs at Kathua today.

The only crime of Rakesh Sharma was that he asked certain undesirable questions over the security situation in the wake of Pahalgam terror attack yesterday and series of terror attacks in various parts of Kathua district in the recent past. Now asking questions by journalists to the arrogant BJP senior leaders and MLAs is a great Sin and he was thrashed in full public view and was saved by some police officials, as explained by him in an interview while admitted in Kathua medical college.

What can be more unfortunate and condemnable that even a well known senior journalist of a national daily is not safe in full media presence besides police and public.

He has identified the known BJP leaders and the video recording of the incident is reflective of the gravity of the attack but no appropriate action seemed to have been taken, so far whereas any other ordinary assailants would have been behind the bars, by now but for their political affiliation with BJP. Demanding stern legal action, Congress has asked BJP President J P Nadda to take action against the accused belonging to his party, if BJP has a little respect for the freedom of press and for dignity and respect for the media persons.

Mr Nadda should apologise too, to the journalist fraternity apart from appropriate legal action against the guilty as per law of land.

The journalist fraternity has our full support who should raise their voice against this incident and the growing attempts to silence the voice of media, which is direct attack on the freedom of press, he added.

## Hakeem Yaseen demands strong action against perpetrators of Pahalgam terror attack

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, has strongly condemned the brutal terror attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam, terming it a heinous crime against humanity and a direct assault on the peaceful image of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Hakeem Yaseen expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives and said the attack has shocked not just the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the entire nation. He said such acts of terror aim to derail peace, disrupt harmony, and create fear among the public, particularly targeting the tourism sector which is slowly reviving in the region.

He firmly stated that while condemning the attack is necessary, the real need of the hour is to identify and bring to justice the individuals and groups responsible for orchestrating such violence.

“There is a pattern to these attacks. The government must investigate thoroughly and expose the real faces behind such acts. These perpetrators must face strict punishment under the law,” Hakeem said. Referring to the growing trend of some people holding the entire Kashmiri community responsible for such incidents, Hakeem said, “It is totally unjustified and wrong to blame all Kashmiris for the actions of a few. Such narratives only serve to divide us further and create mistrust. It is the duty of every responsible citizen and political leader to stop this dangerous generalization.”

Hakeem Yaseen urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is currently visiting Jammu and Kashmir, to ensure that security forces and intelligence agencies intensify their efforts to uncover the elements involved in this

act of terrorism. “The Home Minister must ensure that those who planned and executed the Pahalgam attack are traced and given exemplary punishment. It should act as a deterrent to anyone who thinks they can disturb peace with violence,” he said.

He also questioned the effectiveness of the government’s claimed policy of “zero tolerance” against terrorism. “If there is indeed zero tolerance, then how are such attacks still taking place? There must be a serious introspection and investigation into lapses, both in intelligence and ground-level security. Without accountability, such policies lose their meaning, and it is the common people who continue to suffer the consequences,” Hakeem added.

The PDF president emphasized the need for a permanent and effective security policy in Jammu and Kashmir that ensures the protection of civilians, tourists, and public infrastructure.

“Temporary measures and reactive responses are not enough. We need a long-term security strategy that focuses on prevention, strong intelligence networks, and community engagement,” he said.

He also highlighted the broader impact such incidents have on the region’s economy and psyche. “Tourism is one of the few major industries we have. Attacks like these not only shatter lives but damage the fragile economic progress we are trying to make. They create fear and uncertainty among tourists and investors alike,” he noted.

Hakeem Yaseen concluded his statement by appealing for peace, unity, and collective action against violence. “There is no justification for the spilling of innocent blood. We must stand together, as one society, to root out violence and bring peace back to our land. The time for strong, decisive, and just action is now,” he said.

## Parvinder Singh Happy urges Sikh organizations of J&K to Unite in Voice for Peace and Humanity

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

In a powerful and heartfelt statement, Parvinder Singh Happy, Chairman of the Guru Nanak Sewa Charitable Trust, has condemned the recent violent incident in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where innocent civilians from different states of India were reportedly targeted. Calling the attack "deeply disturbing" and "inhumane," Singh has appealed to all Sikh organizations across Jammu and Kashmir to come together and issue a collective condemnation of the violence, emphasizing the need for peace, harmony, and unity at a time of rising tension.



The incident in Pahalgam has once again brought national attention to the fragile nature of peace in the Union Territory. Though details surrounding the attack are still emerging, the fact that it targeted civilians, particularly those from outside the region, has raised serious concerns about the return of targeted violence. In this backdrop, Singh's appeal assumes significance not only as a moral call but as a strategic effort to prevent the polarization of communities and to reinforce the role of civil society in maintaining order and calm.

Parvinder Singh's message is grounded in the values of the Sikh faith—service, justice, and universal brotherhood—but it is not a sectarian one. His call to action extends beyond religious lines, urging people across

communities to embrace shared human values. By asking Sikh organizations to unite in condemnation, he is not just seeking statements of solidarity, but a coordinated, active response that sends a clear signal: that Jammu and Kashmir's civil society will not remain silent in the face of injustice, regardless of the victims' religion, region, or background.

He further emphasized the importance of using social media as a tool to amplify messages of unity and compassion. In an era where misinformation and hate speech often dominate digital platforms, Singh's vision of using the same tools to promote peace is both timely and critical. His words, "Stand for peace. Stand for humanity," are not just a closing sentiment—they are a direct appeal to citizens to resist hate, refuse division, and choose empathy.

## Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora strongly condemns Pahalgam massacre of innocent tourists

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

The Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora strongly condemns Pahalgam Massacre of innocent Tourists at the hands of Jihadi elements who opened fire on them in a broad day light.

It reminded us the massacres of Kashmiri Pandits at various place from 1990 onwards.

It is horrible to see the dead bodies lying in a pool of blood and the family members (crying for help). This barbaric act seems a planned action of the antinational forces to terrorise the Indian nationals to disturb the tourist season in Kashmir as they can't disgust the free flow of tourists in Kashmir. The local shopkeepers and businessmen engaging themselves with the tourists are hugely benefitted by the business which has boomed Kashmir these days, Pakistan is doomed to see huge infrastructural development in Kashmir.

Pakistan as usual again tried to undermine the Indian security forces and tried to raise the communal sentiment in India due to this barbaric attack on the lives of peaceful Indian citizens.

The Government should show zero tolerance against terrorism. The Government should dismantle the terror ecosystem. Security measures should be strengthened to sustain peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmiri Pandits strongly believe that till terrorism is not fully erased, the lives of common man would be put on risk. The measuring rod for declaring normalcy in Kashmir should be only by return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus in Kashmir as this was the intent and goal of Pakistan and Local Militants to make Kashmir a pure Islamic state.

GKPD believe that this is the right time to Settle Kashmiri Hindus back in Kashmir at a Single place

so that the nationalist forces may get strengthened in Valley. We sympathise the families of Victims of this brutal act and urge Government to provide security to the tourists and protect the lives.

Let the Govt of UT and Centre take below measures to tighten the nose of terrorism in Kashmir.

i. Preventive operations involve identifying the strategic supporters of terrorism and initiating investigations to expose their mechanisms of aiding and abetting terrorism.

ii. Multi-pronged strategy to prevent infiltration.

iii. Enhancement of counter insurgency grid.

iv. Special focus on modernization and strengthening of security equipment.

v. Round-the-clock naks at strategic points.

vi. Intensified Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) to effectively deal with the challenges posed by terrorist organizations.

## Narinder leads candlelight march to express solidarity with victims of Pahalgam terror attack



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

JKPDP leader Narinder Sharma today led a candlelight march to express solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, paying tribute to the innocent lives lost. The march was a poignant display of unity and condemnation of terrorism. Participants prayed for the departed souls, seeking peace for their families and loved ones. The candlelight march led by Narinder Sharma served as a powerful gesture of support for the victims' families and a call for peace in the face of terrorism. Narinder strongly condemned the inhumane and cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, expressing solidarity with the grieving

families of the victims. Sharma unequivocally condemned the terrorist attack, stating that terrorists are enemies of mankind and deserve no mercy. He emphasized that such cowardly acts will not deter the people of Jammu and Kashmir from pursuing peace and development. Sharma slammed Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the killing of innocent people. He demanded that the Union Government take befitting action against Pakistan for its role in targeted killings and terrorism in the region. Sharma expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and assured them of the party's support during this difficult time.

## Director Agriculture Jammu launches Training Calendar 2025-26

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen today launched the Training Calendar for 2025-26, here at Kissan Kendra Talab Tillo.



In his address, the Director highlighted that the Training Calendar features 28 divisional-level capacity building programmes designed for both farmers and officers, with a strong focus on sustainable agricultural practices and technological advancements.

Joint Director Satish Sharma emphasized the Extension wing's commitment to enhancing the capacities of farmers and officers alike, fostering

innovation, and promoting sustainability in agriculture.

The event witnessed the presence of Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Dr Ashwani Sharma Deputy Director Central, Dr. Manju Thakur, Country Coordinator CAB International, Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma Agriculture Chemist Jammu, Alok Pandotra Deputy Director

Trainings, Darmesh Vaid SMS RL, Rajesh Verma Assistant Entomologist Jammu, Rajeev Katoch, Programme Officer and Extension Wing team who played a key role in formulating the calendar which is thoughtfully scheduled to align with significant national and international observances, enriching the thematic relevance of the training sessions.

## JBM holds 'Candlelight Vigil' and protest in Jammu to mourn Pahalgam terror attack

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

In a heartfelt expression of grief and a bold display of defiance, the Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JBM) today organized a Candlelight Prayer and Protest at the historic Balidan Stambh, Bahu Fort, to pay homage to the 28 innocent tourists brutally killed in a barbaric militant attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22. The victims were unarmed civilians who had come to the Valley to experience its famed natural beauty, only to meet a tragic and untimely end at the hands of radical terrorists.

The event was held under the leadership of Ashok Sharma, Chairman of JBM, senior advocate, and former MLA/MLC, who condemned the attack as a "cold-blooded massacre orchestrated by enemies of humanity." He stated, "No religion allows the killing of innocents. Those who misuse religion to justify such heinous crimes are not just enemies of the state but enemies of civilization itself."

In addition to offering prayers, the gathering also staged a peaceful protest against Pakistan and terrorist outfits, whom they held responsible for harboring, funding, and promoting terrorism in the region. The crowd raised slogans against cross-border terrorism and demanded strict interna-



tional action against the rogue state of Pakistan.

Ch. Gharu Ram, Secretary General of JBM and former Minister, appealed to the people of Jammu & Kashmir to unite across all divides. "A collective stand is the only way to uproot such a mindset. The very survival of our peaceful society depends on the elimination of radical ideologies," he said.

Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Chief Advisor and Spokesperson of JBM, gave chilling details of the attack. "Before executing the victims, terrorists reportedly identified them as Hindus by forcing them to remove their trousers. This is a clear case of religious cleansing and cannot be tolerated," he said, demanding swift and uncompromising action. "The attackers and their sympathizers must be dealt with the language they understand—decisive and immediate punishment."

Advocate Usman Salari and Satish Poonchi, Vice Chairmen of JBM, echoed the collective outrage and sorrow, urging the government

to ensure no leniency is shown to the perpetrators. "Their assets—both movable and immovable—should be confiscated and bulldozed. They must be made an example," they insisted.

Shri KYS Manhas, retired judge and executive member of JBM, voiced concern for the safety of ordinary citizens. "We must identify and neutralize those breeding hatred in our society. Only then can this land become truly peaceful," they said. The event concluded with a two-minute silence and a sea of glowing candles symbolizing the light of unity and the nation's resolve to stand firm against terrorism.

Among others present were Pyara Lal Sharma, OM Singh Bandral, Arjun Sharma, Verinder Sharma, Karm Chand, Sanjay Baba, Ch Mohd Sadiq and social workers, women leaders, children, local leaders, youth activists, and members of the public who vowed to continue their fight against extremism and uphold the values of peace and brotherhood.

## Former Corporator Pritam Singh leads candle march in ward no. 55 to condemn Pahalgam Terror Attack

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Today candle march was organized today in Ward No. 55 of Jammu in memory of those who lost their lives in the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. The march was led by former ward corporator Pritam Singh and witnessed participation from several ward members and Congress party workers. The procession began in the ward and concluded at Kunjwani Chowk, where candles were lit to honor the victims and pray for the peace



of their departed souls.

While speaking to the media, former Corporator Pritam Singh expressed deep sorrow over the incident and strongly condemned the attack. He urged the Modi government to take strict and

serious retaliatory action against such acts of terrorism. Singh emphasized that such painful attacks should not be tolerated and that a strong response is necessary to ensure national security and prevent future tragedies.

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

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 23

The District Administration Doda, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, observed a two-minute silence today in solemn remembrance of the victims of the heinous massacre that took place in Pahalgam, Kashmir.

The tribute was held at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, where Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Ashraf Pervez; Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar Manhas; and other district officers and employees participated with heartfelt reverence.



The gathering stood in silence to pay homage to

the innocent lives lost in the brutal act of violence.

neously across all government offices in the district.

From tehsil offices to block headquarters, officials and staff paused their routine work to participate in this solemn tribute.

The coordinated effort across the district displayed a unified message of condolence and resilience. The observance served as a reminder of the value of human life and the need to uphold peace and unity.

## JKAP-8th Bn pays tribute to victims of Pahalgam incident



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

JKAP-8th Bn Miran Sahib Jammu paid homage to the Martyrs of Pahalgam incident at Bn. Hqs Miran Sahib Jammu. All officers/officials of the unit along with Sh. Suram Singh JKPS(SSP) Commandant JKAP-8th Bn. paid their rich tributes to the innocent civilians, who lost their lives in the deadly civilian killing incident of dated 22.04.2025.

While speaking on the occasion, Commandant & others condemned said coward and barbaric attack on innocent tourists. Prayers were also held for the peace of soul of persons who lost their lives and for the wellbeing of those who got injured in the said incident. CO con-

veyed all to stand united with the victim families in this bad time who lost their loved ones. During the occasion Sh. Bhupinder Singh-Dy. SP and other officers were also present. All the Police personnel were briefed to be prepared to serve the general Public in the best possible manner & to deal with any kind of law and order issues as well as to safeguard the life and property of the general public.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Satish Chander (Old Name) R/o H. No 1405 Green Enclave Rehari Colony, Jammu hereby declare that I have changed my name as Satish Jandiial (New Name) for all future purposes.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## After Pahalgam...

remain in force until Pakistan credibly and irreversibly ends its support for cross-border terrorism," he added.

"The integrated checkpoint at Attari has been closed with immediate effect. Pakistani nationals who entered India through valid endorsements may return through that route before May 1, 2025," he said.

Misri also said Pakistani nationals will no longer be allowed to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES). All previously issued SVES visas are deemed cancelled. Pakistani nationals currently in India under SVES visas must leave the country within 48 hours.

He said the Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi have been declared persona non grata and have one week to leave India. India will also withdraw its corresponding Defence, Navy, and Air Advisors from its High Commission in Islamabad. These posts in both High Commissions stand annulled.

Also, five support staff members associated with the service advisors will also be withdrawn from both missions. The total strength of the High Commissions will be reduced from 55 to 30 by May 1.

Misri said the decisions follow the attack in Pahalgam that left 26 dead and several others injured.

He said the CCS condemned the attack and expressed condolences to the victims' families. He also noted that the attack occurred shortly after the successful conduct of elections in the Union Territory.

He said several governments around the world have extended support to India and condemned the attack. The CCS acknowledged these expressions of solidarity and said they reflected international opposition to terrorism.

The CCS also reviewed the security situation and directed the armed forces and agencies to maintain high vigil.

Misri said India will pursue those involved in the attack and their sponsors, and will bring them to justice.

He mentioned the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana as an example of India's efforts in dealing with terrorism. KNO

## HM winds up Kashmir...

his tribute to the victims of the attack by laying a wreath at the bodies of the victims at Police Control Room in Srinagar.

Shah also met with the families of the victim members. After paying last respects to the terror attack victims the Union Home Minister asserted that the country will not bend to terror and perpetrators responsible for the carnage at Pahalgam will not be spared.

"With a heavy heart, paid last respects to the deceased of the Pahalgam terror attack. Bharat will not bend to terror. The culprits of this dastardly terror attack will not be spared," Shah, wrote on X.

## VISITS TERROR ATTACK SITE

Shah, according to KNO, also visited the Baisaran meadow, the site of the terror attack this morning.

He arrived at the terror site by helicopter, descending onto the meadow now bearing the scars of violence.

The Home Minister was accompanied by the top security officials.

The attack, which unfolded on Tuesday at Baisaran area turned a place once known for its tranquillity into a site of mourning. The attack was one of the biggest terror attacks in the region after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

## VISITS INJURED AT ANANTNAG HOSPITAL

Shah also visited a hospital in Anantnag to enquire about the condition of the persons injured in the terror attack.

He arrived at the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in the afternoon.

The Home Minister was accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"HM Amit Shah and CM Omar Abdullah visited the Associated Hospital of GMC Anantnag to inquire about the condition of the injured tourists following the Pahalgam terror attack," ruling National Conference posted on its X handle.

The Union Home Minister left for New Delhi in the afternoon. KNO

## Major terror plot...

were swiftly redeployed to intercept the infiltrators, he said.

Brigadier Shukla said the contact with the terrorists was established at around 3 am. "A fierce gun battle ensued, lasting for over two hours, which ultimately resulted in the elimination of both infiltrators," he informed. "Subsequent search and sanitisation operations were carried out in the dense forest area to ensure no other threats remained."

Security forces recovered a significant cache of arms and ammunition from the slain militants, including two AK-series rifles, a 9mm Chinese pistol, several magazines, and an improvised explosive device (IED) weighing approximately 10 kilograms. Police are in the process of identifying the terrorists.

"This successful operation is a clear message to inimical forces. It reflects the high level of synergy between various security agencies. We are fully committed to maintaining peace and thwarting any attempt to disturb normalcy in the region," the Brigadier added.

The infiltration attempt came just hours after a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists, and left several others injured. KNO

## Rajnath hints at 'big...

I express my condolences to the families who lost their loved ones... I want to repeat India's resolve against terrorism. We have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism... I want to assure the countrymen that the government will take every necessary step to eliminate terror."

The Defence Minister reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in a nearly two-and-half-hour

meeting that was attended by NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Rajnath Singh also cancelled his 2-day scheduled visit to Ladakh in view of the situation arising out of the terror attack in Pahalgam. Singh was to visit Ladakh on April 25 and 26.

Pertinently, terrorists on Tuesday killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists, at Baisaran, Pahalgam in South Kashmir on Tuesday.

The attack triggered widespread outrage within the country and abroad. KNO

## J&amp;K mourns tourists'...

parties to religious organisations and trade associations, condemnation was unanimous. Various social, political, and trade organisations took to the streets, leading to the deployment of additional police and paramilitary forces in sensitive areas to ensure peace and order.

Protests and candle light march continued from dawn to dusk. Normal life came to a standstill following a complete shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir. Security has been beefed up across the region, especially at vital tourist spots. The effect of the shutdown was also witnessed in the other district headquarters of the Jammu division.

In Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) led a protest march from Nawa-e-Subha, the party's headquarters, to Lal Chowk. The rally was headed by Nasir Aslam Wani, Adviser to the Chief Minister. Senior party leaders, workers and supporters marched while holding placards, demanding justice and calling for a high-level probe into the killings.

The presence of Omar Abdullah's sons—Zamir Abdullah and Zahir Abdullah drew more attention as they walked with the protestors in a show of solidarity.

"This is not a political protest. This is a public expression of pain and anger. The people of Kashmir are united in grief and strongly condemn the attack. We will not allow this violence to define us," NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said while speaking to the media.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) held a protest at Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), Lal Chowk, with party president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti leading the demonstration. Carrying black flags and banners, PDP workers raised slogans against terrorism and expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent lives.

Speaking to reporters, Mufti strongly condemned the attack, saying, "The killing of innocent tourists is a direct attack on the values of Kashmiriyat. It has brought shame to the region. We are heartbroken and extend our deepest apologies to the people of the country."

She urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to act swiftly and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice. "We expect immediate and strict action. The government must deliver justice," she added.

MLA Handwara and People's Conference (PC) president Sajad Lone strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam, characterising it as a "dastardly and cowardly" act aimed at destabilising Kashmir's tourism industry and economy.

"For decades, we have been identified as great hosts. We have a history of hospitality. And some cowardly terrorists want to destroy it all," Lone said, emphasising Kashmir's long-standing tradition of welcoming visitors.

As a show of solidarity against the recent innocent killings, the PC chief led a candlelight vigil at Polo View, Srinagar. He was joined by the party's senior General Secretary Molvi Imran Reza Ansari.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) issued a statement condemning the incident and demanding heightened security across all tourist zones. The party said that such acts were aimed at destabilising peace efforts and must be crushed with full force.

The Awami National Conference (ANC), led by senior Vice President Muzaffar Shah, held a protest against the killings.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Janata Dal (United) also held the vigil, stressing unity against terrorism and support for the people of Kashmir. The joint call for peace and justice comes amid widespread outrage and grief over the tragic incident.

The shock and condemnation were not limited to political circles alone. Civil society and trade groups across the valley came forward in a unified protest against the attack.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) called the attack "an assault on Kashmir's image and economy", stressing that such incidents deeply affect tourism and business prospects in the region.

The students and scholars of the University of Kashmir held a peaceful protest on campus to condemn the inhuman and barbaric attack.

The representatives of the Tour and Taxi Operators of Association, Hotelier Associations, Radio Taxi Association of J&K, and the Auto Rickshaw Association staged symbolic protests at various locations in Srinagar.

"This attack is not just about the loss of lives; it is about the loss of trust," said a member of Tour and Taxi Operators Association. "Tourism is the backbone of our economy. We appeal to the authorities to act decisively."

The Shikara wallas and houseboat owners led a protest rally in Srinagar against the killings. They demanded that the administration take stringent steps to ensure the safety of visitors and prevent such tragedies in future.

The hotelier community echoed similar sentiments, urging the government to restore a sense of security in the region. "We cannot allow a single incident to destroy the hard-earned confidence that tourists have begun to show in Kashmir again," said one of the hotel owners participating in the protest.

In north Kashmir's Sopore, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), S A Raina led a solidarity rally alongside civil administration officers and local stakeholders. "The incident in Pahalgam is deeply unfortunate. Every human life is sacred and must be protected," Raina said.

Sopore saw multiple peaceful demonstrations throughout the day, with residents calling for peace, unity and an end to bloodshed. "We want peace and progress, not more graves," said one protester.

In Baramulla district, members of the Kashmiri Pandit community held a separate protest, demanding justice

and accountability. Shouting slogans like "We Want Justice" and "Ensure Our Safety", they urged authorities to take concrete steps to prevent such tragedies in the future. The Bar Association Baramulla also condemned the attack, suspending court work as a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims.

In towns like Tangmarg and Handwara, many called upon the central and J&K governments to enhance the security grid, fix intelligence lapses and rebuild public trust. "This is not just a terror attack - it's the murder of Kashmiriyat, said a protester in Tangmarg, adding that "killing our guests is unforgivable. We want the killers to be brought to justice and the peace of our land restored".

Security has been tightened across key areas, especially in tourist-heavy zones, with checkpoints and surveillance intensified.

On Tuesday evening, multiple organisations including religious leaders, trade bodies and political parties called for a complete shutdown on Wednesday to mourn the victims and protest the massacre.

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq, through the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to observe a peaceful shutdown. In a post on X, the Mirwaiz quoted the Quran: "Whoever kills an innocent soul...it is as if he had slain mankind entirely." "This is another dark day in Kashmir's blood-soaked history," he wrote, adding, "Islam is a religion of peace and such brutality is unacceptable."

The Grand Mufti of J&K, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, also backed the bandh, calling for solidarity with the victims' families.

Noted lawyers from Kashmir, and Chamber and Bar Association Jammu also called for a complete bandh in protest. KNO

## CM chairs crucial...

situation arising out of the terror attack," they said. Sources also said that the meeting discussed that the employees engaged under the PM package be allowed to work from home for a week in view of the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The cabinet also discussed provision to provide more compensation to the families of victims and those injured in the attack. The government already announced Rs 10 lakh to the families of those killed in the attack and Rs 2 lakh to grievously injured and Rs 1 lakh to those with minor injuries. However, it also discussed provisions to provide more assistance to the attack victims," they said.

Sources added that the meeting also discussed several issues and ways to tackle situation that may arise in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the deadly terror attack.

26 tourists including a local horse ride operator were killed after terrorists opened fire at a group of tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam on Tuesday afternoon.

The attack left the entire nation in shock with people across abroad condemning the attack. It also evoked widespread condemnation from across the globe with countries like the US, Russia, Iran, France, UK and others expressing solidarity with India.

Soon after the attack Home Minister Amit Shah landed in Srinagar to chair a high-level meeting with all security agencies. He was also brief by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah about the incident. The Home Minister also visited the terror attack site on Wednesday afternoon to take first hand stock of the situation and the ongoing anti-terror operation in the area.

The Home Minister later flew back to Delhi to attend the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi. KNO

## CM announces...

of brutality against innocent civilians.

In a strong condemnation issued today, the Chief Minister said, "This despicable act of terror has no place in our society. We mourn the precious lives lost and extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Our hearts go out to them in this dark hour."

As a mark of solidarity and support, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 2 lakh for those seriously injured, and Rs 1 lakh for those who sustained minor injuries.

The Chief Minister assured that all necessary arrangements have been made for the dignified transportation of the mortal remains to the victims' native places. Additionally, the injured are being provided with the best possible medical treatment.

"Our hearts go out to the bereaved families. We share your grief and stand by you in this dark hour," he said.

Reiterating the Government's firm resolve to combat terrorism, the Chief Minister asserted, "Terror will never break our resolve. We will not rest until those behind this barbarity are brought to justice."

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, as per the news agency, said that it is heartbreaking to see the exodus of the guests from the Valley after yesterday's terror attack.

"It's heartbreaking to see the exodus of our guests from the valley after yesterday's tragic terror attack in Pahalgam but at the same time we totally understand why people would want to leave. While DGCA & the Ministry of Civil Aviation are working to organise extra flights, NH-44 between Srinagar & Jammu has been reconnected for traffic in a single direction. I've directed the administration to facilitate traffic between Srinagar & Jammu allowing tourist vehicles to leave. This will have to be done in a controlled & organised way because the road is still unstable in places and we are also working hard to clear all the stranded vehicles. We will not be able to permit completely free movement of vehicles at the moment & we hope that everyone will cooperate with us," the Chief Minister wrote in a post on X. KNO

Details available with the news agency reveal that tour operators and online travel company surveys report multiple airlines charging anywhere between Rs 15,000 and Rs 28,000 for a single Srinagar-Delhi ticket.

"This is outright exploitation. I had to book a ticket urgently to Delhi, and the airline quoted Rs 22, 000 for a one-way trip. How is this even legal?" said a resident of Rajbagh, Srinagar, speaking to KNO.

## Sgr-Delhi ticket...

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## Police announce Rs 20 lakh reward for info on perpetrators

## JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have announced a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh for credible information leading to the "neutralization" of terrorists involved in Tuesday's deadly attack on civilians at Baisaran, Pahalgam. The assault, which killed 26 people—mostly tourists—has triggered a massive manhunt across the region.

A police poster circulated on Wednesday, according to the news agency reads that informants' identities will remain "strictly secret," with authorities urging citizens to contact Anantnag's Senior Superintendent of Police (9596777666) or Police Control Room (9596777669) via call or email (dpoanantnag-jk@nic.in). The case has been registered under FIR No. 25/2025 at Pahalgam Police Station. KNO

## Encounter in Kulgam, cordon tightened

## JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 23 (KNO)

Security forces on Wednesday cordoned off a forest area in South Kashmir's Kulgam district after exchanging fire with the terrorists.

An official told the news agency that on a tip off security forces launched searches in Tangmarg, Aharbal this evening. "The terrorists holed up there opened fire on the search party which was retaliated, triggering a brief firefight," the official said, adding, "After the initial exchange no fresh contact was established and the vast forest area has been put under cordon."

He added due to darkness ongoing operation has been put on halt for night and it will resume on Thursday morning.

He added that given darkness, lights have been installed and all the escape routes have been plugged. KNO

Similarly, a tourist at Srinagar airport said they came to enjoy the beauty of Kashmir, but now they are stuck. "After the attack, our families are worried and asking us to return. But Rs 22,000 for a one-way flight? It feels like we are being held hostage by the airlines."

Four operators in the Valley say the panic following the attack has led to a wave of ticket inquiries.

"After the Pahalgam incident, we have been flooded with calls. Many want to leave immediately, but even we can't help. There is no regulation. Some of our clients have cancelled plans altogether," said a travel consultant based in Srinagar.

Moreover, locals and visitors alike have urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to step in with fare caps to curb what they call "opportunistic profiteering."

It is worth mentioning that on April 22 yesterday terrorist attacked in Baisaran valley Pahalgam, while the attack resulted in at least 26 deaths and multiple injuries, marking the deadliest assault on civilians in the region since 2019. KNO

## Govt employees...

"In light of the tragic killing of innocent civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam, all government office employees across Jammu and Kashmir are requested to observe a two-minute silence at 3:30 PM today as a mark of respect and solidarity," the spokesman had said, as per the news agency.

Meanwhile, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, two-minute silence was observed in remembrance and honor of Pahalgam attack victims.

The legal fraternity at the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh observed two-minute silence to pay heartfelt tribute to those who lost their precious lives in the act of terrorism at Pahalgam.

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, along with senior officials of the Central Office, observed a solemn two-minute silence today.

A two minute silence was observed in all government offices across district Kupwara today.

Similar reports were received from the government departments across the Valley. KNO

## Pahalgam horse rider...

Omar identified the local horse rider, Adil, who was earning a living in Pahalgam. "As he went out to do his job, he returned home in a coffin," he said.

The chief minister said Adil showed bravery during the attack, "Adil lost his life while trying to save tourists and even attempted to disarm the terrorists, which is why he was targeted and killed," he said.

Omar added, "We must take care of Adil's family. I want to assure everyone that we stand with them during this difficult time, and we will do everything possible to support them."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Minister Javed Dar, and MLA Altaf Kuloo, also participated in the funeral on Wednesday afternoon. KNO

## Special train to...

Devi (SMVD) Katra  
Departure Time: 2120 Hrs  
Halt at Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Station Udhampur: 2148-2150 Hrs  
Halt at Jammu Tawi railway Station, Jammu: 2300-2305 Hrs

This special train will play a crucial role in clearing the additional passenger load and ensuring a safe and comfortable journey to New Delhi. The Train shall reach New Delhi at 0930 Am. Also, the National Highway at Ramban is made functional on one-way basis. The passengers stranded at Kashmir and Jammu can use this special train.

## Strong Protest & Candle March held in Jammu North against Pahalgam Terrorist Attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

In a strong show of solidarity and public outrage, Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and incharge District President Jammu Rural, led a solemn candle march near Janipur Police Station in the Jammu North Assembly segment to protest the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which targeted innocent tourists. The march was attended by local residents, Congress workers, and prominent social figures, all united in condemning the brutal act and expressing unwavering support for the victims and their families.

While paying tributes to the victims of militants, Hari Singh Chib has strongly condemned the



cowardly terrorist attack that took place in Pahalgam, targeting innocent tourists. He expressed deep anguish and outrage over the incident, calling it a deliberate attempt to disrupt peace and instill fear among the people. "This heinous act against unarmed and innocent tourists is not just an attack on individuals, but an assault on the spirit of Kashmiriyat, which stands for hospitality, peace, and harmony," he said.

The senior Congress leader extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. Chib further urged the administration and security agencies to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly and that all necessary steps are taken to prevent such incidents in the future. "The safety and security of every citizen

and visitor must be the top priority," he added.

The senior Congress leader called upon the Government to take immediate and uncompromising action against those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack as whole India is one for crushing militancy.

Hari Singh Chib also appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to stand united in this hour of grief and resist any attempt to divide society through violence and fear. Prominent among those who participated in candle march included Somnath Sharma, Surinder Kumar, HS Baghi, Om Parkash, Tarun Vaid, Jung Bahadur Singh, Kamal Singh, Amit Kumar, Kaka Ram, Shahbaz Ahmad, Virender Mehta, Rishab Kumar, Fakir Chand, Harbans Lal and others.

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

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, along with senior officials of the Central Office, observed a solemn two-minute silence today at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to honour the victims of the tragic incident that occurred in Pahalgam yesterday.

This gesture reflects the deep sense of grief shared by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and reaffirms its solidarity with the affected families during this difficult time. The SMC stands united in mourning and in support of those impacted by the tragedy.



## HC of J&K, Ladakh mourns loss of lives in Pahalgam terror attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh today convened solemn condolence meeting at High Court, Jammu, to mourn the tragic loss of precious lives in the recent attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir.

The meeting in the Jammu wing was presided over by Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, with all sitting judges in attendance.

In a statement, the Chief Justice expressed profound grief and sorrow over the incident, stating, "We are deeply saddened by the loss of innocent lives in this heinous act. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families during this difficult time."

## Congress holds strong protest against terrorism, burn effigy of Pakistan in Jammu City

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

JK Congress today held a strong protest demonstration at Shaeedi Chowk area of Jammu city against the yesterday's cowardly and barbaric attack on tourists in Pahalgam and burnt the effigy of Pakistan sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil.

Senior Congress leaders including youth Congress and Mahila workers held a strong protest demonstration raising slogans against terrorism and Pakistan, demanding befitting response to the dastardly incident perpetrated by the enemies of humanity. The angry protestors burnt the effigy of Pakistan and sent out a strong message of anger and anguish over the carnage and barbaric Act.

Led by JKPCC Working President & former Dy CM Tara Chand, the protest was joined by CWC special invitee Vikar Rasool Wani, Former MP Ch Lal Singh, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma,



Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Incharge HQ Ved Mahajan District Presidents Jammu Urban & Rural Th Manmohan Singh and Th. Hari Singh Chib, Th Balbir Singh Ex MLA, DDC Sdr. T S Tony, Kanta Bhan, Narinder Gupta, Narinder Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Kapil Singh, Jatin Raina, Sahil Sharma, Neeraj Gupta, Sanjeev Sharma Panda, Rajveer Singh, Rajiv Saraf, Bhavishya Sudan, Suresh Dogra, Thomas Khokhar, Balbir Singh, Vijay Shastri, Dwarika Choudhary, Kamal Singh, Ricky Dalotra, Anirudh Sawhney, Pawan Dev Singh, Dewan Chand, Latish

Sharma, Satpal Sapolia, R.P. Magotra, Bodh Raj Sharma, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Manish Bali, Manmohan Sharma, Rajesh Paul, Janak Raj, Ajay Kumar, Nageshwar Narayan, Sohni Sharma, Suman Wazir, R.K. Sodhi, Ghara Ram, H.S. Baggi, Rajesh Kumar, Surinder Mahajan, Magat Ram, Sahil Sagotra, Nasir Masih, Amit Kumar, Harvinder Kour, Gagan, Vijay Singh Chib, Prabhu, Janak Raj, Anuradha Sharma, Parveen Akhtar, Anjali, Mehul Abrol, Sanjeev Kumar, Sony Sharma, Rohit Kumar, Bharat Sharma, Rinku Sharma, Vinod Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Sahil Dogra, Vijay

Kumar and other prominent leaders besides agitated youth Congress and Mahila workers & a large number of agitated angry Congress leaders and workers held a strong demonstration against the gruesome incident and denounced terrorism and Pakistan.

Talking to media persons, JKPCC working President Tara Chand said that people have demonstrated that we are together in fight against terrorism and Pakistan. Such barbaric incidents are no longer tolerable on our soil. We are solidly behind our forces govt at this juncture to send a strong and befitting

response to this .

Ch. Lal Singh two times MP and former minister hit hard the Pakistani and said that it was sponsoring terrorism which is no longer tolerable by countrymen any more and Government must do something to control the situation and Pakistan.

He also questioned how such a large number tourists and innocent people were left at the mercy of God at a secluded place .However at this juncture we expressed out strong solidarity with the victims and stand behind our forces to deal with the situation.

JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said that our appeal for peaceful bandh and the strong protest demonstration was a message of united and loud message of togetherness at this juncture against terrorism and Pakistan.

We are outraged and anguished over the dastardly act and people of all shades and walks of life are lodging strong protest and

solidarity with the victims.

Our leadership Shri Malikarjun Kharge and LOP In Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have spoken to the hone minister and expressed grave concern and anguish of nation and extended support to eliminate terrorism.

Our heart goes to those who lost their kith and kins and we are with them in hour of pain and shock.

A befitting and appropriate response is expected from the government, he added stating it's not time to play politics but how such an incident happened is unimaginable .

Several senior Congress leaders spoke on the occasion and expressed their anger and anguish.

Agitated youth Congress raised slogans against terrorism and Pakistan and expressed concern and anger over the happening of incident where large number of tourists were visiting daily. They burnt effigy of Pakistan and denounced her for sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil.

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

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, APRIL 23



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, APRIL 23

Officers and officials across District Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today observed a two minutes silence as a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims of the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam.

The solemn tribute led by ADDC Ramban Roshan Lal was held at the DC Office Ramban, where all administrative officers, staff and officials stood in silence, condemning the heinous act and expressing their heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. Similar observances were held in government offices across the district.

## VKMI SCJS, IYA, BVP, SUT strongly condemn Pahalgam Terror Attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

In a joint resolution passed today, Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), Bharat Vikas Parishad (Shivalik), Senior Citizens Joy Society, Indian Yoga Association, and Sarv Uthan Trust have strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack at Pahalgam, which brutally claimed the lives of innocent tourists hailing from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

The organizations have expressed deep sorrow, heartfelt grief, and unwavering anger over this inhuman and cowardly act targeting peaceful civilians. This attack is not just an assault on individuals but on the very fabric of humanity, peace, and brotherhood.

The resolution was spearheaded by prominent/ Esteemed members of these esteemed NGO teams headed by S/ Shri CM Sharma, Gen-



eral Secretary VKMI; Shri Ashok Khajuria, Secretary SCJS, Shri Ashok Gupta, Founder Chairman, Sarv Uthan Trust, Rakesh Misra Secretary BVP and Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman, IYA. They played a pivotal role in organizing the condolence event and leading the collective voice of civil society against terrorism.

Members of all the associated organizations stand in firm solidarity with the bereaved families during this hour of unimaginable grief. They extended their heartfelt condolences and support to those who lost their loved ones in this tragic

incident. The participating organizations have made a strong appeal to the administration and security agencies to take swift, strict, and appropriate action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime. The act of terror is a direct attack on the values of human dignity, peace, and national unity, and it must be dealt with uncompromising firmness.

Let this resolution serve as a collective cry for justice and a solemn commitment to continue working towards a society rooted in peace, unity, and fearlessness.

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



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

A condolence meeting was held today in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar Wing to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the tragic incident at Pahalgam here yesterday.

The legal fraternity stood together in this hour of grief to show unwavering solidarity with the victims and their families.

The condolence meeting was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, and Justice Mohd. Yousof Wani, Judges, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Besides, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Senior designated advocates, President J&K High Court Bar Association

Srinagar, members of the Bar, officers and officials of the Registry and court staff also attended the condolence meet.

The gathering observed two minutes of silence to pay heartfelt tribute to those who lost their precious lives in the act of terrorism at Pahalgam. They strongly condemned the barbaric act terming it as inhumane and cruel.

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



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 23

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

The march witnessed massive public participation with people from all walks of life gathered in solidarity, holding placards and banners expressing their anguish and support for the victims and their families. With firm determination, the participants urged the authorities to swiftly identify and bring

to justice those responsible for the heinous act. They demanded for stringent action under the full ambit of the law, ensuring such acts of violence are met with zero tolerance.

Participants condemned the attack in the strongest terms, expressing deep sorrow and extending heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

The march stood as a powerful testament to Baramulla's united stand against violence and its unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and communal harmony.

In a similar spirit, solidarity marches were held across various sub-divisions and tehsils of the district, reinforcing the collective voice of empathy and resilience in the face of tragedy.

## EDITORIAL

## A Fractured Paradise – The Ripple Effects of Terror on Kashmir's Tourism

The serenity of Kashmir, often hailed as heaven on Earth, has once again been shattered—not by nature's wrath alone but by the enduring shadow of terror. A day after the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam, the immediate fallout is now vividly unfolding across the Valley. What should have been a season of blooming tourism has turned into a period of mass panic and abrupt departures.

The numbers are stark and telling. Up to 80% of bookings have been cancelled, according to Delhi-based travel agencies. Reports from Himachal Pradesh agencies reflect a similar reality, with nearly 2,000 Kashmir-bound tour packages annulled in less than 24 hours. The ripple of fear has outpaced any coordinated administrative reassurance, driving tourists to abandon their long-awaited holidays and flee the Valley via any route still passable—including the historic but treacherous Mughal Road.

The fear is palpable. It's written in the hurried farewells of tourists like Rahul Verma from Gujarat, who fled without waiting for his scheduled return. It's echoed in the pained voices of visitors like Anita Sharma, who praised the Valley's beauty but refused to gamble with her family's safety. The images of holiday-makers becoming evacuees, scrambling to leave via unstable mountain passes, are both heartbreaking and telling of the deeper crisis at hand.

While the state machinery, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has moved swiftly to mitigate the impact—organizing flights, reopening NH-44 in a controlled manner, and clearing stranded vehicles—damage to the Valley's reputation as a safe destination has already been done. Abdullah's words—"heartbreaking, but we understand"—mirror a grim resignation to the reality that peace in Kashmir remains fragile, susceptible to disruption at any time.

This incident should prompt a broader introspection. Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir is not merely an economic activity; it is the lifeblood of the region's people, a bridge between cultures, and a symbol of normalcy in a region long scarred by conflict. Each cancelled trip is not just a lost business opportunity but a lost moment of connection, a shattered promise of healing through human interaction.

The government must now go beyond reactive measures. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive and transparent security strategy specifically tailored to protect tourist zones and restore confidence. Equally important is a sustained national conversation that does not allow such attacks to define the narrative around Kashmir.

Kashmir has always beckoned with its snow-capped peaks and tranquil lakes, but unless it can also offer the assurance of safety, its allure will continue to dim. For the Valley to truly reclaim its place as India's crown jewel, peace must not just be promised—it must be persistently protected.

Only then can we hope that one day, tourists will once again return not in fear, but in awe.

## Why India must cut GST on farm equipment?

A S MITTAL

India's agricultural sector, the backbone of rural livelihoods, is at a critical juncture. The transition to modern and mechanised farming is no longer a choice but is necessary to ensure food security, optimise productivity, and improve farmers' incomes. Yet, a significant bottleneck hampers this transition – the irrational Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure on tractors and other agri-implements.

Today, farm equipment is taxed at 12 per cent, more than a luxury watch is taxed at 5 per cent. For a small or marginal farmer purchasing a low-horsepower tractor costing Rs 5-7 lakh, this means paying Rs 60,000 to Rs 84,000 upfront as GST alone – a prohibitive cost for most. This, in turn, delays the mechanisation process in areas where it is needed the most.

### Pre-GST Scenario Was More Farmer-Friendly

Before the implementation of GST on July 1, 2017, tractors and most agri-implements were exempt from excise duties and subject to only 4-6 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT), depending on the state. Fertilisers, an essential element of agriculture, were previously taxed at 6 per cent (1 per cent excise and 5 per cent VAT). In the GST regime, the introduction of a 12 per cent GST rate on fertilisers was reduced to 5 per cent. However, on agricultural machinery still, 12 per cent GST disrupted the affordability landscape, disproportionately impacting small and marginal farmers, who make up over 86 per cent of India's total landholdings and are responsible for producing more than 60

per cent of the country's food grains.

While GST has unified the country's indirect tax system, it has also inadvertently penalised these vulnerable farmers by making essential farm tools more expensive. Rationalising GST to 5 per cent or even zero for tractors, their components, and agri-implements would significantly ease their financial burden and accelerate rural mechanisation.

Haryana's Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has recently written to the Union Finance and Agriculture Minister seeking GST exemption on 10 essential farm implements like rotavators, zero-till drills, super-seeders, straw-balers, and tractor-mounted spray pumps – a move and other states CMs should also collectively endorse.

### Policy Contradictions: Subsidise on One Hand, Tax on the Other

The contradiction is glaring. The Government's flagship schemes, like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), offer subsidies of up to 50 per cent on machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters, sugarcane harvesters, cotton pickers, for establishing custom hiring centres (CHCs) and also to individual farmers for buying pump sets, tractor mounted sprayers, zero till and seed drills. Yet, these efforts are undermined when the same equipment attracts a steep GST rate.

A reduced GST rate on farm machinery will empower small-holder farmers and reduce the Government's subsidy burden. Lowering upfront taxes means farmers can buy machines at more reasonable prices, translating into more minor subsidy

requirements for the Government.

### Inconsistencies in the Green Energy Push

The policy incongruities extend to the renewable energy sector as well. Renewable energy devices such as solar panels, biogas plants, and windmill components attract only 5 per cent GST to promote sustainability. Electric vehicles (EVs) also enjoy a 5 per cent GST and a 15 per cent discount on third-party insurance premiums. Yet, electric tractors – vital for reducing agriculture's carbon footprint – are taxed at 12 per cent GST, the same as diesel tractors, and do not qualify for any insurance premium relief. According to a study by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), aligning electric tractors with EV incentives could reduce the price gap between electric and diesel tractors by nearly 40 per cent, helping India make a greener shift in agriculture.

### The Urgency for Mechanisation

Mechanisation is the key to addressing India's agricultural productivity paradox. Despite India being the world's second-largest agricultural producer, only 47 per cent of its farming processes are mechanised, compared to 95 per cent in the United States, 75 per cent in Brazil, and 57 per cent in China. At this pace, India will need at least 25 more years to reach comparable levels.

Labour shortages due to rural-to-urban migration have further exacerbated the crisis. The share of the agricultural workforce has dropped from 59 per cent in 1991 to just 39 per cent in 2023. Mechanisation is essential to offset this shrinking labour force,

increase yields, reduce drudgery, and make farming more attractive to rural youth.

### Limited uptake

Tractors dominate India's farm equipment market, while implements such as harvesters, seed drills, tillers, and planters account for only 15-20 per cent of the market share. This limited uptake is due to the prohibitive costs and a lack of awareness about the productivity benefits of modern equipment.

The Government and multilateral agencies are already focusing on mechanisation schemes. However, these interventions will not reach their full potential unless complemented by lower taxation.

Farm mechanisation is not merely about replacing manual labour; it is about optimising inputs, improving efficiency, and securing rural incomes in a challenging agrarian landscape. It is time for the GST Council to undertake an urgent review of agri-implement tax slabs.

A uniform GST rate of 5 per cent or zero on all agricultural machinery and their components would make mechanisation affordable for small and marginal farmers, stimulate demand in under-mechanised regions, encourage the adoption of green technologies like electric tractors, and reduce Government subsidy outflows in the long run. The 'magical' character of farm mechanisation needs a booster dose. Rationalising GST will empower farmers, create rural entrepreneurship opportunities via CHCs, and help India achieve sustainable development goals. It will bridge the mechanisation gap and unlock the true potential of Indian agriculture. Mechanisation is

the future, but affordability is the key.

India's agricultural future hinges on widespread mechanisation, yet high GST rates on essential farm equipment act as a major roadblock. Small and marginal farmers – who form over 86 per cent of India's agrarian base – are unfairly burdened by the 12 per cent GST on tractors and implements, a rate higher than that on luxury items. This policy contradiction undermines Government subsidies offered through schemes like RKVY and SMAM, inflating costs and stalling progress. Haryana's call for GST exemption on key implements is a step in the right direction that other states must support. The mismatch extends to green technologies too – electric tractors face the same GST rate as diesel ones, with none of the incentives that electric vehicles enjoy. This hinders both affordability and sustainability goals.

Meanwhile, India's mechanisation rate lags behind other major agricultural economies, slowed further by rural labour shortages and high upfront machinery costs. Rationalising GST to 5 per cent or zero for all agricultural equipment is critical. It would ease financial pressure on farmers, reduce Government subsidy burdens, and accelerate the adoption of both conventional and green technologies. Mechanisation is not a luxury – it's a necessity. Affordability, enabled through fair taxation, is the key to unlocking a more productive, sustainable, and prosperous agricultural future.

**(The writer is Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views are personal)**

## RTI amendment erodes transparency

K S TOMAR

The recent amendment to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, through the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, marks a pivotal retreat from the transparency regime that India painstakingly built over nearly two decades. By shielding personal information under a blanket exemption, the Modi Government has altered the balance between privacy and the public's right to know.

The operation of the RTI Act – informed by several judgments by the Supreme Court and High Courts – has shown that personal information not related to public activity was already protected.

It underlines that there was already sufficient judicial restraint in place to protect genuinely private data. Landmark rulings like *Girish Deshpande vs CIC* (2013), and the *Puttaswamy* (2017) privacy judgment, drew clear boundaries between personal data and information relevant to public interest. Courts consistently held that unless the disclosure of personal information served a larger public cause, it should be denied.

Therefore, the amendment was not needed and shows legislative overreach, reflecting mistrust in judicial discretion. It signals a shift from a principle-based regime to a bureaucratic shield where no scrutiny is possible. The amendment now legalises the denial of information that courts had earlier allowed when public interest was evident-setting a regressive precedent that may encourage arbitrariness and corruption.

The SC judgment reinforces that safeguarding personal privacy and promoting institutional transparency are not mutually exclusive but are jointly essential.

This point underscores a vital democratic balance. The Supreme Court, especially in the *Puttaswamy* case, held that privacy is a fundamental right but not an absolute one; it must be balanced with transparency,



especially when public interest is involved. The original RTI Act embodied this balance by permitting the release of personal information where larger institutional accountability or public interest was at stake.

The amendment breaks this balance by giving unchecked primacy to privacy, even when it is used as a smokescreen to hide inefficiency, nepotism, or corruption. For instance, public access to officials' attendance, disciplinary records, or property details – which can reveal disproportionate assets – would now be blocked.

The implication is that institutions become unanswerable to the public, reducing the citizen's role from a watchdog to a mute spectator.

The sweeping changes have been introduced through the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, which amended Section 8(I)(j) of the RTI Act. Earlier, this section exempted disclosure of personal information unless there was an overriding public interest. The amendment removes this public interest override and comprehensively exempts all personal data from disclosure under RTI, regardless of its connection to public duties. It is a fundamen-

tal shift from a "case-by-case" evaluation to an "absolute bar" on access to personal information, thereby hollowing out the core of the RTI regime.

The implication is grave: details about the conduct, performance, assets, and public duties of Government officials – even when crucial to detect corruption-can now be shielded from public scrutiny under the excuse of "Privacy". It turns the RTI from a transparency-enabling instrument into a tool riddled with opaque exemptions, undermining citizens' ability to hold officials accountable.

This proviso was a crucial equaliser – it mandated that any information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State Legislature should not be denied to a citizen.

Its removal gives disproportionate access to legislators while stripping ordinary citizens of equal standing in accessing information. It opens the doors for selective transparency, where MPs and MLAs can access sensitive Government information while citizens are stonewalled. This defeats the spirit of the RTI Act, of 2005 which was built on the idea that transparency is not a privilege

but a right.

The move indicates a central tendency to empower the political class at the cost of democratic equity. It also allows the bureaucracy to selectively disclose information to suit political interests while denying the same to activists, journalists, or public-spirited individuals.

This technical change has a wide-ranging impact. By using the DPDP Act to amend Section 8(I)(j) of the RTI Act, the Government has effectively introduced a data protection regime that overrides the RTI's foundational purpose-access to public information. The phrase "all personal information" is undefined and absolute, allowing information officers to deny almost anything under the guise of personal data.

Details such as educational qualifications, performance appraisals, transfer postings, and reasons for disciplinary action can all now be denied, even if such data expose abuse of power or fraud. This will embolden non-performance, discourage whistle-blowers, and limit the ability of journalists, lawyers, or citizens to demand accountability. In essence, it turns a democratic law into a bureaucratic fortress.

The Modi Government claims that legal obligations under RTI remain unaffected but this assertion is misleading. Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act directly amends the RTI Act itself, thereby altering the legal obligation.

There is a common perception amongst the citizens having consciousness about the RTI Act that the center should pause and review the amendment which reflects a broader democratic concern as it will dilute the purpose of the entire process of seeking information. The vociferous demand to reconsider the amendment is a red flag from the opposition and civil society as these changes are not about protecting privacy but about restricting scrutiny.

The repeal demand stems from fears that the Government is creating an architecture of secrecy behind the smokescreen of data protection. If allowed to persist, this may institutionalise opacity and convert public institutions into information black holes-something antithetical to participatory democracy.

The RTI Act was a landmark law that was an unprecedented achievement of the people's movement under Magsaysay winner, Aruna Roy that democratised access to governance and brought the citizen to the center of accountability. By altering its core provisions, the Modi Government risks reversing this progress.

While data protection is necessary in the digital age, it should not come at the cost of institutional transparency. Instead of finding a nuanced balance, the Government has chosen to impose blanket opacity.

The implications go far beyond legalese-they erode the foundations of a transparent republic, where the citizen has the right to question power. This amendment must be revisited, reviewed, and if necessary, repealed to restore the sanctity of the RTI Act.

**(The writer is a senior political analyst and Ex-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of All-State Public Service Commissions in India. Views are personal)**

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

What started as a casual question to an AI chatbot turned into a life-saving moment for a pregnant woman in North Carolina. Natallia Tarrien, a photographer based in Charlotte, was eight months pregnant when she decided to ask ChatGPT a simple question, something she says she did "just for fun."

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

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

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

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



Thankfully, she listened.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

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

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

Department of Pharmaceuticals, India's pharmaceutical and medical devices sector received a foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of Rs 11,888 crore between April and December 2024. Additionally, 13 FDI proposals worth Rs 7,246.40 crore for brownfield projects were approved during FY25, taking the total FDI to Rs 19,134.4 crore.



expertise, and increasing regulatory approvals, the report said.

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

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

According to the

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

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

Much of this momen-

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

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

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

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

## Need to boost awareness, early diagnosis of haemophilia and other bleeding disorders: Nadda

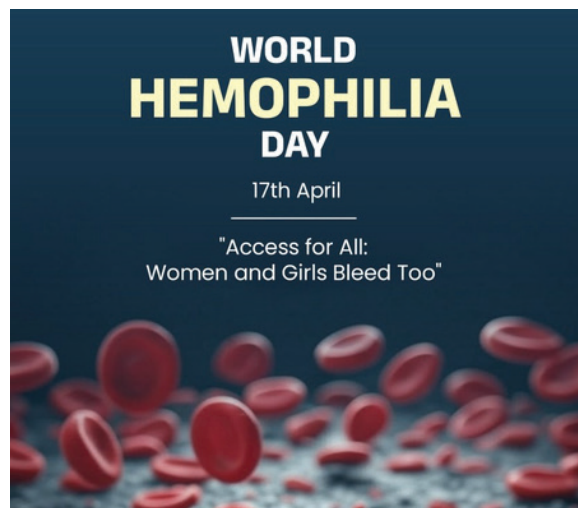
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Boosting awareness, early diagnosis, and improving access to care is crucial to fight haemophilia and other bleeding disorders in the country, said Union Minister JP Nadda on World Haemophilia Day on Thursday.

World Haemophilia Day is observed every year on April 17 to raise awareness about bleeding disorders. The theme this year is: "Access for all: Women and Girls Bleed Too".

Haemophilia is a rare bleeding disorder where blood does not clot properly, even in minor injuries.

"On #WorldHaemophiliaDay, let's raise awareness about haemophilia and other bleeding disorders, promote early diagnosis, and improve access



to care," said Nadda, in a post on social media platform X.

"This year's theme -- "Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too" -- urges us to recognise the unique challenges faced by women and girls and ensure inclusive, equitable healthcare for all," he

added. India faces a significant burden of haemophilia, holding the second-largest patient population globally, estimated at around 1,36,000 individuals.

Yet, "only 18 per cent are diagnosed, compared to 90 per cent in developed nations," Dr. Tulika

Seth, Professor - Haematology, AIIMS Delhi, told IANS.

"Haemophilia is more than a bleeding disorder -- it's a lifelong battle requiring constant care, timely diagnosis, and access to treatment," she added.

Seth cited the lack of awareness as the major reason for delayed diagnosis, which can lead to preventable joint damage.

Each bleeding episode requires attention, and patients take a prolonged time for recovery and severe complications could occur if any bleeding is not attended.

In about 80 per cent of cases, haemophilia manifests as bleeding, most frequently involving the large joints like knees, ankles, elbows, hip, and wrist, followed by deep bleeds affecting large body muscles.

## DNA sequencing may become prime target for hackers, warns study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

University of Portsmouth's School of Computing.

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

These threats go beyond typical data

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

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

The experts called on "governments, regulatory bodies, funding agencies, and academic institutions" to prioritise this field "before it's too late". The team also shared recommendations and practical solutions, including secure sequencing protocols, encrypted storage, and AI-powered anomaly detection, creating a foundation for much stronger cyber-biosecurity.

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

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

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

Ahead of the World Liver Day which falls on April 19, healthcare experts said that food is medicine, as cases of liver diseases among both urban and rural populations rise in the country.

Doctors said that liver disease is no longer confined to alcohol abuse -- there is a worrying rise in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) due to unhealthy eating patterns, obesity, and lack of exercise.

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

Analysing data from over 121,000 partici-



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

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

"About 50 per cent of liver disease cases can

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

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

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

liver disease but also supports liver regeneration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Does Dolo-650 Have Side Effects?**

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

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

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

The paracetamol is easily available in phar-

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

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

## 2 Minute Silence observed across Kupwara to express solidarity with Pahalgam terror victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 23

To express solidarity and respect with the people who lost their lives in a deadly attack in Pahalgam yesterday, a two minute silence was observed in all government offices across district Kupwara today.

The main ceremony was held at D.C Office Kupwara in which Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, ACR, besides, a large number of officers and employees were present



ent to show solidarity with the departed souls and bereaved families of the Pahalgam terror incident.

Similar programmes

were held at sub division Handwara, Karnah and Sogam, besides at all tehsil and block level offices in the district.

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

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, APRIL 23

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

During his visit, Chairman DLSA interacted with

the hospital administration and the injured persons under treatment. He expressed his deep concern over the grievous injuries inflicted on innocent tourists and civilians, and extended his heartfelt sympathies to the victims and their families.

He also directed the Principal, Government Medical College Anantnag to ensure that the best possible medical treatment is provided to all the injured individuals without any delay or shortcoming. He emphasized the need for compassion-

ate and prompt medical attention, particularly in the context of the trauma the victims have endured.

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

## Ace shuttler bags triple gold as team wins 11 medals



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

In a remarkable and inspiring achievement, the Masters Badminton team from Jammu and Kashmir proudly brought home eleven medals from the 7th Masters National Games held in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The prestigious event, organized by the Masters Games Association Himachal Pradesh under the aegis of the Super Masters Games and Sports Federation (India), saw fierce competition from masters athletes across the country, but it was the spirited contingent from Jammu and Kashmir that emerged as a shining example of experience, resilience, and sportsmanship.

At the heart of this historic performance was Romesh Sharma, a seasoned and highly respected badminton player who showcased his exceptional skills and determination by winning three gold medals. Competing in the Men's Singles 60-64 age category, he delivered a commanding performance to secure gold, then paired with Joginder Paul Sharma to win the Men's Doubles 60-64 title, and finally teamed up with Khema Gupta to triumph in the Mixed Doubles 55-59 category. His incredible hat-

trick of gold medals set the tone for the team's success and inspired fellow players to raise their game.

Adding to the gold medal tally, Khema Gupta claimed victory in the Women's Singles 50-54 age category, displaying her own brand of dominance and finesse on the court. Joginder Paul Sharma earned a well-fought silver in the Men's Singles 60-64, complementing his gold with Romesh in the doubles. The pair of Amit Singh and Akashdeep clinched silver in Men's Doubles 30-34, while Sandeep Gupta and Khema Gupta earned silver in Mixed Doubles 45-49.

The team's strength and depth were further demonstrated by four bronze medals. Akashdeep secured a bronze in Men's Singles 30-34, Ankush Jamwal took bronze in Men's Singles 35-39, Jaswinder Singh earned bronze in Mixed Doubles 55-59, and Jai Swroop Sharma won bronze in Men's Singles 55-59. Tanu Sadhotra participated in Women's Singles 35-39. These results reflect a balanced team effort, where each athlete contributed to a collective performance marked by grit and commitment.

Ranjeet Singh Chib, President of the Jammu

and Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) and an ex-international handball player, expressed immense pride in the team's achievements. He emphasized that their success is not only a personal triumph for the players but also a proud moment for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the vital role played by institutions like the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, led by Sh. Rajinder Singh Tara, JKAS, the J&K Police, and the Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, whose consistent support and proactive efforts have created a thriving environment for athletes to grow and compete at the highest levels.

Chib further noted that the accomplishments of these master players serve as a powerful reminder that excellence in sport is ageless and that with the right encouragement and infrastructure, athletes can continue to achieve greatness regardless of the stage in their career. The 12-medal haul by Jammu and Kashmir's Masters Badminton team is more than just a victory—it is a celebration of enduring spirit, dedication, and the unbreakable bond between passion and performance.

## Movement Kalki stages protest against Pahalgam terror attack, burns effigy of Pakistan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

Today, Movement Kalki, along with several social and religious organizations, staged a massive protest at Jammu Bus Stand condemning the brutal terrorist attack that recently occurred in Pahalgam. The protest witnessed participation from leaders of Kranti Dal and Gau Rakshak Organization, who expressed strong outrage against the attack.

The bandh (shutdown) was organized following a call by the Chamber of Commerce, and received active support from Movement Kalki and numerous commercial, religious, and civil society groups. The people of Jammu stood united in solidarity, keeping all businesses, transport services, and commercial activities



completely shut down.

The protest was led by Movement Kalki's core committee member Mr. Sanjeev Dubey, who was joined by Thakur Karnail Chand, the organization's General Secretary. He criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lt. Govern-

nor Manoj Sinha, stating, "What's the point of visiting the site after the killings? Where was the security before the attack? Where were our soldiers? These are serious questions the nation demands answers to."

Key Demands and Public

Outrage: Immediate and strong action against Pakistan.

Elimination of terrorists and their local sympathizers and guides.

Crackdown on drug peddlers and cattle smugglers operating under political protection.

Accountability from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the security lapse.

Prominent participants included Thakur Karnail Chand, Pritam Sharma, Advocate Sameshwar Kohli, Advocate Harmet Singh, Pawan Sharma, Deepak Singh, Sapna Hindu, and Antu Kotwal. Leaders of Kranti Dal such as Vijay Kumar, Akhil Gandotra, Tarun Gupta, Rajendra, Rohit,

Sanjay, and Ajay, along with several activists, joined the protest. Gau Rakshak Organization was represented by its president Kaushal Sharma and his team.

Throughout the demonstration, the streets of Jammu echoed with anti-Pakistan slogans like "Pakistan Murdabad" and "Justice for Martyrs." The protest culminated in the symbolic burning of Pakistan's effigy.

Movement Kalki asserted that this is not just a protest, but a powerful message – India must now take decisive action. The people of India, especially Jammu & Kashmir, can no longer endure these continuous wounds.

The martyrs will only receive true tribute when Pakistan and terrorism are dealt with firmly and finally.

## HSS condemns terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. 27 people, including two foreign nationals, have died in this attack. Vikrant Kapoor asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is on a visit to the state, to conduct a high-level investigation into the matter and take strict action against the culprits.

He Strongly condemned the barbaric attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. He expressed deep grief and heartfelt condolences to the deceased and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. He said that the aim of this heinous act is to create fear and disrupt the current tourist season and the upcoming Amarnath Yatra,



which is extremely disturbing.

He expressed his unwavering support to the Security forces and appealed to all citizens to actively support the efforts against terrorism by reporting Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and Under Ground Workers (UGWs) so that the terrorist support

network can be completely eliminated. He expressed hope that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will give a befitting reply to Pakistan by carrying out surgical strikes. He said that now the time has come to give a befitting reply to Pakistan for its nefarious

activities.

He said that after the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, the terrorists have become completely nervous due to the complete curb on terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, due to Jammu Bandh, supporters of Hindustan Shiv Sena have protested in various areas of Jammu division and have given full support to the Jammu Bandh on their call. Vikrant Kapoor said that protests have been organised at various places in Punjab also against this terror attack under the leadership of Hindustan Shiv Sena Punjab State President Vinay Kapoor.

In Jammu during the protests Senior Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders sunil, Rakesh, jeevan, Baba Ram Kaith, Abhishek, Himanshu, Amit, women wing leader Jyoti Devi and others were also present take part actively.

## Pahalgam Terror attack an attack on Nation: Kerala Guv

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APR 23 (UNI)

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar opined that the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir is not to be seen as an attack against an individual, state or a region but an attack on the nation as a whole.

"While our security forces will respond to it in a befitting manner, it is the duty of the individuals to stand united and condemn the inimical forces that are out to disrupt the unity of the nation," the Governor said in a message on Wednesday.

He said that due to the concerted efforts of the Central Government, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was fast returning to normalcy and the destabilizing forces have sought to vitiate the atmosphere.

## Ware House Traders protests amidst Jammu Bandh

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

Amidst Jammu Bandh, traders of Jammu and Kashmir's biggest and oldest wholesale grain mandi Ware House and Nehru Market took a protest rally to show solidarity with the victims killed in the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam yesterday. The protestors under the banner of The Traders Federation Ware House Nehru market raised slogans against the Anti Nationalist who were involved in the brutal terrorist attack on the tourists. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Deepak Gupta, President strongly condemned Pakistan for carrying on the policy of enmity against India and harboring terrorists on its soil and using them to threaten life of the people & security forces in JKUT.

Taking serious note of the horrific incident, Deepak Gupta urged upon the Central Govt., U.T. Administration and police authorities to take immediate action against those involved in the said incident and further urged that thorough probe be done in the said incident. He stated that such barbaric acts of targeting inno-



cent lives is an attack on the democratic values of society and deserve to be universally condemned. They must be met with determination and collective action. He called upon the Central and U.T Government and all concerned agencies to ensure that the guilty are brought to justice and law and order is maintained in the U.T. of J&K. Deepak Gupta appealed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narindra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah that security agencies should be given free hand to neutralize all terrorists

involved in such attacks. Strongly condemning the brutal terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, Deepak Gupta said that this inhumane and senseless act of violence, targeting innocent civilians, is a stark reminder of the continued threat posed by those who seek to disrupt peace and harmony in the region. This cowardly act of violence against innocent lives is an affront to humanity. "The Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families during this

difficult time. The Federation extends its deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones in this tragic incident. Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who have been injured, and we sincerely wish them a swift and full recovery." Deepak Gupta said.

On this occasion Dheeraj Mahajan, Sr. Vc. President, Vishal Gupta, Vc. President, Abhimanyu Gupta, General Secretary, Rahul Gupta, Secretary, Nitish Gupta, Cashier of the Federation, Sh. Rajesh Bhagotra, President Sugar

Association, Sh. Munish Mahajan, Former Sr. Vc. President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Atul Gupta, President Transport Association, rajesh Gupta, Former President TFWHNM, Manu Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, Kapil Gupta, Harish Gupta, Prushottam Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Keshav Pal Gupta, Raghav Gupta, Nitin Gupta, Ashwani Sharma, Vijay Gupta, Praful Gupta, Naman Gupta, Rinku Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Kurnesh Gupta, Palli Gupta, Muna Kohli, Raju Gupta was also present.

## Kiran Wattal unanimously re-elected as President of Gymnastics Association of J&K

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

Kiran Wattal, a sports enthusiast and ardent admirer of gymnastics, has been unanimously re-elected as the President of Gymnastics Association of J&K (JKGA). Along with Wattal, Anil Khajuria s/o Inderjit Khajuria elected Senior Vice President, Anil Khajuria s/o DD Khajuria elected as General Secretary, Rakesh Malhotra as Treasurer, S. Tajinder Singh as Associate Secretary of JKGA. However no nominations received for post of Vice President and Working President of JKGA. Earlier out of total 37 eligible voters for election of JKGA, 20 voters were present in person, two voters had given authority letters to participate on their behalf in election proceedings and one voter Shilpa Gupta joined via video confer-

ence. Total 23 voters were present in the election out of total 37 voters and the quorum was more than 50%.

This re-election is a testament to his leadership and vision for the development of gymnastics in the region as under Wattal's stewardship from 2019-2025, JKGA has achieved significant milestones at the national and international levels. Some notable achievements include during the last 3 years 14 Gymnasts from J&K represented country in various recognized International competitions including Common Wealth Games, World Cups, World Championships & Asian Championships & further J&K Gymnasts also made us proud by winning 64 Medals including 16 Gold, 35 Silver & 13 Bronze Medals during last 5 Years in various National Games/Khelo

India Games/Championships Since 2019.

Wattal expressed his gratitude to the members for their support and reposing their trust in him. He reiterated his commitment to taking gymnastics to new heights in Jammu and Kashmir. He said JKGA committed to continue producing talented gymnasts who will represent the region at the national and international levels. The Jammu and Kashmir Gymnastics Association (JKGA) has made significant strides in developing sports infrastructure and promoting gymnastics in the region. With the support of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Sports Body of Jammu and Kashmir, and the liberal funding from the PM Modi government, JKGA has successfully raised the bar for gymnastics in the region. With continued support, JKGA is poised



to produce more talented gymnasts who will represent the region at the national and international levels, said Wattal.

Wattal maintained that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's vision and leadership have played a crucial role in promoting sports in Jammu and Kashmir. The sports body has provided necessary infrastructure and support to JKGA, enabling it to nurture young talent. PM Modi government's liberal funding has enabled JKGA to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure and provide training to

gymnasts. He praised the role of the J&K administration, particularly Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary of the Sports Council Nuzrat Gul, in supporting gymnastics activities at both the UT and national levels. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's government's initiatives also laid the groundwork for the current success. Sports Minister Satish Sharma's support and guidance have been instrumental in promoting gymnastics in the region. The performance of Jammu and Kashmir

gymnasts is a testament to the success of JKGA's efforts. The gymnasts have excelled in various national and international competitions, bringing laurels to the region, added Wattal.

An engineer by profession and a dedicated officer, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Kiran Wattal had been instrumental in taking the JMC to new heights during his tenure as head of the corporation. Wattal, BE (Civil), SWM (UK), HWS (Sweden) besides serving JMC has served as Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Chief Engineer, UEEED, Secretary, J&K State Sports Council. He started his career in August, 1978 as site engineer in "Gammon India Ltd." and was put on the job of specialized bridge construction. He joined the government service

in JK in 1980. Wattal's re-election as President of JKGA is a significant boost to gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir. With his vision and leadership, JKGA is poised to achieve even greater success in the years to come.

Kiran Wattal's life is a shining example of perseverance and determination. From humble beginnings to becoming a successful bureaucrat and sports enthusiast, Wattal's journey is an inspiration to many. His achievements in various fields, including gymnastics, will undoubtedly motivate budding gymnasts to work hard and pursue their dreams. Wattal's life has not been without challenges. Despite facing struggles, he remained focused on his goals and worked tirelessly to achieve them. His journey from being an engineer to a bureaucrat is a testament to his hard

work and dedication. Wattal's achievements are numerous, and his contributions to the field of sports, particularly gymnastics, are noteworthy. Wattal's story will undoubtedly inspire many young gymnasts who are facing struggles in their own lives. His journey shows that with hard work, dedication, and perseverance, one can overcome obstacles and achieve greatness. His commitment to sports and his passion for gymnastics will motivate young athletes to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence. Kiran Wattal's life is a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work, determination, and perseverance. His inspiring journey will undoubtedly motivate many young gymnasts to work towards their goals and strive for excellence.

## Congress holds condolence meeting, expresses pain, anguish over loss of lives in horrific terrorist attack

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR APRIL 23, 2025

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) held a condolence meeting at Srinagar Party office in which rich tributes were paid to the innocent tourist who attained martyrdom in the mindless & gruesome terrorist attack in Bisan area of Pahalgam, terming the incident as highly shameful and condemnable act.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hammed Karra presided over the condolence meeting while AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir and other senior leaders participated

and paid rich tributes to martyrs.

The meeting observed two-minute silence in honor of the martyred tourists and expressed its heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the bereaved families.

The meeting expressed pain and anguish over the horrific terrorist attack in which 26 innocent tourists from different states attained martyrdom while 17 others were left wounded, terming the incident as a gruesome, dastardly and inhuman act and demanding exemplary punishment to the terrorist behind this attack.

No words to express grief and sorrow, the

bloodshed at Pahalgam has left us completely devastated, it is a National tragedy, JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra said, our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir strongly condemned the horrific terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Bisan Pahalgam. Mourning the loss of lives, Mir said that the killing of any person or persons is highly condemnable and unacceptable. We share the grief with all those, who have lost their family members and express our heartfelt condolences and

solidarity with them, Mir said.

Senior Congress Leaders who spoke on the occasion include MLA Nizam Ud Din, Surinder Singh Channi, Abdul Gani Khan, Nissar Ahmad Mundoo, Abid Imtiyaz Bhat, Irfan Naqib (DCC President), Mir Ruvais, Dr. Audil Farooq Mir (Lasjan), Zaffar Farooq Salati, Abdul Rashid Lone, Umer Jaan, Er. Muzaffar Dar, District Presidents, Dr. Waleed Karra, Javed Magray, Yasir Nissar Mundoo, Raja Waseem Seerat Bashir, Nargis, Saira, Blocks Presidents, prominent Party workers and frontal organizations.

## Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu condemns terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

The Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu unequivocally condemns the horrific and cowardly terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam. This despicable act of violence is deeply disturbing and has shaken the conscience of the entire business fraternity across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu, stated, "Targeting innocent tourists is a heinous and barbaric act that goes against the very spirit of Kashmiriyat and the values of peace and hos-

pitality that define our region. We demand an immediate and thorough investigation into this attack, and the culprits must be brought to justice at the earliest."

This attack not only claims innocent lives but also threatens the region's fragile tourism industry, a key pillar of economic growth and livelihood in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Chamber of Commerce urges the government to take strict and swift measures to ensure the safety of all tourists and local residents.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu also expresses its full solidarity with the Jammu and

Kashmir UT Administration, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Lieutenant Governor's administration in these testing times. The entire trade and industry community of Jammu stands shoulder to shoulder with the government and security forces, offering every possible support to maintain peace, restore public confidence, and defeat the forces of terror.

As a gesture of protest and in solidarity with the victims and their families, we support any peaceful measures initiated by the business community, including a complete shutdown if needed again, to send a

clear message that such acts of terror will never be accepted or tolerated.

"We stand united against terrorism in all its forms. The business community of Jammu joins hands with our counterparts in Kashmir to condemn this act in the strongest possible terms. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and hope for the speedy recovery of those injured," Rahul Sahai added.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu calls for unity, vigilance, and decisive action to ensure such tragic incidents are never repeated.

## Sun King welcomes Bollywood Star Rajkummar Rao as Brand Ambassador to Light Up Lives Across India

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

Sun King, one of the world's leading solar energy and energy-efficient electrical products brands, is proud to announce Bollywood actor Rajkummar Rao as its new brand ambassador. The partnership brings together a household name in Indian cinema and a trusted name in clean energy, with a shared belief in practical solutions that make a difference.

Sun King's solar-powered and energy-efficient electrical products – used by millions across India – bring light, power, and comfort to homes that lack reliable electricity. With Rajkummar Rao onboard, the brand aims to reach even more people who want dependable energy without the high cost, or smart, cost-effective, environmentally friendly appliances.

Known for his powerful performances in Stree, Newton, Shahid, and Srikanth, Rajkummar has earned a reputation for authenticity, empathy, and a deep connection with everyday people, values that resonate with Sun King's mission.

"I've always believed in the kind of change that improves people's everyday lives," said Rajkummar Rao. "Sun King's solar and



electrical products do exactly that – they bring reliability and peace of mind to homes and families who need it most. I'm proud to support a brand that's helping India shine, sustainably."

From solar home lighting systems to powerful rooftop solar systems and energy-efficient appliances, such as bulbs and fans, Sun King's range is designed for families who want long-lasting, affordable energy they can count on. The partnership with Rajkummar Rao will help raise awareness of these solutions and the real impact of Sun King's products.

"Rajkummar Rao stands for the same things we do – real-world impact, trust, and accessibility," said

Surabhi Sharma, Head of Marketing - Asia at Sun King. "Together, we'll tell stories that reflect the hopes and realities of households across India, and show that sustainable energy is for everyone."

"Bollywood inspires millions across India, and Rajkummar Rao stands out for his sincerity and connection to real, human stories," said Sahil Khanna, General Manager for Asia and Latin America at Sun King. "He's the perfect voice to help us share how reliable solar power and smart, energy-efficient appliances can transform everyday life."

The announcement comes as Sun King prepares to launch a fresh wave of customer-focused campaigns, starting at

the South Asia Forum for Distributed Energy in New Delhi this week. The nationwide campaigns aim to showcase Sun King's diverse product range, and will culminate later in the year with a special highlight: a meet-and-greet event with Rajkummar Rao, where Sun King's top-performing distributors and partners will get the exclusive opportunity to meet the celebrated actor in person.

The collaboration is about more than just visibility. It's about a shared purpose – delivering clean, reliable energy to homes that have been left in the dark for too long, and doing so with honesty, heart, and impact.

## Modi Govt will give befitting reply to terrorists: Rekha on Pahalgam terrorist attack

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23



**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan today strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam, calling it a barbaric act aimed at disrupting peace and undermining the spirit of Kashmiriyat.

Speaking to media persons during a protest rally in Jammu, Rekha Mahajan expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of innocent lives and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. "This heinous attack on unarmed

and peaceful tourists is not just a crime against individuals, but an assault on the idea of Jammu and Kashmir as a welcoming and secure destination," she said.

Rekha Mahajan reiterated her full faith in the Modi Government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, adding that such cowardly acts will not succeed in derailing the government's vision of a peaceful and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. She urged security agencies to act swiftly in identifying and eliminating the perpetrators and their networks.

She further stated, "Our message to those who wish to spread terror is clear: you will not break our resolve. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered enough, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, peace and normalcy will prevail."

Rekha Mahajan also appealed to the people to remain united and vigilant, and not allow such incidents to create division or fear. "Together, we will defeat terrorism and protect the unity and integrity of our nation," she added.

## Ada Aggarwal donates books to ABS on World Book Day

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

Aadarsh Bhartiya Samaj a Social Volunteer Organisation working to promote education, environment, health and nationhood among the general masses and students community in particular celebrated 'World Book Day' under the guidance of Col (Retd) R K Sharma, Chairman and S Daljeet Singh, President-ABS at Bhour Camp (Jammu) with the message 'Write Book, Purchase Book, Read Book and Donate Book to educate each one'. On the occasion Mrs Arti Kohli-teacher, Dr Lalit Sharma, Mr Anil Kumar Sharma, Miss Rohini Raina, Mr Gourav Raina, Master Aadish Sudan, Master Druvish Sudan, Master Shivang Sharma, Miss Avni Sharma, Mrs Bindu Bali, Master Arpit Soodan, Mr Sunil Singh Yadav-Educator, Mrs Reena Sharma-Educator, Miss Anahita Singh, Miss Yashika Singh and Pt Chaman Lal Sharma donated / will donate books to the school going children. Members informed that Miss Ada Aggarwal has written three books namely, 'Scottish Diaries- Mystery in the Murray House', 'The Quill's Journey- Unravelling Ada's Inner World' and 'Fragments of Us'. She donated competitive examination and subjective books to the students preparing for exams and administrative services with the earnings from books royalty.

## CU Jammu celebrates International Mother Earth Day 2025

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 23

The Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu, celebrated International Mother Earth Day at the Brigadier Rajendra Singh Auditorium. The event was organized on the global theme "Our Power, Our Planet," aimed at empowering individuals, especially the youth to take meaningful action toward a sustainable future. The program "Prakriti, Paryavaran aur Urja: Nai Chetna ke Saath" ("Nature, Environment and Energy: With a New Consciousness"), began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Prof. Richa Kothari, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, welcomed all the guests. In her address she laid emphasis on Department Vision and Mission. Prof. Sunil Dhar, Dean, School of Life Sciences, in



his introductory remarks, reflected on the celebration of Earth Day and talked on the effect of climate change on glacial cover of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The special address was delivered by Prof. Ramesh Arora, Director, IQAC, SGGWS University, Punjab, who spoke on "Protecting Planet Earth with Sustainable Practices," underscoring the role of education

and policy in achieving long-term environmental goals. Prof. Dilip Kumar, Head, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Northern Regional Campus, Jammu in his keynote address he stressed on The Social and Cultural Foundation of Nature and Environment, focused on the intersection of culture, communication, and ecology.

Sh. Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission, Punjab, was the chief guest on the occasion. Sh. Dutt addressed the gathering on the importance of reviving indigenous ecological knowledge and sustainable agriculture. He urged students to embrace eco-friendly lifestyles and become agents of environmental transformation. Prof. Sanjeev Jain,

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu in his Presidential address, lauded the Department's efforts and urged students to take the message of sustainability beyond the campus. Prof. Jain appreciated the contributions of research scholars and the dedication of the non-teaching staff in making the celebration a success. Prof. Yashwant Singh,

Registrar CU Jammu, congratulated the department for organizing the event and commended their efforts in raising ecological consciousness.

The formal Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Deepak Pathania, Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu. A special highlight of the celebration was the "Eco-Giri" event, organized by students of the department of EVS. Under this initiative, students displayed a variety of decorative items creatively made from converted waste materials, showcasing how waste can be transformed into aesthetic and useful objects. Adding vibrance to the occasion, a Slogan and Poster Competition was also organized, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across various Departments of University.

## RPP strongly condemns barbaric terrorist attack in Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

Jeevanand Sharma, President of Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandan Dutta, Pradesh Mantri, have strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, Kashmir, calling it a cruel and cowardly act. This attack is not only a blot on humanity but also a direct assault on the unity, integrity, and cultural dignity of India.

In this heinous act, 28 innocent citizens of our country lost their lives - including many Hindu devotees and tourists. This pre-planned attack is clear evidence of the cowardice and nefarious mindset of the terrorists, who are constantly trying to disrupt the peace of Kashmir.

Shri Sharma said, "Now is the time for the government and security agencies to move beyond mere rhetoric and bring the traitors responsible for such incidents to the ground. Forgiving the merchants of terror will now be akin to treason."

Pradesh Mantri Shri Chandan Dutta also expressed strong outrage, saying, "We will not tolerate this atrocity at all. This attack is not only an attack on our faith but also an attempt to wound the soul of India. We demand from the central government that it now moves beyond 'strong words' and takes 'strong action'."

Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad appreciates the strong action taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah regarding the terrorist attack in Kashmir.

## Central team visits PIB Jammu; reviews activities for promotion of official language

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

As part of the efforts to promote Hindi a team of PIB Rajbhasha Unit visited Press Information Bureau Jammu to review the activities for the promotion of Hindi in government communications, focusing on how effectively it has been integrated into the daily operations.

During the two-day visit, the team of officers conducted an inspection of the work already done in terms of Hindi language implementation. The visit aimed to take stock of the current efforts and achievements in promoting the use of Hindi in official communication.

A workshop aimed at promoting Raj Basha in various sectors of public administration and communication was also concluded that focused on the importance of Hindi in promoting national integration enhancing effective communication.

The workshop provided



valuable insights into the best practices for incorporating Hindi in media releases, official documentation and other communication materials. The aim of the session was to enhance the proficiency of the staff and encourage more widespread adoption of the language in government communications and also sensitising staff about the new rules and regulations of the official languages act.

Director, Press Information Bureau Jammu, Neha Jalali in her address emphasized the essential role of Raj Basha in strengthening

the interface between the government and citizens. She said that PIB, both at the national and regional level, plays an essential role in the effective use of Raj Basha to ensure that government communication reaches every citizen in the desired language.

In his address, Assistant Director, Rajbhasha Unit, PIB New Delhi Sh. Pradeep Kumar familiarized the participants with various provisions of the Official Languages Act 1963, 1976, filling of Questionnaire of Committee of Parliament on Official Language. He urged the participants

to issue general administrative orders, circulars, other reports and leave applications in Hindi on a regular basis.

During the workshop, Rajeev Kumar, Junior Translation Officer introduced the new tools and techniques in language typing to the participants and also briefed about relevant software programs designed for efficient communication in Hindi.

The program was also attended by Media and Communication Officers; Zakir Nazeer, Muzafar Wani and other staff members of the PIB, Jammu.

## ABGRF strongly condemns targeted killing of Hindus in Pahalgam

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 23

The Akhil Bharatiya Gau Shala Research Foundation has issued a strong condemnation of the targeted killings of Hindus in Pahalgam, terming the heinous acts as a deliberate attempt to disrupt communal harmony and instill fear among the Hindu community in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement issued today, Adv. P.S. Chandel, Convenor of the

Foundation, and Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj, State President, described the killings as "a brutal genocide rooted in religious hatred" and an alarming reminder of the threats still faced by Hindus in the region.

"These targeted killings are not mere incidents of violence, but a systematic campaign to eliminate an entire community based on their faith," Adv. P.S. Chandel said, adding that such atrocities are not only inhumane but are an assault on the democratic

values and secular spirit of our nation.

Dr. Bhardwaj said, "The time has come for decisive action. We appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately intervene and ensure that those responsible for these crimes are identified and punished with the full force of the law."

Gurmeet Singh, General Secretary called for coordinated intelligence, pre-emptive action, and citizen vigilance to prevent future

incidents. He also urged the government at the Centre to provide security and support to the affected families and communities.

The Foundation members emphasized the need for nationwide solidarity and a firm message that India will not tolerate any form of religiously motivated violence. They further stated that justice must not only be done, but seen to be done, to restore faith in the rule of law and protect the rights of all communities.

## NC stages protest against Pahalgam terror attack on tourists

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) today staged a strong and vociferous protest against the barbaric killing of innocent tourists in the Pahalgam area of South Kashmir.

The party workers assembled in front of Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu and started protest march in residency road, Jammu.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary said the barbaric killing is a great setback to the image of Jammu and Kashmir as a safe tourist destination. "It is tragic that when the region is gradually returning to normalcy, some anti-national elements are trying to sabotage the peace and economic revival of the UT," he said. He added that such incidents are part of a larger conspiracy to instill fear among visitors and derail the progress made in recent years.

Speaking to media persons here today, Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta expressed profound grief and said that such heinous acts are not only a blot on humanity but also a grave setback to




the initiatives taken by the National Conference Government headed by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah aiming to promote peace, communal harmony, and tourism-driven economic development in the Union Territory. He said some anti-national forces are deliberately attempting to derail the peaceful atmosphere that had been steadily improving due to sustained efforts of the NC leadership over the years..

Urging the Central Government and the Union Territory administration to take immediate and concrete measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized the need for enhanced intelligence, stricter security arrangements, and a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President and S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President Jammu YNC reiterated their commitment to stand united against terrorism and uphold the values of peace, communal harmony, and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present included. Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Bimla Luthra former MLA, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat former MLA, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairperson OBC Cell, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Chander Mohan Sharma District President

Jammu Urban, Pinky District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Aruna Thakur District President Ramban Women Wing, Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Ashok Kumar Dogra former Corporator, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Sandeep Singh Wazir Block President Gandhi Nagar, Rakesh Sharma Phalwan District President Jammu Rural A YNC, Mukhand Lal Bhandral, Nitish Goswami, Dr. Vishal Parihar Provincial Vice Presidents YNC, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Muzamil Malik, Majid Iqbal Naik, Gurcharan Singh, Ankit Singh, Jagandeep Singh, Ramesh Abrol, Shabir Sambyal, Rahul Attri, Ashanand, S. Nirmal Singh, Sunil Sharma, Amit Sharma and others.



**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST**  
E-MAIL: [eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com](mailto:eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com)

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**Short e-NIT No. 10 of 2025-2026/Jammu East Dated 22-04-2025**

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Stage Contract for Maintenance of Air Conditioners / Drinking Water Coolers / Water purifiers / Refrigerators etc. installed at J&K Guest Houses at 5, Prithvi Raj Road, Chankyapuri, 7 Akbar Road, New Delhi, and Amritsar for the financial Year 2025-2026	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	9.02	600	2% of Advertised Cost	Upto March 2026	30-04-2025 on or after 1300 Hrs	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

**Position of AAA :- Accorded**

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-04-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23-04-2025 to 28-04-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	25-04-2025 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Asstt. Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Sub-Div. New Delhi
4	Bid submission Start Date	23-04-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	28-04-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	30-04-2025 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No :- 808-18  
Dated :- 22-04-2025

Sd/-  
(Er. Rahat Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Jammu East

**DIP/J-518/25**  
Date: 23-4-25

## Indian Army celebrates World Earth Day and Afforestation Drive at Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 23 APR 2025

On the occasion of World Earth Day, the Indian Army at Samote organised Afforestation Drive at Samote to promote environmental sustainability and raise awareness about ecological conservation. The initiative was part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to counter deforestation and enhance green cover across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The drive is aimed at mitigating climate change and sustaining life. The 'Afforestation Drive' witnessed overwhelming participation from 15 service personnel and 20 local residents, reflecting the shared commitment toward environmental preservation. A total of 18 saplings of various tree species including Bamboo, Acacia Glauca, Senegalia Catechu (Khair), were carefully planted



across the region. The species were chosen for their ecological benefits, such as preventing soil erosion, improving air quality and enhancing biodiversity. The initiative also focused on educating the public about long-term impact of afforestation and the importance of maintaining these saplings. The noble effort was widely appreciated by the local villagers and the Awam,

who pledged to adopt and care for the planted saplings to ensure their growth. The Afforestation Drive not only created environmental awareness but also strengthened the spirit of collective responsibility towards nature. It reflected the Indian Army's dedication to preserving natural resources and building a sustainable future for generations to come.

## GCW Udhampur observes Two-Minute Silence in solidarity with Pahalgam Tragedy Victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR: APRIL 23

In solemn adherence to the directions received from the Divisional Administration and as per the desire of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur observed a two-minute silence in the college campus today across all departments of the college.

This act was carried out as a mark of respect and



solidarity with the civilians who lost their lives in the tragic incident at Pahalgam on 22nd April. Faculty members and administrative staff paid tribute to the departed souls and expressed their heartfelt condolences to

the bereaved families.

The college stands united with the people of Jammu and Kashmir during this time of grief and reiterates its commitment to peace, compassion, and community solidarity.

## Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, VSM, visits Combined Annual Training Camp at NTA Nagrota



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA: 23 APRIL 2025

Major General Anupinder Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate, visited the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC SI) organized by IJK Girls Battalion NCC, Srinagar, at the National Training Academy (NTA), Nagrota.

During his visit, Maj Gen Bevli reviewed the ongoing training sessions and camp activities. He was first presented with a splendid Guard of Honour by the cadets, which he inspected with great appreciation and complimented the cadets on their impeccable turnout and discipline.

He then observed the tent-pitching exercise conducted by cadets from various institutions and encouraged them to strive for excellence. The General Officer also inspected the academic classes being

conducted and witnessed the live firing practice by the cadets, commending their enthusiasm and focus.

Maj Gen Bevli later held a separate session with the Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) and Permanent Instructors (PI Staff), where he motivated them to continue working diligently for the overall development and grooming of the cadets. He also interacted with both staff and cadets, seeking their suggestions for improving the functioning of the academy and training programs.

In his concluding remarks, Maj Gen Bevli praised the efforts of all individuals involved in organizing and conducting the camp. He lauded the high standards of discipline, training, and teamwork on display and encouraged everyone to continue striving for excellence.

## Movement Kalki strongly condemns attack on Journalist in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA: APRIL 23

Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Legal Advisor and Member of the Core Committee of Movement Kalki, has strongly condemned the brutal attack on a media person (Press Reporter of Dainik Jagran) in Kathua, allegedly carried out by BJP workers.

In his statement, Advocate Kohli emphasized, "It is the constitutional prerogative of the media to ask questions and seek accountability. Journalists serve as the voice of the



people, and any attempt to suppress that voice through violence or intimidation is not only unlawful but also undemocratic."

He further stated that being aggrieved or uncomfortable with a question does not justify attacking the questioner, especially

when that questioner is a respected member of the press.

"By attacking a journalist for simply doing their duty, the perpetrators have only exposed their own mindset and disrespect for democratic values and freedom of expression," he added.

Movement Kalki demands immediate and strict action against those responsible for this shameful act and calls on law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety and dignity of media professionals across the region.

## Fix accountability of security agencies on Pahalgam terror attack: Tony

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU: APRIL 23

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, has strongly condemned the barbaric terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, terming it a grave failure of intelligence and a wake-up call for the security apparatus operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a hard-hitting statement issued today, Tony expressed deep anguish over the loss of innocent lives and said that the attack exposes serious lapses in surveillance and coordination among the agencies responsible for securing the Union Territory. "It is not enough to offer condolences after each tragedy. It is time to fix accountability. The heads of concerned



security and intelligence agencies must be held responsible. Unless we pin responsibility, these mistakes will continue to happen," he said.

Tony questioned the priorities of the administration, saying that instead of keeping a close watch on enemy movements and terror sleeper cells, security resources are being misused for political witch-hunting. "When the agencies are used to target the opposition and

suppress dissent, the real enemies slip through. This must stop," he asserted.

He urged the Government of India to revisit its strategy in J&K and ensure a more professional, coordinated, and non-partisan approach to counter-terror operations. He also appealed for foolproof security arrangements ahead of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and tourist season.

Calling the attack an assault on the spirit of Kashmiriyat and India's unity, Tony demanded swift justice for the victims and strict punishment for those involved. "No political gain is worth the blood of our people. Let us stand together as Indians and defeat this menace with unity, sensitivity, and accountability," he concluded.

## BADC condemns Pahalgam terror attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 23

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of the border and tribal populations of J&K, strongly condemns the terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam on Tuesday.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of the BADC expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and injuries inflicted upon civilians by the terrorists.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He said in the fight against terrorism each and every citizen of India is with the government.

The BADC Chairman described the attack as a cowardly and inhuman act. He urged the Government of India to take firm and decisive steps to bring the perpetrators to justice and to ensure the safety and security of all citizens.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Satyari, Rajouri



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 23 APR 2025

In its constant endeavour to understand and touch the basic needs of people in the remote areas of Rajouri especially the Gujjar and Bakkarwals who lack such amenities, Indian Army has initiated the conduct of Medical Patrol wherein the troops while ensuring

safety and security of the local Populace are helping them with their basic medical needs. Indian Army conducted medical patrol in the remote villages of Gunda which has a considerable population of Gujjar and Bakkarwals. They expressed great satisfaction and gratitude towards the Indian Army for the assistance provided.

## Purnima terms Pahalgam terror attack a heinous act of religious extremism

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU: APRIL 23

Advocate Purnima Sharma, senior BJP leader, Spokesperson BJP J&K, and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, issued a strong condemnation of the targeted killing of Hindu tourists in Pahalgam, describing it as a vile and calculated act rooted in religious extremism. She said the attack was not random but a carefully orchestrated act designed to instill fear among Hindus and disrupt communal harmony in the region.

"It is not only heart-breaking but absolutely unacceptable that innocent Hindu visitors were hunted and murdered solely because of their religious identity. This is nothing short of a hate crime, and it exposes the



barbaric mindset of the perpetrators," she stated in a press release issued today.

The senior BJP leader called on security agencies and the administration to enhance surveillance and deploy robust protection mechanisms, especially with the upcoming festival season and the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra approaching. She emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety of pilgrims and tourists who continue to show unwavering faith in

Jammu & Kashmir's spiritual and natural heritage.

Expressing her confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sharma said, "The central government has demonstrated zero tolerance for terrorism, and I trust that the culprits behind this horrific act will be tracked down and dealt with severely."

She further appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain united, vigilant, and not fall prey to any attempts to disturb the peace. "Our message to the enemies of peace is clear—we will not be cowed down. We will stand stronger, speak louder, and continue to protect our way of life with pride and resilience," she asserted.

## Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags, Mosquito Nets for Bakarwal Community at Remote Area, Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 23 APR 2025

In an initiative to improve the living conditions of the Bakarwal community in the remote areas of Poonch district, the Indian Army distributed essential winter gear and health protection items. Recognizing the harsh challenges faced by this nomadic group during winter, the Indian Army provided sleeping bags to offer warmth and mosquito nets to protect against vector-borne dis-

eases prevalent in the region. The distribution event was attended by local leaders and community elders. Given the region's rugged terrain and limited access to basic amenities, such support plays a vital role in safeguarding community health and comfort. The sleeping bags are designed for extreme cold, ensuring warmth for children and the elderly, while the insecticide-treated mosquito nets offer protection from diseases like malaria and

dengue. The community members expressed their appreciation, noting the positive impact on their daily lives. This initiative aligns with broader government efforts to uplift tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir, enhancing their overall living standards. Through such collaborative outreach, the Indian Army continues to bridge the gap between remote populations and essential resources, fostering solidarity and resilience across the district.

## Painting Competition organized for students of GHSS Banihal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANIHAL: 23 APR 2025

In a spirited celebration of young talent and national pride, a painting competition was organized for Govt High School Students. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation from the students, who expressed their creativity through vibrant colors and powerful words, a total of 23 students attended the event. Centred around themes such as "India of my Dreams" and "My Contribution to the Nation" the competition aimed to instil a deep sense of patriotism and civic responsibility among the youth. The painting segment beautifully captured India's natural beauty, cultural heritage and the bravery of our soldiers, while the essays reflected heartfelt

visions for a stronger, self-reliant nation. These competitions were part of the ongoing efforts of the Indian Army to enhance the competitive spirit and achieve the dream of a better nation by the future generation. The event was graced by local educators, parents and community leaders who applauded the confidence and patriotism displayed by the young participants. Judges noted the exceptional quality of the submissions and commended the students for their thoughtful reflections. All participants were recognised and winners received prizes as a token of encouragement. Organisers applauded the Indian Army's commitment to nurturing the spirit of nationalism and creativity in rural India through such initiatives.

## Venugopal, Karra, Mir pay homage to Pahalgam Martyrs at PCR Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR: APRIL 23, 2025

All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary (Org) K.C.Venugopal (MP), JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra and AICC General Secretary G.A Mir on Wednesday paid

homage to innocent lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack at PCR Srinagar. The leaders expressed pain and grief over the mindless and dastardly militant attack in Pahalgam in which 26 innocent tourists were martyred leaving 17 others injured.

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expressed pain and grief over the mindless and dastardly militant attack in Pahalgam in which 26 innocent tourists were martyred leaving 17 others injured. On this occasion K.C.Venugopal said that they are standing there, amidst the pain and silence, one could not help, but feel the cruelty of terror and the unbearable weight it imposes on humanity.

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



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 23

In a solemn tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, along with senior officers and officials of the district administration, observed a two-minute silence today at the DC Office Complex.

The observance was

marked by a sense of collective grief and solidarity as the officers paid homage to those who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident. The Deputy Commissioner expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

He emphasized the importance of standing united in times of tragedy and reaffirmed the district

administration's commitment to ensuring peace, harmony, and support for those affected.

Similarly, ADC Kalakote, ADC Kotranka, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Nowshera, and SDM Thanamandi also led the observance of a two-minute silence in their respective sub-divisions, expressing solidarity with the victims and their families.

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



JI NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, APRIL 23

The District Administration of Reasi, led by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik observed a two-minute silence today to pay solemn tribute to the victims of the recent

terror attack in Pahalgam.

The condolence meeting, held at the DC Office Complex, was attended by officers and officials of the administration who stood in solidarity to honor the lives lost in the tragic incident.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. She also wished a swift and full recovery to those injured in the attack.

## District Admin Udhampur pays homage to terror attack victims



JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 23

The officers and officials of District Administration Udhampur, led by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai,

today paid homage to Pahalgam terror attack victims.

A two minute silence was observed by the officers/officials at a condolence meeting held in the Conference

Hall DC Office Complex. The Deputy Commissioner extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

## Power Shutdown in Baramulla & Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out branch cutting, shutdown of several 33KV lines shall be carried out which will subsequently affect power supply to several areas in Baramulla and Kupwara districts.

In District Kupwara, the shutdown of 33KV Dolipora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Dolipora and Magam shall remain off while power supply to Dolipora and Magam will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 April, 2025.

Also, the shutdown of 33KV Hyhama line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Karihama, Trehgam and Hyhama shall remain off while power supply to Karihama, Trehgam and Hyhama will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 April, 2025.

Similarly, the shutdown of 33KV Tangdar Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Tangdar and Teethwal shall remain off while power supply to Tangdar and Teethwal areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 April, 2025.

26 April, 2025.

Further, the shutdown of 33KV Keran Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Keran shall remain off while power supply to Keran area will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 28 April, 2025.

Likewise, the shutdown of 33KV Kralpora & Tarathpora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Kralpora, Keran, Panzgam, Tangdar, Tehtwal and Tarathpora shall remain off while power supply to Kralpora, Keran, Panzgam, Tangdar, Tehtwal and Tarathpora areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 30 April, 2025.

Moreover, the shutdown of 33KV Handwara Old line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Zachaldara, Adoora and Changimulla shall remain off while power supply to Zachaldara, Adoora and Changimulla areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 & 29 April, 2025.

Additionally, the shutdown of 33KV Handwara Hot line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Handwara, Chogal and

Pohrupeth shall remain off while power supply to Handwara, Chogal and Pohrupeth areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 & 26 April, 2025.

Furthermore, the shutdown of 33KV Kupwara Hot, Kupwara Old, M.E.S line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Tikker, Galizoo, Drugmulla, Khumriyal, Krusen, Diver, Sogam and Machil shall remain off while power supply to Tikker, Galizoo, Drugmulla, Khumriyal, Krusen, Diver, Sogam and Machil areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 26 April, 2025.

Besides, the shutdown of 33KV Kupwara Old shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Krusen, Diver, Sogam and Machil shall remain off while power supply to Krusen, Diver, Sogam and Machil areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 29 April, 2025.

In District Baramulla, the shutdown of 33KV Baramulla-1st shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Baramulla-1st, Kanli Bagh and GMC shall remain off while power supply to Baramulla-1st, Kanli Bagh and GMC areas

will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 03 & 06 May, 2025.

Also, the shutdown of 33KV Baramulla-2nd shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Baramulla-2nd, Bagh-I-Islam, Drangbal and Sheeri shall remain off while power supply to Baramulla-2nd, Bagh-I-Islam, Drangbal and Sheeri will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 06 & 10 May, 2025.

Similarly, the shutdown of 33KV Malpora shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Chandoosa, Malpora, Gantamulla and Sultanpora shall remain off while power supply to Chandoosa, Malpora, Gantamulla and Sultanpora will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 05, 13 & 17 May, 2025.

Further, the shutdown of 33KV URI shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Salamabad Bandi, Mohura and Noorkhah shall remain off while power supply to Salamabad Bandi, Mohura and Noorkhah will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 03, 06 & 10 May, 2025.

Likewise, the shutdown of 33KV Boniyar shall be observed due to which

33/11KV Receiving Stations at Boniyar and Nowshera shall remain off while power supply to Boniyar and Nowshera will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 08 & 13 May, 2025.

Moreover, the shutdown of 33KV Watergam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Watergam, Hachipora and Hadipora shall remain off while power supply to Watergam, Hachipora and Hadipora areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 07, 14 & 20 May, 2025.

Additionally, the shutdown of 33KV SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Rohama, Chakloo, MID Irrigation and Seer shall remain off while power supply to Rohama, Chakloo, MID Irrigation and Seer areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 10 & 17 May, 2025.

Furthermore, the shutdown of 33KV Delina line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Delina, Jety and Sopore-II shall remain off while power supply to Delina, Jety and Sopore-II areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 08, 13 & 17 May, 2025.

## CEO invites public to review Electoral Rolls: SSR Deadline April 24

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 23

The Special Summary Revision (SSR) in the Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota, which commenced on 8th April, 2025, is going to end on 24th April, 2025.

In accordance with the established electoral process, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) have meticulously prepared the lists of claims and objections, which are now available for public scrutiny. These lists, generated in Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B, detail the applications received for inclusion, deletion, correction and transposition of entries in the electoral rolls.

To ensure transparency and facilitate the public participation, these lists have been prominently displayed on the notice boards of the respective ERO offices. Furthermore, the lists are also accessible online through the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, at [www.ceo-jk@nic.in](http://www.ceo-jk@nic.in).

The Chief Electoral Officer has appealed all the electors of Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota to go through the displayed lists so as to ensure accuracy and completeness of the electoral rolls.

The citizens who wish to object to an electoral roll entry or submit a claim can do so by contacting the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Assembly Constituency 27 Budgam or 77 Nagrota, as applicable.

The Chief Electoral Officer has emphasised the importance of active citizen participation in this process, as it is fundamental towards upholding the integrity of the electoral system.

## World Book Day-2025

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

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

A series of events were organized by the Department of Libraries & Research today across Kashmir division to commemorate the World Book & Copyright Day-2025.

As part of the World Book & Copyright Day events, three closed libraries were also made functional today on the initiative of the Principal Secretary Department of Culture. These include Block Libraries of Khanyar (Srinagar) & Khanshab (Budgam) and Border Block Library Villgam (Kupwara).

World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated on April 23 every year to promote the love for reading and writing; power of publishing; making reading accessible for all and the importance of protecting intellectual property through copyright laws. The Day also signifies the potential of books and literature in shaping minds, uniting people, and inspiring social transformation.

Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1995, the day commemorates the passing away of literary legends including William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, all of whom passed away on this day.

This year's theme for World Book and Copyright Day is - "Role of literature in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", which

highlights literature's pivotal role in driving progress towards the SDGs. It emphasises how literature can inspire action and awareness across key global issues such as poverty, hunger, inequality, and more.

To mark the day, today's main event was organized at SPS Central Library complex with an Exhibition of Special Literary Collections including Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings.

The main attractions of the exhibition, jointly organized by SPS Library Srinagar & the Oriental Research Library (ORL) Srinagar, were the historic manuscripts like Qarabai-Din, Sadh PandLuqman and Shahnama Firdous. Some of the rare books including Mahabharata & Ramayana, Rajtarangini by Kalhana, Tareekh-e-Rasheedee, Gazetteer of India and Kashmir - a history of Kashmir were also displayed at the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, ORL Srinagar, Mrs Ishrat Majeed said the Oriental Research Library, Srinagar established in 1904, is a repository of around 6000 rare manuscripts in 17 languages encompassing varied fields. The library also has around 500 rare books and miniature paintings. Ishrat said the manuscript collection of ORL is a treasure-trove of religious, philosophical, historical, literary and scientific

writings rich in classical languages like Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Turki, Brij Bhasha and Arabic. These languages have left deep impression on Kashmiri language by conditioning its growth in terms of forms and scope, she said and added that the Sanskrit, language of court and culture in 9th and beginning of 10th century in Kashmir contributes number of religious, aesthetic and poetic articulations and are preserved in ORL.

Ishrat said such exhibitions make our young generation aware about, the culture, traditions, heritage and history of Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of people from different walks of life visited the exhibition.

Book exhibitions and other activities including literary tours of libraries to discover the magic of books and re-inculcate reading habits among the youth were organised in District and Tehsil Libraries across Kashmir as part of World Book & Copyright Day events.

The Department of Libraries, has for the past few years, laid special emphasis on selection of reference books for students preparing for IAS/KAS/NEET/JEE and other competitive examinations to make productive use of the resources earmarked for the purchase of books resulting in huge boost to the foot-fall of youth in public libraries.

## Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 23

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out the installation of 33 KV insulators from GIS Tengpora, the shutdown of 33KV GIS Tengpora KP Bagh Line, GIS Tengpora Exhibition Line, GIS Tengpora Narkara Line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at KP Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Batamaloo, Exhibition, Rajbagh and Gangbugh shall remain off while power supply to KP Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Danderkha, Rajbagh, Narkara, Gangbugh and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 26 April, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Bemina Exhibition line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Court Complex, GIS Batamaloo shall remain off while power supply to Batamaloo Adda and Mominabad Batamaloo areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 26 April, 2025.

Similarly, to facilitate the stabilization of said feeder from Sazgaripora to Aali Masjid in connection with providing of power supply to STP Ali Jan Road, the shutdown of 33KV Khanyar line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khanyar, Rainawari and Takenwari shall remain off while power supply to Miskeenbagh, Rosabal, Hazaribagh, Kondabal, Hassanabad, Jogi Lankar, Paloura, Sangam, JLNH Hospital areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 26, 28 & 30 April, 2025.

In this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Bagh Ali Mardan Khan-Takenwari line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khanyar, Rainawari and Takenwari shall remain off while power supply to Fateh