

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

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

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## NIA searches multiple locations across 6 states

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 25 (KNO)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted extensive searches at multiple locations across Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and other states across India in a case linked to Pakistan-backed cross-border smuggling of arms and narcotics by Khalistani operatives.

Several electronic devices and other incriminating materials were recovered during the searches, conducted on Thursday at 18 locations in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka, a statement issued to the

news agency. According to the spokesman, the NIA teams are examining the seized items to unravel the entire conspiracy behind the smuggling and the radicalization of individuals in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and other parts of India.

The searches were conducted on Thursday at the premises of suspected individuals connected to Pakistan-based entities in case RC-18/2024/NIA/DLI, registered by the anti-terror agency on 20th December 2024. The suspects under the scanner are aligned with the ideology of proscribed unlawful associations/

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Ground Zero: DGP Prabhat leads anti-terror operations, houses of 2 terrorists linked to carnage razed

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, security forces have intensified anti-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the details available with the news agency Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat is personally supervising multiple ongoing anti-terrorist operations in Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and



Shopian in South Kashmir. **HOUSES OF 2 TERRORISTS RAZED**

"The security forces during search of Asif Sheikh's -terrorist involved in #pahalgamattack- house at Moghama Tral a suspicious box was found. Wires were protruding out of the box. After confirmation by #IndianArmy

**RR's Engineers team it was destroyed in-situ resulting in explosion. In the explosion the house was partially damaged. No loss of life was reported, as the area was cleared and neighbouring houses were evacuated,"** the official said, as per KNO.

He said the house of another terrorist Aadil Thokar of Bijbehara was demolished this morning.

Police said that both are active terrorists and are linked to the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## SECURITY REVIEW MEETING HELD IN SRINAGAR

### Bring Pahalgam killers to justice, dismantle entire terror ecosystem in J&K: LG Sinha to Army Chief



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday told Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to take effective steps to bring perpetrators of Pahalgam carnage to justice and also intensify efforts to crush infrastructure of terrorism and its ecosystem.

The Army Chief who arrived in Srinagar this morning, according to the news agency called on LG Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.

"Chaired a security review meeting today with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava," LG Sinha wrote on X.

The Lieutenant Governor during the meeting said the nation has full faith in the bravery and valour of our army, police and CAPFs and they must work in close synergy to identify perpetrators, enablers and OGWs of Pahalgam terrorist killing and pursue the entire chain in a sustained manner and neutralise them.

"Every perpetrator and supporter of Pahalgam terror attack, whatever his location or affiliation, must be hunted and they must pay the heavy price for the cowardly and dastardly act against our citizens," the Lieutenant Governor told the top army officials.

The meeting also reviewed security mechanisms in place, various short-term, long-term measures and integration and coordination among the various security agencies. The meeting was attended by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, General Dwivedi

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG summons special session of Legislative Assembly on April 28 to discuss Pahalgam attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

J&K's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday summoned the special session of Legislative Assembly on April 28 to "discuss" Pahalgam attack.

The LG issued the summon after the cabinet led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recommended to him to summon the special session of Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir on April 28, 2025 at Jammu.

"I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to meet at Jammu on Monday, the 28th of April, 2025 at 10.30 A.M.," reads the summon, a copy of which lies with the news agency.

According to sources, the Assembly session is expected to include an obituary reference for the victims of Pahalgam attack as well as condem-

nation of the attack.

"The House could also pass a resolution to condemn the attack," they said, adding that there are no restrictions on passing a resolution to condemn the attack.

This is the second time in J&K's history when Assembly has been convened to discuss civilian killings by militants. In 2001, the autumn session of J&K legislature was extended by one day to pay homage to civilians killed in terror attack on Assembly complex. KNO

## 2-minute silence in Jamia Masjid response to hatred on TV channels: CM Omar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday said that two-minute silence observed at Jamia Masjid today is a response to the Television channels, who spread hatred against the people of Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters at SKICC, Omar, as per

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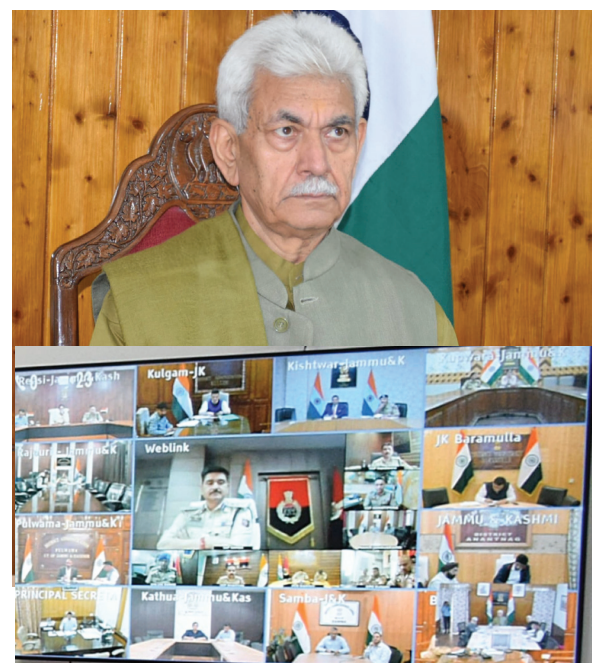
**CM deposes cabinet ministers to various cities to ensure safety of J&K residents**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday deposed cabinet ministers to different cities across the country to ensure safety of Jammu and Kashmir residents. Pertinently, the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG asks DCs, SSPs to ensure exit of Pak nationals from J&K



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed to take appropriate action and ensure the exit of Pakistani nationals from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor, as per the news agency chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police and passed strict directions in

this regard. "Chaired a meeting of DCs and SSPs. Directed them to take appropriate and necessary action to ensure exit of Pakistani nationals from J&K UT as per the deadline notified by Ministry of Home Affairs," Office of LG J&K wrote on X.

Pertinently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier directed the states to identify

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Opposition stands with Govt on terror response: Rahul Gandhi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the entire opposition stands firmly behind the government in its response to the terror incident in Pahalgam that left over two dozen people dead and several injured.

Addressing a quickly arranged presser in Srinagar alongside Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra and senior Congress



leader G A Mir, Gandhi, as per the news agency, said, "We had a meeting yesterday with the government. The united opposition condemned this attack and assured full support for whatever action the government wants to take."

Gandhi, who arrived in the valley Friday morning, expressed

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## 2 cops injured in Bandipora gunbattle

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

Two policemen were injured in an ongoing gunbattle in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

They said the gunbattle that broke out in the early hours is underway in the Ajas forest of the district.

Officials said a search operation was launched in the forest area following an input. They said as the security forces headed to a hideout, militants opened fire on the troops, triggering a gunbattle.

"In the initial firing two policemen were injured,"

**India, Pak armies exchange fire in Nowgam sector**

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

Amid the escalating tension over the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian and Pakistan armies exchanged small arms fire in Nowgam sector in Kupwara district, official sources said.

The incident occurred just hours ahead of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

they said. However, police has not confirmed any injuries to its men so far.

The Army on Friday said a joint search operation was launched with the police at Kolnar Ajas, Bandipora following a specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists.

"Contact was established and firefight ensued. Operation is in progress," Army Srinagar based Chinar Corps said.

A day earlier, security forces had arrested four suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of Lashkar in the district

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## Pahalgam terror attack evokes massive response from country's leadership

- PM Modi cut short his Saudi visit ● HM Shah landed in Kashmir within few hours ● Rajnath hints at big revenge ● CCS pulls plug on Pak, suspends IWT
- Opposition offers unconditional support to Govt ● Omar led APM supports Centre's response to terror attack ● Rahul Gandhi arrives in Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, evoked a massive response from the country's political leadership.

The news about the terrorists killing unarmed tourists at Baisaran meadows nestled in Himalayas in South Kashmir plunged entire country into mourning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short his Saudi Arabia trip and flew back to New Delhi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Kashmir barely a few hours after the gruesome attack. He chaired a security review meeting at Raj Bhavan here, paid tributes to the civilians killed in the attack, met the injured at Anantnag Hospital and visited Baisaran, the terror attack site.

After winding up his Kashmir visit Shah, according to the news agency wrote on X: "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."

**INDIA PULLS PLUG ON PAK**

After his return from Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and the government announced that "blood and water cannot flow together."

The CCS announced a series of measures targeting Pakistan after the meeting was apprised about the Pahalgam terror attack having cross border linkages.

After the meeting ended Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri informed the media that the

government has decided to put the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance with immediate effect. "The decision will remain in force until Pakistan credibly and irreversibly ends its support for cross-border terrorism," he said, adding, "The integrated checkpoint at Attari has been closed with immediate effect. Pakistani nationals who entered India through valid

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## J&K Students Association meets Rahul Gandhi in Srinagar; Seeks urgent measures for safety of Kashmiri Students

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Friday met the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in Srinagar to raise alarm over the increasing incidents of harassment, intimidation, and threat calls received by Kashmiri students studying in various parts of the country.

The delegation, led by the Association's National Convenor Nasir Khuehami, held a detailed one-on-one meeting with Gandhi lasting over 30 minutes. Khuehami provided a ground-level account of the growing insecurity and psychological trauma faced by Kashmiri students, especially in the wake of surcharged national events and divisive political rhetoric.



oric.

During the meeting, Khuehami urged the Leader of Opposition to take urgent, time-bound, and concrete steps to guarantee the safety, dignity, and mental well-being of Kashmiri students. He demanded institutional safeguards to prevent profiling, ensure protection on campuses, and establish quick redressal mechanisms for students in distress.

Leader of Opposition, expressing deep concern, strongly condemned the recent spate of incidents and stated, "It is very important that all of us stand together, stay united, and fight this nasty and divisive mindset. We must defeat hate in all its forms and confront terrorism with unity, not by targeting the innocent."

He added, "It is deeply unfortunate that some people are attacking my

brothers and sisters from Kashmir in different parts of the country. These are fringe elements with no place in our society. Kashmir is an integral part of India – their rights, dignity, and safety are non-negotiable. This climate of fear must end."

Assuring prompt intervention, Gandhi said he would personally raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit

Shah. "Those who harass or intimidate Kashmiri students without any cause, must face the full force of the law. FIRs must be filed, and the culprits detained. We must set a precedent that this kind of hate will not be tolerated," he emphasized.

The delegation included prominent student leaders Danish Lone, Faizan Peer, Shakir Parray, and Irshad Samoon. They presented specific cases of abuse and harassment and called for nationwide institutional support, enhanced campus security, and accessible mental health services for affected students.

The Association stressed that education must not become hostage to prejudice, and Kashmiri students must be allowed to pursue their studies in a safe and inclusive environment.

## SKUAST-K conducts awareness cum seed distribution prog for tribal farmers at Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

The KVK Budgam in collaboration with KVK Pulwama held a Seed Distribution cum Awareness Programme of Tribal Farmers of Budgam under the project 'Outreach of Technology and Distribution of Farming Tools for ST and Low-Income Farmers funded under the Tribal Sub-Plan.

The aim of the programme was to distribute high quality potato and maize seeds among Tribal farmers. About 60 farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block participated in the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof Raihana H. Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K who

was the chief guest on the occasion.

In her address to farmers, she encouraged them to come forward for such developmental initiatives to augment agriculture in their region & to optimize production for sustenance and commercial viability using new technologies.

She also stressed on adoption and dissemination of these high yielding varieties of potato and maize. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming in Tribal Areas of Kashmir.

Dr. Javid A. Mughal, Principal Investigator of the project, shared the key highlights of the project in enhancing liveli-

hood of farmers. Dr. Bilal A. Lone, Prof & Head KVK Budgam, briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating such programmes through on farm trials and front-line demonstrations at farmers field.

Dr Ambreen Nabi, Scientist KVK, deliberated upon the Packages of Practices of Potato (Kufri Jyoti) to be adopted throughout the Tribal Area. Farmers of Lobran have been hand-held by KVK Budgam for creating sustainable production systems in oilseeds, paddy & other crops through provision of farming tools from time to time.

Scientists from SKUAST-K and KVK Budgam and technical staff also attended the programme.

## RAMP scheme outreach gains momentum in Kathua through JKTPO-led District Level Workshop on RAMP Awareness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 25

The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in association with the SPIU- Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Kathua, successfully organized a District Level Awareness Workshop today at SICOP Conference hall Kathua under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The workshop aimed to sensitize and inform Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the district about the various support mechanisms, reforms, and assistance available under the RAMP program for enhancing the competitiveness, access to



finance and capacity building of MSMEs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was graced by Shri Suryavanshi, Functional Manager, DIC Kathua, who highlighted the importance of this initiative in fostering industrial development in the region and encourag-

ing more MSMEs to avail benefits under the RAMP scheme. Other speakers also addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights regarding MSME credit access and institutional support.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 50 MSME

stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, industry representatives, implementing agencies, and officials from various departments involved in MSME development. Interactive sessions were conducted to spread awareness on key components of the RAMP scheme.

Representatives from SPIU - GT provided an in-depth presentation on the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Implementation of RAMP scheme being implemented in the Union Territory under RAMP, with a focus on priority interventions that address the unique challenges faced by J&K-based MSMEs.

The event also served as a platform for local MSMEs to voice their concerns, seek clarifications, and understand the processes involved in accessing RAMP-linked interventions.

The workshop concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to work collaboratively in strengthening the MSME ecosystem of the district and ensuring inclusive and sustainable industrial growth.

## Helpline established at CM's Raabita office for J&K students studying outside following reports of harassment

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

In the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and alarming reports of assaults, harassment, and threats targeting students from Jammu & Kashmir across various parts of the country, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has taken swift and decisive action to ensure the safety and welfare of its students studying outside the Union Territory.

A dedicated toll-free helpline - 1800-8900-166 - has been set up at the Raabita Office in Srinagar to extend support and assistance to any student facing intimidation or threat. The helpline will operate

round-the-clock and is equipped to address grievances, offer assistance, and

coordinate with local authorities wherever needed.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep concern over the unfolding situation and reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to uphold the rights, dignity of every student from Jammu & Kashmir and ensure a safe environment for them, no matter where they are pursuing their education.

"We humbly and earnestly appeal to the governments of all States and Union Territories, in these trying times, to come forward with unwavering commitment to protect the Kashmiri students and citizens who find themselves far from home. These individuals, whether traveling or residing outside Jammu and Kashmir, must be safeguarded against any form of harassment, discrim-

ination, or intimidation," - pronounced by a resolution passed yesterday at the All Party Meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir urges all educational institutions and state administrations across the nation to ensure the safety of students from J&K and to take firm action against any individuals or groups attempting to disrupt communal harmony.

Students and their families have been asked to report any incident or concern via the toll-free helpline. The government assures swift response and necessary support in every genuine case reported.

For assistance, those in distress have been asked to call: 1800-8900-166 (Toll-Free).

## DC chairs Single Window Committee meeting to review mining issues in Poonch District



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 25

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting of District Level Single Window Committee (DLSWC) here today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex to address critical mining issues in the district.

As the chairman of the District Level Single Window Committee (DLSWC), Deputy Commissioner led discussions on the execution of mining leases and related concerns.

The meeting featured

in-depth discussions on various aspects, including title verification, site plans, and the issuance and clearance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for newly identified mineral blocks. A significant focus was placed on strengthening control and regulatory measures to ensure strict compliance with mining regulations.

The DC reviewed the case-wise status of NOCs under the Single Window Clearance system, assessing the clearance processes of various stakeholders and the status of joint

inspections.

He instructed the Officers to visit these sites to ensure that mineral leasing does not create detrimental effects or environment. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the regulations prescribed by the Geology and Mining Department while granting NOCs.

The Deputy Commissioner also urged officers to adopt a vigilant and proactive approach in identifying illegal activities related to mineral extraction. He called for strict action against violators and stressed the necessity of implementing appropriate legal and punitive measures.

ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACR Mohammad Sayeed; DFO, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Soil Conservation Officer, Tehsildars, DMO, Executive Engineers and other concerned attended the meeting.

## JKTPO conducts District-Level RAMP awareness workshop at Samba to boost MSME Ecosystem

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, APRIL 25

A District-Level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop was successfully organized at the Conference Hall, DC Office here today.

The event was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) - Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Samba.

Organized under the guidance of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, the workshop aimed to enhance awareness about the RAMP scheme's vision, components, and opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the district.

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome address by Sh. Gurpreet Singh, General Manager, DIC Samba, who expressed his appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of stakeholders from various departments and institutions.

The workshop was



graced by the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, who served as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he emphasized the critical role of entrepreneurship in economic development. He encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs, implementing agencies, and all participants to foster a spirit of innovation and actively support budding entrepreneurs. "By empowering new entrepreneurs, we can not only boost economic growth but also create meaningful employment opportunities across the district," he stated.

SPIU Team (Grant Thornton) delivered an in-depth presentation on the RAMP scheme in Jammu & Kashmir. The team provided comprehensive insights into the various interventions under the RAMP initiative, highlighting its significant impact on the region's development. The detailed presentation

underscored the scheme's objectives and implementation strategies, demonstrating the commitment to fostering growth and progress in J&K.

The event witnessed active participation from Project Managers, Functional Managers, officials from implementing agencies such as the Handloom & Handicrafts Department, Labour Department, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), and students from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Samba, among others.

The workshop served as a platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and strategic dialogue to improve the MSME ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir, in line with the objectives of the RAMP program supported by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and the World Bank.

## Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

According to Chief Engineer, KPDC that in order to carry out routine preventive maintenance work of receiving stations & 33KV lines emanating from Grid station Kanipora, power supply to receiving stations including Keller, Kanipora, Shadimarg and feeding areas including Keller, Moshward, Shadimarg, Kanipora, Hotline Keller, Gatipora, Khathalan, Nadpora, Qasbayar, Abhama, Sangerwani shall remain affected on April 28 from 10Am to 5Pm.

Similarly, power supply to IGC receiving station & feeding areas IGC Aglar A, B and New Fruit Mandi shall remain affected on April 28 from 10Am to 5Pm.

Also, power supply to receiving stations including Arhama, Pinjoora, Chowdigrund and feeding areas including Pinjoora, Zahnoo, Trenz, Imamsahab, Kiloora, Shirmal, Pawnoo, Arhama, Vehil, Kachdora, Nowgam, Reshnagri, Bemmipora shall remain affected on May 01 from 10Am to 5Pm.

Likewise, for Laying of conductor over 13m long ST Poles for shifting of 33KV Lassipora- Keegam line near Kashmir Fruit Preserves/Lotus Agro, the power supply to receiving stations including Keegam

Mitrigam, Gulshanabad, Chararipora and feeding areas including Keegam, Hawal, Rajpora, Akhal, Gulshanabad, Mitrigam, Rohamoo, Murran, Chararipora, Pakherpora, Kamrazipora shall remain affected on April 27 from 10Am to 5Pm.

For stabilization & augmentation of 33KV Line, the power supply to receiving stations including IE Khrew, 33KV Dedicated installations, Cement plants and feeding areas shall remain affected on April 28 from 10Am to 4Pm.

The power supply to receiving stations including Pampore-I & Pampore-II shall also remain affected on April 28 from 10Am to 4Pm.

In view of shifting of electrical utilities on O4 Lane Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Bypass, the power supply from 33kv HMT line to receiving stations Singhpora, Murgund, Kalsari Shadipora and feeding areas shall remain affected on April 26 from 10Am to 4Pm.

## Arvind meets Commissioner Secretary HUDD, stresses for Community-Centric Development in Toph Sherkhaniyan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today met with Ms. Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department and highlighted the pressing need for community infrastructure in Toph Sherkhaniyan area of Jammu.



During the meeting, Arvind Gupta drew attention to a vacant land parcel adjacent to the Electric Sub-Station in Toph Sherkhaniyan, currently owned by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA). Highlighting the dense population and growing urban needs of the locality, Gupta requested that the land be utilized for the benefit of residents through the development of key community facilities. He proposed a multipurpose hall for community events, indoor gaming zones for youth, a

library and reading room for students, and a welfare club for senior citizens to promote engagement and well-being.

He emphasized that such initiatives would significantly contribute to the social, educational, and recreational fabric of the region, fostering a strong sense of community and improving the overall quality of life.

The MLA appreciated the government's ongoing efforts under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), particularly the recent Rs. 3500

lakh proposal by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) which includes construction of drains and deep drains in Ward No. 32 (Rs. 2000 lakh) and a multilevel car parking facility at SMGS Hospital, Shalamar, Jammu (Rs. 1500 lakh). He stressed that while such infrastructure investments are crucial, parallel attention must be given to localized community development to ensure inclusive urban growth.

Arvind Gupta urged the Commissioner Secretary to direct concerned depart-

ments to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed community facilities and initiate necessary steps for early execution. He expressed optimism that the administration would consider the request positively and work collaboratively to deliver meaningful solutions to the residents of Jammu West.

The MLA reiterated his commitment to ensuring holistic development in his constituency and thanked the Commissioner Secretary for her patient hearing and proactive approach.

The Commissioner Secretary gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by MLA Arvind Gupta and assured that the matter would be examined on priority. She acknowledged the significance of developing inclusive community spaces in urban areas like Toph Sherkhaniyan and assured that necessary directions would be issued to the concerned officers for assessing feasibility and preparing a detailed project report.

## World Malaria Day 2025 observed across district Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 25

World Malaria Day 2025 was observed across District Doda by organizing awareness events under this year's theme, "Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite."

The observance was held under the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, and State Malariologist J&K, Dr. D. J. Raina.

The main event was organized by the District Malaria Unit Doda at Government ANMT School Doda, where Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar was the chief guest.

The event was attended by Vidya Kotwal, Principal of Government ANMT School; Umar Anayat, District Epidemiologist; Mohammad Shafi Attu, and Malaria Staff members including Basharat Ahmed Mir, Liaqat Ali Zargar, Mohammad Akbar Dev and Rajinder Parshad, faculty members Naveeda Anjum and Saima Kousar along with a large number of students.

The CMO educated the participants about malaria, its symptoms, transmission methods, and emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, timely treatment, and pre-



ventive measures such as using mosquito nets and maintaining hygiene.

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) material on malaria prevention was distributed among the students and other attendees by the Malaria Unit staff.

Earlier, the programme began with a welcome address by Incharge Media Desk Health Department Faizan A. Trambo, who also elaborated on the significance of World Malaria Day and the global initiatives aimed at eliminating this preventable disease. Meanwhile, similar

awareness programmes were organized across other blocks of the district, including Assar, Gandoh, and Bhaderwah, under the supervision of respective Block Medical Officers. Health professionals in these areas also conducted educational sessions on malaria awareness, prevention, and control.

The day served as a vital platform to reaffirm the Health Department's commitment toward a malaria-free future and to strengthen community participation in the fight against malaria.

## Efforts on to get BSF jawan's release from Pakistani rangers : Sukanta

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, APR 25

Union minister Sukanta Majumdar on Thursday assured the family members of a BSF jawan, detained by the Pakistani Ranger after accidentally crossing the border on Wednesday, that every effort was being taken to get his release at the earliest.

The Border Security Force (BSF) jawan, Purnab Kumar Shaw, was detained by Pakistan Rangers on Wednesday after he accidentally crossed the zero line in the Ferozepur sector, officials said on Thursday.

"Today, I spoke directly with his family and assured them that they are not alone. The Government of India stands firmly with them. The Central Government is making every possible effort, both diplomatically and administratively, to bring this courageous soldier back to his homeland," Majumdar said in his X handle.

"We do not fear intimidation from anyone. India stands resolutely beside every brave soldier. No one has the power to weaken our nation. Every child of Bharat Mata is our pride, and we remain unwavering in our commitment to protect their honour. Jai Hind! Bharat Mata ki Jai!" the union minister said.

The BSF Constable Shaw is the resident of Rishra in the Hooghly district.

Shaw's wife Rajni appealed to the West Bengal government and the Centre to ensure her husband's safe return. "I came to know from one of his colleagues who just informed me that he has been held by Pakistani Rangers and that flag meetings were going on to bring him back. I would appeal to the state and Union government to ensure that my husband returns home safely at the earliest," she told media today.

## GCW Srinagar organises workshop on 'Media and Information Literacy'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

Government College for Women, M.A Road Srinagar organised a workshop on 'Media and Information Literacy' here today.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the college.

The workshop was attended by faculty members of the college and was aimed to build their capacity to navigate the evolving media landscape and combat misinformation.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq said, "Fake news has emerged as a major problem across the world so it is important that we are well equipped with essential media literacy skills to critically assess media content so that we act as informed and responsible citizens. Without proper media literacy, people fall prey to misinformation and

manipulation." She said there is a need for more such workshops to spread awareness among people regarding the importance of verifying online content.

The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Afsana Rashid, Assistant Professor, Media Education Research Centre (MERC), Kashmir University and a certified Fact-Shala trainer. The workshop covered various themes including media bias, misinformation ecosystems, deepfakes, artificial intelligence, and critical thinking.

In her presentation, Dr. Afsana differentiated misinformation and disinformation. She shared the tips to identify the fake information and stay safe online. The resource person also shared some valuable online platforms designed to boost media and information literacy skills.

Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. Suhail Ahmad said the department has been

conducting fact-checking workshops with Google certified trainers on regular basis in recent years.

"We have all been complaining about fake news. Even a section of mainstream media has been found guilty of peddling fake news so much so that these days you don't feel like watching TV news sometimes. That is why such workshops are so important," Dr. Suhail added.

The workshop was part of the FactShala University Network programme supported by Google News Initiative and developed by DataLEADS, an award-winning digital media and tech company with focus on information ecosystem, data research and media literacy.

The workshop concluded with a discussion session in which participants shared their personal experiences about the deluge of information and the difficulties faced in verifying the authenticity of online content these days.

## DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Revenue Department



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 25

In a bid to strengthen the efficiency and transparency of the Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal gave a detailed presentation highlighting key aspects and current status of the department's functioning.

The discussion covered various critical areas including the progress under the Digital India Land

Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), land acquisition cases for developmental projects, issuance of land passbooks, disposal of grievances on JK SAMADHAN, and pending mutations, including those related to defense land.

The DC underscored the importance of timely and efficient service delivery, calling on all concerned officers to expedite the resolution of pending cases to bolster public trust and transparency in the system.

Reviewing the status of online grievance redressal and service delivery, the DC directed all Tehsildars to personally monitor the relevant online portals

and ensure prompt and high-quality disposal of grievances. He further instructed that there should be zero pendency in online services so that applicants do not face unnecessary delays.

Interacting with the officers, the DC emphasized the need to address public concerns effectively and ensure seamless service delivery across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihagi; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM Kangan; Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Pathwaris, and other concerned officials.

## Power shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ransoo, Shivkhori, Bharakh Back, Daqda, Laiter and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 26 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Katra, Chintamani, Simsam Hotel, American Hotel, Jammu Road, Kun, Agharjito, Arnas, Dharmari, Mahore, Sarbaga, Gulabgarh, Chassana, Pabasa and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 27 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ratnuchak, MES and Industry will remain affected on April 27 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Sawanchack, Shastri Nagar, Kalibari, Shiva Nagar, Patel Nagar, Police Line and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 27 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-III, JPDCL, Batote has informed that the power supply to Housing Colony and Generation Colony will remain affected on April 26, 28 and May 05 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Sangaldan, Banihal, Hinjal, Khari, Nachlana and other adjoining areas will remain affected on April 26, 28, 30 and May 02 from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Police attaches property worth lacs of a terror handler based in Pakistan in Handwara

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
HANDWARA, APR 25

Police in Handwara after obtaining attachment order passed by Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court Handwara attached property measuring 13 Marlas worth lacs belonging to terror handler based in Pakistan namely Habibullah Ganie son of Ab Rehman Ganie resident of Palpora Qaziabad.

The action was taken under sections of 88 CrPc (83 central) & is linked with case FIR No. 73/2011 U/S 2/3 EIMCO Act, 121-A RPC of Police Station Kralgund.

The property was identified belonging to absconders during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the terror activities.

## District NCORD Committee discusses anti-drug measures in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, APRIL 25

Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss and review measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotics trade in the district.

During the meeting, extensive deliberations were held on issues pertaining to drug addiction, identification of areas of concern, and hotspots of drug abuse. Besides, measures undertaken by law enforcement agencies to combat this menace were thoroughly examined.

The ADC emphasis on creating awareness against drug abuse and



sharing success stories of drug de-addiction. He also directs to identify the persons indulged in drug peddling so that appropriate and timely action can be taken against them.

The Chief Education Officer was tasked with launching an extensive

awareness campaign in schools to educate students about the perils of drug abuse.

Among others, SDM Hiranagar, ACD Kathua, CMO, CEO, DSWO Kathua, Dy. SP Hqrs Kathua, Officers from BSF and other departments were also present.

## GDC Anantnag organized solidarity march

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

The Government Degree College (GDC), Anantnag, on Thursday organized a solidarity and condolence march to mourn the tragic loss of more than 26 innocent lives in the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The march was led by the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Malik in which teaching, non-teaching staff and students, came together to express their grief and condemned the heinous and barbaric act. The college administration expressed their



solidarity with the families of the victims. The college staff expressed their deep regret on the loss of innocent lives and expressed solidarity with the deceased families to

bear the irreparable loss of their loved ones.

While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolence, the staff members prayed for the peace to the departed souls and

patience for their near and dear ones and recovery of the persons injured during the incident.

The smooth conduct of March was facilitated by J&K Police Anantnag.

**FROM THE FRONT PAGE...**

**Ground Zero: DGP Prabhat...**

Pahalgam attack. Meanwhile, two policemen were injured in an encounter with terrorists in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday. "Following a tip off security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Kulnar Bazipora in Bandipora district. The search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding terrorists opened fire on the security forces' positions," said an official.

He said two policemen were injured in the firing by terrorists.

**NIA TAKES OVER PROBE**

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team, led by Inspector General Vijay Sakhare, currently stationed in Srinagar has formally taken over the probe with logistical and intelligence support from Jammu and Kashmir Police, sources told KNO.

They said the probe agency is looking into both local and cross-border links that could have played a role in orchestrating the attack.

Meanwhile, a team of forensic experts visited Baisaran, terror attack site, in Pahalgam to collect the evidence.

**DRONES, CHOPPERS PRESSED INTO SERVICE**

"Security forces have intensified searches at the houses of active terrorists and suspected OGWs in districts like Shopian, Pulwama, and Anantnag," said an official, adding, "The operations are aimed at uncovering any support network or safe houses that may have aided the attackers before or after the assault."

The official said that choppers and drones are being used to look for the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

He said that security has been beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir and a strict vigil is being maintained.

**INDIA-PAK ARMIES EXCHANGE FIRE**

Pakistan Army soldiers used small arms to fire at an Indian position along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, the officials said, adding that Indian soldiers retaliated and gave a befitting reply. However, no casualties were reported on either side.

The United Nations has urged India and Pakistan "to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure that the situation and the developments we've seen do not deteriorate any further."

Pertinently, a special forces para commando of the Army was killed in an encounter with terrorists in the Dudu-Basantgarh area of Udhampur district on Thursday.

The joint search operation was launched by the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the CRPF, following specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists in the area. "The operation began early Thursday morning in the dense forests of Basantgarh. During the mission, contact was established with a group of 3-4 suspected terrorists, believed to have recently infiltrated across the international border. A heavy exchange of gunfire ensued in which one para commando lost his life and two others sustained injuries," said an official.

**SEARCH OPERATIONS IN JAMMU REGION**

Security forces are conducting massive search operations in Udhampur, Kathua, Hiranagar and other areas.

As per KNO, a massive search operation was launched in Jammu Kathua after a woman claimed to have seen four suspicious men.

Personnel of J&K Police's Special Operations Group reached the spot and launched a combing operation. Searches were on when this report was filed.

Meanwhile, searches were conducted in the Chann Rorian area near the Railway Yard in Hiranagar sector in Kathua district on Friday. "The operation was initiated following inputs about suspicious movement in the vicinity of the railway yard. Joint teams of police and security forces cordoned off the area and carried out thorough checks in nearby fields and residential pockets," said an official, adding that the searches are underway to ensure there are no threats to vital installations.

**RS 20 LAKH REWARD FOR INFO ON PERPETRATORS**

The Jammu and Kashmir Police released the sketches of three terrorists involved in the attack and announced a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh for credible information leading to the "neutralization" of terrorists involved Pahalgam terror attack.

A police poster circulated 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

**NIA searches multiple...**

terrorist organisations, as per NIA investigations, the statement reads.

NIA investigations have further revealed that these entities have been conspiring via social media platforms, and are in regular contact with foreign-based handlers suspected to be Pro-Khalistani Elements (PKEs), as part of the conspiracy aimed at destabilizing India, it reads, adding that NIA is continuing with its investigations in the case. KNO

**Bring Pahalgam killers...**

during his visit assessed the ground situation in Kashmir.

He later chaired a meeting in Udhampur to assess the security situation at the Northern Command headquarters.

During his visit, he was briefed on the security conditions along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch and Rajouri districts, as well as in other areas south of the Pir Panjal mountain ranges, according to Army officials.

They said he received briefings on operations along the LoC with particular focus on the Poonch and Rajouri regions and the southern slopes of the Pir Panjal range. These areas have seen previous infiltra-

tion attempts and are under increased surveillance. KNO

**2-minute silence in...**

news agency everyone should be satisfied that Jamia Masjid observed 2-minute silence to express solidarity with the Pahalgam attack victims.

"It is the response to the channels who spread hatred against Kashmiris, but they will not telecast it as their channels won't run such things. Some anchors are cowards, who don't support the truth. If they support then they could have telecast the silence observed in Jamia Masjid," he said.

He also said that cabinet ministers have been deputed to the various cities across the country and will meet respective governments to ensure safety of Kashmiris.

Addressing concerns regarding harassment faced by Kashmiri students and traders outside Kashmir, he informed the gathering that he had spoken directly with the Union Home Minister, who assured him of necessary protective measures. An advisory will be issued in this regard, and the Home Minister has also personally reached out to several state Chief Ministers.

Omar Abdullah said that he too has spoken to his counterparts in other states to ensure the safety of Kashmiris across India.

On being asked about Centre's decision to put the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance, the Chief Minister said that as a state government, they have never been in support of the IWT. He said that they always believed that the IWT is the most unfair document.

On being asked if the Pahalgam brave heart, who lost his life while saving tourists, will be awarded posthumously, the Chief Minister said that he is the symbol of Kashmir's hospitality and it is their responsibility to reward him and his family.

He also said that the Maharashtra tour and travels have already said that they will adopt his family and take care of the education of his school-going children.

The Chief Minister met various business stakeholders at the SKICC to discuss and deliberate on several issues in the wake of the deadly Pahalgam attack.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Minister's adviser Nasir Aslam Wani, additional chief secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bidhuri, deputy commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Commissioner secretary Tourism department Yasha Mudgal and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani said, "This incident has shaken us to the core." He appreciated the people of Kashmir for rising in protest against the attack and sending a clear message across the country and the world that "this act has no place in our society or our religion."

Earlier, stakeholders from the tourism sector unanimously condemned the attack, calling it a "murder of humanity." They emphasized that the Valley is in deep mourning and that commercial concerns are secondary at this time.

They proposed several measures, including: formation of a coordination committee comprising administration, security agencies, and tourism stakeholders; protection and welfare of Kashmiri students and businesspersons outside Kashmir.

Besides, they suggested the Establishment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs) at key tourist destinations and countering misinformation and biased media narratives.

The Chairman of Raja & Rani Tour and Travels informed the gathering that the Maharashtra Tour and Travel Operators' Association has pledged to adopt Syed Adil Hussain's family.

The association will support the educational needs of his children and provide long-term assistance to his family.

Furthermore, the association has decided that no tour bookings to Kashmir will be cancelled, in a strong show of support and solidarity. KNO

**CM deposes cabinet...**

people including traders as well as the students outside Jammu have been facing harassment following the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead and several others injured on April 22.

According to the news agency, Office of Chief Minister, J&K, in a post on X, said the government will stand with its people—anywhere, everywhere.

"With a view to instilling a sense of security among our students and businessmen currently in other states, I have deputed my Cabinet Ministers to various cities across the country. The purpose of these visits is to coordinate efforts with the respective State Governments and ensure the safety and well-being of J&K residents.

The J&K Government will stand with its people—anywhere, everywhere," the post reads. KNO

**Opposition stands...**

solidarity with the victims and said the intention behind the attack was to divide society. "It is very important that every single Indian stands united. We must defeat what the terrorists are trying to do," he said.

The Congress leader said that he met one of the injured victims and was also briefed on the situation by the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister J&K.

"My love and affection is for everyone who lost their family members. The whole nation is standing together as one," Gandhi said, adding that targeting innocent people or specific communities in the aftermath of such attacks only helps the agenda of terrorism.

Stressing the need for communal harmony and cautioning against targeting innocent people from Kashmir. "It is sad to see that some people are attacking my brothers and sisters from Kashmir in other parts of the country. We must stand together and defeat terrorism once and for all," he said.

Gandhi also visited the Army Hospital in the Badamibagh Cantonment area of Srinagar, where he met one of the injured tourists.

As per Congress leaders, Rahul Gandhi met various delegations, including those from the party and trade

and tourism sectors.

On his arrival on Friday, Gandhi was received by JKPC President, Tariq Hameed Karra and senior leader G.A. Mir at the airport. KNO

**2 cops injured...**

in two separate operations.

In the past three days, Kashmir has witnessed a major carnage as terrorists targeted tourists near the famous resort town of Pahalgam, leaving 25 tourists and one local dead.

A day later, two infiltrators were shot dead in the Uri sector of Baramulla district. That same evening, a gunbattle broke out in Kulgam district, though no casualties were reported.

**India, Pak armies...**

scheduled visit to Kashmir on Friday.

They said the firing was initiated by Pakistan which was effectively retaliated by soldiers in the Nowgam sector.

"The exchange lasted for over an hour and there is no report of casualties in the firing," they said.

The Srinagar-based defence spokesperson did not respond to reports of the exchange of fire.

This is the first ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir in the recent past.

The tension between India and Pakistan following the brutal attack on tourists near the popular resort town of Pahalgam, which left 26 civilians dead, has triggered panic among residents living along the border. They fear that the ceasefire agreement reached between the two countries, which has been held for several years, may not withstand the current strain.

**Pahalgam terror attack...**

endorsements may return through that route before May 1, 2025."

Misri, as per KNO, 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.

**'BIG REVENGE ASSURED'**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hinted at a "big revenge" saying, "Orchestrators of Pahalgam attack will soon see a loud and clear response."

"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. 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."

**PERPETRATORS WILL BE TRACED AND PUNISHED**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday while addressing a rally in Bihar announced that perpetrators of Pahalgam terror attack would be traced and punished and the nation won't rest till the culprits and their backers are brought to book. "Entire country is in pain because of the attack. The government is working hard to ensure the well-being of the injured," he said.

PM Modi described the attack not only as an assault on innocent tourists but also as an attack on India's spirit. "This was not just an attack on tourists; the enemies of India have dared to attack the soul of our nation," he said.

He assured that the government was determined to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Prime Minister made it clear that both the terrorists who carried out the attack and those who supported them would face severe consequences. "The time has come to dismantle whatever is left of the terror haven. The will of 140 crore Indians will break the back of the masters of terror," he said.

**RAJNATH CHAIRS ALL PARTY MEETING**

An All Party Meeting (APM) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and opposition told the government it backs all the actions against terrorism.

The developments following the terror attack in Pahalgam were thoroughly discussed during the meeting. The opposition offered unconditional support to the government's actions in combating terrorism.

The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and other senior leaders and ministers from across the political spectrum, including Union Ministers JP Nadda, Praful Patel, and Nirmala Sitharaman. Also present were TDP's Lavu Srikrishna, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, and opposition leaders Supriya Sule, Asaduddin Owaisi, T. Siva, and Premchand Gupta.

After the meeting ended, Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said everyone condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack while the opposition has given full support to the government to take any action.

**APM LED BY CM OMAR SUPPORTS CENTRE'S RESPONSE**

An All Party Meeting (APM) chaired by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar termed the Pahalgam terror attack as barbaric and inhuman, the meeting also supported the steps taken

**Tourists ambassadors of Kashmir, says Deputy CM**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25 (KNO)

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with Cabinet Minister Javid Dar and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, met with tourists in the Rajbagh area on Friday and condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam that resulted in 26 fatalities and several injuries on April 22.

According to the news agency, the Deputy CM referred to tourists as "ambassadors of Kashmir", saying they will share their experiences of Kashmiri hospitality upon returning home.

"Tourists are the ambassadors of Kashmir. They will share how they were treated and supported by the people in Kashmir after the tragic events in Pahalgam. While the killings are painful, J&K is a place filled with peace and love," he said. "We have been tasked by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to meet the tourists today."

Chaudhary urged visitors to continue exploring Kashmir, assuring them of their safety under the Omar Abdullah-led government. "Although maintaining law and order is a challenge, the government and the people of Kashmir are committed to ensuring your safety," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged that while every society has people who create chaos, such incidents shouldn't define the community as a whole. "At this moment, we need to strengthen our nation and preserve the brotherhood for which J&K is renowned," he urged.

Advisor Nasir Wani called the killings in Pahalgam "unfortunate". "We experience the same pain as you do, but we are doubly pained as this tragedy has occurred on our land." He reaffirmed that the people of J&K are peace-loving and dedicated to promoting harmony.

Meanwhile, the tourists praised the hospitality shown by the local people here, saying that they have been supported and assisted by the people of Kashmir. "We have felt like home here," they said.

Pertinently, 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in a major terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday, with many others injured. KNO

**UN Secy General appeals to India, Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint**

**AGENCIES**  
UNITED NATIONS/NEW DELHI, APR 25

Amid the rising bitterness in ties between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appealed to both nations to exercise maximum restraint and ensure that the situation does not deteriorate any further.

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, answering a question at the daily press briefing on Thursday, said while the UN Secretary General has not had any direct contact with either of the two nations, "but I can confirm he is following the situation very closely and with very great concern".

by the Centre in response to the carnage and paid rich tributes to martyr Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a local horse ride operator, who was killed while attempting to fight off terrorists to save tourists.

After the meeting ended, the Chief Minister while addressing a news conference here said, "Unanimous resolution was passed to denounce the deadly attack and expressing solidarity with the families of the victims. The resolution also reiterated J&K's commitment to peace and communal harmony."

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

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

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

**RAHUL GANDHI REACHES SRINAGAR**  
Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi arrived in Srinagar on Friday and said that the entire opposition stands firmly behind the government in its response to the terror incident in Pahalgam that left over two dozen people dead and several injured.

Addressing the media in Srinagar he said, "We had a meeting yesterday with the government. The opposition condemned this attack and assured full support for whatever action the government wants to take."

Gandhi also expressed solidarity with the victims and said the intention behind the attack was to divide society. "It is very important that every single Indian stands united. We must defeat what the terrorists are trying to do," he said.

"My love and affection to everyone who lost family members. The whole nation is standing together as one," Gandhi said, adding that targeting innocent people or specific communities in the aftermath of such attacks only helps the agenda of terrorism. KNO

**LG asks DCs, SSPs...**

Pakistani nationals and take steps to ensure their prompt return after cancelling their visas. KNO

## GCOE organises lecture on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

The Government College of Education Jammu organized a lecture-cum-awareness programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the students under the banner of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC).

The College Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar was the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of IPR awareness in academic and professional fields.

Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, SPND Government College, Samba, Dr. Pooja was the resource person for the programme.



Convener of IIC, Cell Sunanda Rani, formally welcomed the resource person and highlighted the initiatives of the IIC Cell in promoting innovation and entrepreneurial skills among students.

The Resource Person delivered an insightful lecture on various aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and its relevance in today's innovation-driven environment. The event

witnessed the presence of faculty members including Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, Prof. Chanchal Singh, Prof. Kiran Thapa.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students enthusiastically participated and clarified their queries on the subject. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shuhra Jamwal.

## JKEDI starts 6-day Entrepreneurship Development Program at ITI Ganderbal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 25

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) District Centre, Ganderbal on Thursday started a six-day Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The EDP is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to establish and manage their business ventures successfully.

It seeks to nurture entrepreneurial talent and encourage innovation, particularly among rural youth.

The inaugural session was attended by the Principal ITI, Mubashir Hafiz Jan, who emphasized the critical role of skill development and entrepreneurship in driving economic progress.

He commended JKEDI's



efforts in nurturing entrepreneurial talent and urged participants to fully engage in the program to transform their ideas into sustainable businesses.

District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Ganderbal highlighted that the EDP is tai-

lored to address regional entrepreneurial challenges.

The program included interactive workshops, practical case studies, and expert-led sessions to deliver actionable learning outcomes.

## DC Kishtwar reviews security setup at Pakkal Dul Hydroelectric Project Site

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 25

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Naresh Singh today conducted an extensive visit to the Pakkal Dul Hydroelectric Project site to assess the on-ground security scenario.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the existing security arrangements and emphasized the importance of maintaining a robust security framework in and around the project

site. He directed the project authorities to immediately install additional CCTV cameras across all key areas of the project to enhance surveillance and strengthen safety of the project area.

In addition to the security assessment, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the ongoing works at the project site, stressing the need for timely execution and adherence to quality standards.

Senior officers and officials of Pakkal Dul HEP were also present during the visit.



## Bumper Wheat harvest begins along Zero Line in Hiranagar Sector

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, APRIL 25

Marking a significant milestone in the district's agricultural landscape, the harvesting of ripened wheat crop commenced today across the fence in Chak Changa village, along the Zero Line of Chandwan Border Outpost in the Hiranagar IB sector. The initiative, carried out under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, is a result of the seamless coordination between the Agriculture Department, Border Security Force (BSF), and local farmers.

The harvesting process was formally launched by Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, along with Company Commandant BSF, Insp. Mahesh Kumar.

It marked a remarkable achievement for farmers of the border belt, who are celebrating a bumper wheat harvest this season. Expressing their gratitude, the farmers acknowledged the District Administration, Agriculture Department, and BSF for their unwavering support in ensuring security and providing essential logistical assistance.



The Agriculture Department has deployed 15 tractors and 2 combine harvesters to facilitate the swift harvesting of wheat crops sown over 350 acres across the fence during the Rabi 2024-25 season.

The initiative, which began as a pilot project in Rabi 2021-22, has now expanded significantly, with 90 farmers from villages including Chak Changa, Chak Tanda, Krol Krishna, Karol Maithrain, and Maniyari actively participating in cultivation beyond the fence.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Sanjeev Rai Gupta

stated, "Our persistent efforts, coupled with technical assistance and the security support of BSF, have resulted in a successful harvest this year. We are committed to empowering border farmers and ensuring they receive the necessary resources for sustainable agriculture. The harvesting operations will be completed in the next 2-3 days."

A local progressive farmer, Ram Raj, shared his achievement, stating, "This season, I have reaped an impressive 240 quintals of wheat from 12 acres of cultivated land. The Agriculture Department, especially CAO Kathua, has been instrumental in guiding and supporting us from sowing to harvesting."

## JKTPO conducts District-Level RAMP awareness workshop at Samba to boost MSME Ecosystem

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, APRIL 25

A District-Level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop was successfully organized at the Conference Hall, DC Office here today.

The event was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) - Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Samba.

Organized under the guidance of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, the workshop aimed to enhance awareness about the RAMP scheme's vision, components, and opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the district.

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome address by Sh. Gurpreet Singh, General Manager, DIC Samba, who expressed his appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of stakeholders from various departments and institutions.

The workshop was



graced by the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, who served as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he emphasized the critical role of entrepreneurship in economic development. He encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs, implementing agencies, and all participants to foster a spirit of innovation and actively support budding entrepreneurs. "By empowering new entrepreneurs, we can not only boost economic growth but also create meaningful employment opportunities across the district," he stated.

SPIU Team (Grant Thornton) delivered an in-depth presentation on the RAMP scheme in Jammu & Kashmir. The team provided comprehensive insights into the various interventions under the RAMP initiative, highlighting its significant impact on the region's development. The detailed presentation

underscored the scheme's objectives and implementation strategies, demonstrating the commitment to fostering growth and progress in J&K.

The event witnessed active participation from Project Managers, Functional Managers, officials from implementing agencies such as the Handloom & Handicrafts Department, Labour Department, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), and students from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Samba, among others.

The workshop served as a platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and strategic dialogue to improve the MSME ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir, in line with the objectives of the RAMP program supported by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and the World Bank.

## Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan Udhampur Admin organises awareness program on drug De-addiction at Sial Sallan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 25

District Administration Udhampur in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department today organized an awareness program under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan here at Sial Sallan.

The program was held in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event witnessed the participation of District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Anil Saloch, Assistant Drug Controller Sanjeev Gupta.

The awareness program featured a series of impactful activities, including sensitization sessions on the ill-effects of drug abuse conducted by resource persons, counsellor from the District Police Line.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the urgent need to curb the drug menace, stating, India has the largest youth population in the world. "If our youth fall prey to drug addiction, it will hamper the progress

of our nation. It is our collective responsibility to prevent this," she noted. She further added that rehabilitated individuals can play a vital role as ambassadors of change by motivating others to stay away from drugs. The DC advocated for a disrupt and distract policy - disrupting regular drug-using patterns and engaging youth in constructive and positive activities to keep them away from harmful substances.

Rehabilitated individuals who had successfully overcome drug addiction shared their inspirational journeys, offering hope and serving as role models for others struggling with substance abuse.

A special highlight of the event was a soulful guitar performance that conveyed the strong message of choosing life over drugs. Participants also took a pledge to support the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and remain committed to a drug-free society.

To further spread the message, bags promoting the slogan "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life" were distributed among the participants.

## Restoration, relief efforts stepped up in flood-affected areas

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, APRIL 25

The District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has stepped up restoration works and relief measures in all flash flood affected areas. The administration is prioritizing the provision of essential supplies and the restoration of link roads to ensure the swift recovery of the region.

The DC, along with SSP Traffic Raja Adil Hamid, monitored traffic regulations at critical points on NH-44, particularly at vulnerable spots along the Ramban to Banihal stretch. The effort aims to ensure safe and smooth journey for commuters. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing restoration work on NH-44 and urged drivers to maintain lane discipline, thus preventing traffic jams and ensuring a smooth flow of vehicles.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the restoration work of



link road Maroge-Balihot and issued necessary directions to concerned departments to expedite the restoration of all link roads and essential services.

To support the workforce involved in restoration efforts, meals are being served to laborers at the free langar established by the District Administration under the guidance of DC Ramban. ACR and AD FCS&CA are actively monitoring these arrangements to ensure the smooth operation of the services.

In flood-affected areas, fumigation and smoke drives are being conducted to prevent the spread of diseases and ensure safety of public health.

Assessment teams, along with field staff and Lambardar concerned, have visited the affected areas to assess the damages and losses, providing a comprehensive overview of the situation.

In a positive development, children are back at the Anganwadi Centres and students have resumed their classes in the affected areas, marking the restoration of normalcy in educational activities.

Coordinated efforts by all departments are ongoing to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of affected families, with a focus on providing them with the support they need in these challenging times.

## DC Bandipora reviews Departmental Proposals for Capex Budget 2025-26

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 25

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to discuss the formulation of the District Capex Budget Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting discussed threedare department-wise action plans proposed under the District Capex Budget.

District officers of various departments presented their proposed works, outlining developmental priorities and project requirements.

While addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner M.A. Qadri directed all departments to accord top priority to ongoing works under the Capex plan to ensure their timely completion and continued progress.

He stressed the need for tangible asset creation that can have a lasting developmental impact at the grass-roots level.

Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all proposed works



are free from any land disputes thereby facilitating smooth and timely

execution. He emphasized coordinated approach among

departments and called for early submission of the finalized Action Plan to be incorporated in the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

Among others the meeting was attended by District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan, Divisional Forest Officer Bandipora Waseem Farooq Mir, Joint Director Planning Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD, District officers of various Departments and other concerned.

## EDITORIAL

## Litmus test for national integration?

In the wake of the heart-wrenching Baisaran massacre near Pahalgam—where 26 innocent lives, mostly tourists, were snatched away by an act of terror—India mourns. But as has sadly become a pattern, the grief has once again spilled into misplaced anger and prejudice, directed not at the perpetrators of the violence, but at Kashmiri students and businesspersons living across the country. The fallout has been swift, predictable, and profoundly unjust. The tragedy in Kashmir should have united the country in condemnation of terrorism. Instead, it has triggered a fresh wave of suspicion and intimidation against Kashmiri youth, many of whom have nothing to do with terrorism but are trying to build futures in places far from home. Harassment, beatings, threats, and calls to vacate residences—these reports, flooding from states like Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh—are not isolated incidents. They are part of a dangerous reflex that has become all too familiar: blaming a community for the sins of extremists. That is why the move by Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to deploy Cabinet Ministers to major Indian cities is a welcome step. These emissaries are not only tasked with coordinating protection for Kashmiri residents but also with sending a larger message—that Kashmiris are Indians too, and their dignity and safety are non-negotiable. The establishment of a 24x7 helpline by the J&K Resident Commission in Delhi further reflects a serious effort to offer support and reassurance in this moment of fear. There is, tragically, nothing new about this backlash. After every terror attack, especially one involving Jammu & Kashmir, the community faces the same situation. Whether in colleges or marketplaces, Kashmiris have been routinely viewed with suspicion, asked to prove their loyalty, and subjected to physical and psychological intimidation. It is a cycle that repeats with each national trauma, eroding the idea of unity and equal citizenship. This is not just a security concern—it is a failure of national empathy. It is a failure of our institutions and leaders to build a climate where grief does not mutate into bigotry. To their credit, voices across the political spectrum have risen to condemn both the terror attack and the subsequent targeting of Kashmiris. Their calls to the Union Government to step in must be heeded. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to whom many have appealed, has a particular responsibility to ensure that security agencies in various states are not just reactive but proactive in preventing communal flare-ups. At the same time, state governments where these incidents are being reported must act decisively. There should be zero tolerance for vigilante justice. Hostels, colleges, landlords, and local police must be sensitized to protect Kashmiri students and report threats promptly. The safety of Kashmiris outside Kashmir is more than a law and order issue—it is a litmus test for our claim to be one nation. When students from the Valley are made to feel like outsiders, we hand victory to the very forces we claim to fight. If we are to defeat terrorism, it will not be by turning on each other but by standing together—by ensuring that no Indian, regardless of origin, has to fear for their life or dignity in any corner of the country. The Baisaran massacre was an attack on all of us. Let us not deepen that wound with prejudice. Let us respond not with hate, but with healing.

SANTHOSH MATHEW

Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payment – Joseph Nye. In diplomacy, not every war is fought with guns, and not every ally is won with treaties. Some of the most lasting alliances, perceptions, and influences are built in classrooms, libraries, hospitals, and open-minded immigration desks. For decades, America cultivated a compelling global image not just through its military might but through an unparalleled soft power apparatus – university scholarships, fellowships like Fulbright, technological partnerships, and student exchange programmes. But under Trump's leadership, this carefully crafted image took a sharp U-turn. His decisions to defund Ivy League institutions, restrict prestigious fellowships, cut down on foreign aid, and slam doors on immigrants have not just changed policies – they've dented America's soul in the eyes of the world. From the end of World War II to the close of the 20th century, the US balanced hard power with soft persuasion. After Pearl Harbour and the end of the Monroe Doctrine's inward-looking policy, America stepped decisively into the global theatre. Initially, it flexed its military muscle – from Hiroshima to the Cold War nuclear stand-offs – but soon realised that tanks and warships couldn't alone win hearts. The next American invasion came with

books, food aid, hospital care, and university scholarships. PL-480 food assistance, USAID, cultural exchanges, NASA tie-ups, and the brain-drain corridor became tools of soft power that made America an aspirational ideal, especially for the Global South. But Trump's reign of ultra-nationalism, ultra-capitalism, and ultra-conservatism diluted this global goodwill. His administration's decision to roll back funding to elite educational institutions – many of which had been incubators of international leadership and liberal thought – sent shockwaves through academic diplomacy. Places like Harvard, MIT, and Stanford weren't just American educational brands; they were world laboratories of innovation, cross-cultural dialogue, and diplomacy by proxy. For many young minds across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, getting into an Ivy League school was akin to getting a golden ticket – not just to education, but to enlightenment. When Trump questioned the utility of such universities and threatened to cut their funds, he wasn't just aiming at liberal professors or elite academia; he was hacking away at the roots of America's global intellectual tree. The Fulbright Programme, which since 1946 had created a global network of US-educated thinkers, diplomats, artists, and professionals, saw restrictions and stagnation under Trump's regime. This wasn't just about budget lines; it was about

breaking bridges that had taken decades to build. The shift wasn't limited to academia. Trump's "America First" translated into America alone. US foreign aid took a hit, including humanitarian and development assistance that had long been a lever of influence in fragile regions. Aid wasn't just charity – it was strategy. Whether it was reconstructing post-war Europe via the Marshall Plan, aiding countries during natural disasters, or investing in public health abroad, American dollars often bought American goodwill. Cutting this lifeline left a vacuum often filled by rival powers, notably China. Perhaps the most damaging was the policy on immigration and visas. By clamping down on H1-B visas, Trump stifled the inflow of skilled professionals – especially from India. This move hurt not only the American tech industry but also tarnished its reputation as a land that rewards merit. India, a nation that sent scores of doctors, engineers, and nurses to serve in the US found itself at the receiving end of arbitrary bans and changing visa goalposts. Indian nurses in particular, known globally for their compassion and professionalism, were once the unsung heroes of the American healthcare system. They became unintended victims of a policy that seemed more guided by xenophobic rhetoric than economic sense. It's ironic. America gained its comparative cost advantage and global dominance in vari-

ous sectors precisely because it welcomed the world's best minds. The openness to foreign students and workers was not just humanitarian – it was deeply pragmatic. When America opened its doors, it got the world's top scientists, engineers, teachers, and healthcare professionals. This influx didn't just boost the economy; it exported American values when these individuals returned home as brand ambassadors of the American dream. Trump's decision to erect barriers where bridges once stood was not just bad economics – it was terrible diplomacy. Soft power, unlike hard power, does not rely on fear, force, or finance alone. It thrives on attraction. A country that welcomes, educates, and employs foreigners becomes a hub of admiration. The world's image of America, diverse, democratic, and dynamic – was always more powerful than any military base. That image is cracking under the weight of Trump's authoritarian tendencies wrapped in an elected regime. The global message is clear: this is not the America we used to know. The consequences are already visible. International student applications to American universities have dropped. Countries that once looked to America for inspiration are now turning elsewhere. China's Confucius Institutes, European Union scholarships, and India's neighbourhood outreach are stepping into the vacuum left by the US. And this matters.

In a world of multipolar influence, losing moral and cultural leadership is as fatal as losing a war. The tragedy of Trump's approach is that it reverts America to a pre-globalisation, fortress-like nation. This stands in sharp contrast to the post-Pearl Harbour awakening that pushed America into internationalism. Back then, it learned that isolationism was not just impractical but dangerous. Trump's policies drag the country back into an atmosphere of division – racially, religiously, and ideologically. His emphasis on Christian identity, his anti-immigration posture, and his trade protectionism all add up to an authoritarian flavour, coated in electoral legitimacy. When nations drift towards ultra-nationalism and away from global collaboration, they don't just lose allies – they lose identity. The America that helped rebuild Japan and Germany, which welcomed Einstein and later Sundar Pichai, is being replaced by an America that shuts doors, silences debate, and shuns difference. In the end, Trump's war is not just on liberals or foreigners or aid budgets. It's a war on America's most valuable diplomatic currency – its image. And once that image is broken, no amount of tanks or tariffs can fix it. (The author is Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies and Social Sciences, Pondicherry Central University, India. Views are personal)

## New moon Race: Private sector takes the lead

RAJNEESH BHANDARI

This year will be a landmark year for lunar exploration, with three moon landings scheduled in quick succession that demonstrate humanity's renewed enchantment with our closest celestial neighbour. This week marks the first of these touchdowns, with Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost successfully landing on the lunar surface in Mare Crisium. This milestone is followed by plans for Japan's M2/Resilience mission and Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission before June. These landings signal a new era of lunar exploration driven by private-sector innovation, international collaboration, and an ambitious space programme. Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lunar lander has achieved a soft landing on Mare Crisium, a vast basaltic plain on the moon's near side. An upright and stable landing makes Firefly the first private company to put a spacecraft on the moon without crashing or

falling over – a feat where only five countries have been successful: Russia, the US, China, India, and Japan. Launched on January 15 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9, this mission is part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme, which partners with private companies to deliver scientific payloads to the moon. This landing marks Firefly's first lunar mission and a significant win for the private sector, as the lander touched down just after lunar dawn, giving it roughly 14 Earth days of sunlight to operate. This mission is notable for being the first US lunar landing of 2025 and for carrying 10 NASA-sponsored experiments alongside commercial payloads. It will test satellite navigation and radiation-resistant computers, which are critical for developing resilient technology for lunar habitation. Japan's M2/Resilience mission, led by space and scheduled for May/June, will deploy the RESILIENCE lander and the TENACIOUS micro-rover. This

will mark Japan's second private lunar landing attempt after a 2023 failure. The micro-rover will attempt to extract water from lunar soil and split it into hydrogen and oxygen. This could pave the way for producing life-sustaining resources on the moon, essential for long-term human presence. The third landing, Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, will carry a 1 – metre drill to probe for water ice. This mission aims to map subsurface ice deposits, which are crucial for NASA's Artemis programme, which plans to have a sustainable base on the moon by 2030. The moon is re-emerging as humanity's next frontier for several reasons. Strategically, it's a stepping stone to Mars. It provides a testing ground for technologies like radiation shielding and in-situ generation of critical resources like oxygen. In terms of astronomy, the moon holds clues to the solar system's history. Economically, the moon's resources, like ice for fuel and oxygen,

rare earth elements, etc., could fuel a space economy. Geopolitically, nations like the US and China see lunar dominance as a symbol of technological superiority, with the US and China planning to set up manned lunar bases before 2030. Private Sector Involvement: A New Paradigm The success of startups like Firefly Aerospace, space and Intuitive Machines marks a shift from Government-led exploration to a commercial model. NASA's CLPS programme exemplifies this by outsourcing lunar delivery to firms for a fraction of traditional costs. Private sector agility accelerates mission timelines, fosters innovation, and reduces cost. At the same time, competition drives technological leaps, such as Espace's water-splitting experiment. India, too, is at the cusp of developing the startup ecosystem for space technologies. Startups like Dhruva Space, Pixxel, Agnikul Cosmos, Bel-

atrix Aerospace, and Skyroot Aerospace are developing a host of technologies, including end-to-end satellite solutions, a constellation of high-resolution hyperspectral imaging satellites, electrical thrusters for satellites, a small satellite launch vehicle, etc. These startups are driving India's private sector, leveraging Government support and global interest. The lunar landings will provide a wealth of scientific insights and lay the foundation for future lunar bases. For the first time, private companies and startups are leading the charge, conducting pioneering experiments like water extraction and ice drilling. These missions will bring us closer to a future where humanity not only visits the moon but thrives there and beyond. (The writer is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and founder of NeuroEquilibrium. Views are personal)

## Why EQ matters more than IQ

SHARMILA VAIDYA

In my most rewarding 26 years of experience working as an educator, I have had the privilege of working with students from diverse backgrounds and in different educational settings. It is during this period I started administering the state-mandated IQ tests. These tests were administered to measure an individual's cognitive abilities, mostly logical reasoning, memory and verbal mathematical aptitude. They tell us how well someone can solve abstract problems under specific conditions. I was surprised to see how these standardised tests categorised and measured individuals by numbers and scores often disregarding their potential, experiences and abilities, making it inherently biased. This realisation prompted me to explore what IQ, intelligence and success

fully mean in the real world. Hence, I decided to conduct a small survey. To get a fair sampling, I included people of different backgrounds – educators, parents, students, homemakers and professionals. My questions were: 1. What qualities make you see someone as intelligent? 2. Do you think people with low IQ can be successful? I was pleasantly surprised to see the responses from the survey. According to the survey – some of these qualities were – someone who is empathetic, creative, problem-solving, curious, open to ideas, a good communicator, accepting without being judgmental ... and many more. Most people also believe that individuals with lower IQ scores can achieve success – especially when they possess strong emotional intelligence (EQ).



Based on this survey I concluded that there was a shift in people's perception from IQ to EQ. In general, the meaning of intelligence exceeded beyond the confinement of standardised test. In order to get a broader understanding of intelligence I started researching the different types of intelligences as per psychological theory. In the 1980s, Harvard psychologist, Howard Gardner proposed a theory that broke away from the "one-size-fits-all" model of intelligence. He introduced eight distinct types of intelligence that reflected the diverse ways humans learn, express

themselves, and solve problems. These were: Linguistic Intelligence: Word savvy like, writers, storytellers Logical: Mathematical Intelligence: Analytical thinkers, like scientists and engineers Musical Intelligence: Musically inclined, like musicians, Kinesthetic Intelligence: Physical grace and skill like, dancers Spatial Intelligence: Visual and spatial thinkers like architects and artists Interpersonal Intelligence: People skills and empathy like, therapists, teachers, and leaders. Intrapersonal Intelli-

gence: Deep self-understanding like philosophers and spiritual leaders. Naturalistic Intelligence: Attunement to nature, like, gardeners and environmentalists. Among other psychologists that followed, Daniel Goldman played an important role in introducing the concept of Emotional Intelligence, which includes empathy, self-awareness and emotional regulation which demonstrated that EQ plays an important role in personal success. Together, these theories encourage us to look beyond IQ scores and appreciate the depth and diversity of human potential. Hence, even if one wasn't considered academically intelligent and didn't fit in the traditional high IQ "cookie cutter" mould, many have been very successful and have contributed to society at large. Examples include: Thomas Edison was considered "difficult" in

school and reportedly had very little formal education. His teachers thought he was slow or unable to learn. Despite this, he became one of the most prolific inventors in history. Walt Disney was reportedly fired from a newspaper job for "lacking imagination," and he struggled academically. His success came through storytelling, creativity, and persistence. Therefore, we must reconsider the tendency to label someone as lazy or unintelligent based solely on conventional standards. I believe my experience along with research and survey findings strongly support this perspective, which is aptly captured in the quote: "A high IQ may open a door, but emotional intelligence determines how far you'll go once you walk through it." (The writer is an educator based in the US. Views are personal)

## Kids exposed to paternal depression likely to have behavioural issues later: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

A team of researchers at Rutgers University in the US has found that five-year-olds exposed to paternal depression are more likely to have behavioural issues in grade school.

In a study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Kristine Schmitz, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), together with other researchers from RWJMS and from Princeton and Rider universities, reported that children exposed to paternal depression when entering kindergarten are far more likely to have teacher-reported behavioural difficulties and poor social skills at age 9.

"We need to consider depression in both parents, not just mothers," said Schmitz. "Depres-



sion is treatable, and to support the whole family, paediatricians must start talking with dads about it and developing father-focused interventions that meet their needs."

On average, between 8 per cent and 13 per cent of fathers in the United States will be affected by some form of depression during their child's early years, and the prevalence increases to 50 per cent when the mother is also experiencing postpartum depression.

Schmitz and colleagues analysed data from the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study

(FFCWS), a national birth cohort that randomly sampled births in 20 large US cities from 1998 to 2000. The study continues to track changes in participants' lives.

Two FFCWS data points were key to Schmitz's assessment: When the children were age 5, their fathers were screened for depressive symptoms in the past year; and when they were 9, the children's teachers completed a survey that included behavioural assessments.

"Kindergarten entry is an important developmental milestone, and adversities faced at that

time can lead to poorer engagement and behaviours in grade school that may persist or magnify through middle and high school," the researchers wrote.

By comparing data from 1,422 fathers, the researchers were able to map a clear link between paternal depression and child conduct.

For instance, kids whose fathers reported depressive symptoms, such as feeling sad, blue or depressed when they were age 5 were, by age 9, significantly more likely to exhibit restlessness, defiance and anger as well as present lower levels of cooperation and self-esteem.

Schmitz said several reasons could explain the connection. For one, depression has been found to lead to difficulty parenting and less emotional support for the child. It can also cause conflict or other stress in the home.

## Pinworm medication may treat aggressive skin cancer: Researchers

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

A team of US scientists has found that a common pinworm medication may stop and reverse cancer growth in Merkel cell carcinoma, an aggressive form of skin cancer.

The research led by University of Arizona Cancer Center and published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, found that in laboratory models of Merkel cell carcinoma, pyrinium pamoate inhibited cancer cell growth and reversed the cancer's neuroendocrine features.

In mouse models of Merkel cell carcinoma, pyrinium pamoate reduced tumour growth.

Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare but fast-growing neuroendocrine cancer that is three to five times more likely than melanoma to be deadly. Response rates to current therapies - surgery, radiation and immunotherapy - are limited, resulting in a need for effective and broadly applicable therapeutics.



For instance, kids whose fathers reported depressive symptoms, such as feeling sad, blue or depressed when they were age 5 were, by age 9, significantly more likely to exhibit restlessness, defiance and anger as well as present lower levels of cooperation and self-esteem.

Schmitz said several reasons could explain the connection. For one, depression has been found to lead to difficulty parenting and less emotional support for the child. It can also cause conflict or other stress in the home.

Pyrinium pamoate, a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1955 to treat pinworms, has been shown to have antitumour potential in several different cancers, including breast, colorectal, pancreatic and bladder cancers. This is the first time it has been studied in models of

Merkel cell carcinoma. Padi and the research team found that in laboratory models of Merkel cell carcinoma, pyrinium pamoate inhibited cancer cell growth and reversed the cancer's neuroendocrine features. In mouse models of Merkel cell carcinoma, pyrinium pamoate reduced tumor growth.

"This is a hypothesis, but some people think the reason an antiparasitic agent could be effective against cancers is because tumours are a little bit like parasites in our body," Padi said. "Parasites and tumours must develop ways to use scarce resources in their host to feed themselves and allow for unlimited multiplication. If the pathways that they have hijacked to feed themselves are the same, then you get lucky, and you have a tumour type that could be amenable to killing by these antiparasitic drugs."

## Healthy India key towards realising Viksit Bharat goal: HM Shah

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The concept of a Viksit Bharat (developed India) cannot be realised by being unwell and that is why it is very important that every citizen remains healthy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

HM Shah further stated that all countrymen should take good diet, adequate water, adequate sleep and regular exercise, "the rest Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government will take the responsibility of taking care of your health". Speaking at a programme organised by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on the occasion of World Liver Day, HM Shah said that everyone should take a pledge to keep their 'liver' healthy with awareness, diligence and complete information.

Sharing his experience of a healthy lifestyle, the



Home Minister said that there has been a huge change in his life since May 2020. HM Shah said that young people can achieve a lot in their lives with water, diet, exercise and sleep as per the requirements of the body.

The Union Home Minister said that the Ministry of AYUSH is working to develop a system so that we do not fall ill.

"Today, even big allopathic hospitals are opening AYUSH wings. The mental and physical health of a person was included in the idea of World Yoga Day," he noted.

PM Modi-led government is bearing the entire cost of treatment, up to Rs 5 lakh, for crores of people of the country. The government is also bearing all expenses up to Rs 5 lakh for the treatment of citizens above 70 years of age.

PM Modi-led government has spent Rs 65,000 crore to build the health infrastructure in the country and has made arrangements to make every Primary Health Center (PHC) and Community Health Center (CHC) a complete unit.

For generic medicines, a network of more than

15,000 Jan Aushadhi Centres has been opened in the country and through these centres, medicines are available up to 80 per cent cheaper.

Under 'Mission Indradhanush', arrangements have been made for free vaccination of children from birth to the age of 15 years and 1 crore 32 lakh mothers were also vaccinated.

Under the e-Sanjeevani app, the work of providing more than 30.9 crore digital medical consultations from top health institutions in rural areas across the country has been carried out.

In 2014, there were seven AIIMS in the country and today, the number has reached 23. There were 387 medical colleges in 2014 and today, it stands at 780. There were 51,000 MBBS seats which have increased to 1.18 lakh and 75,000 more seats are going to be added, according to HM Shah.

## New study on brain's visual regions can help build effective AI systems

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

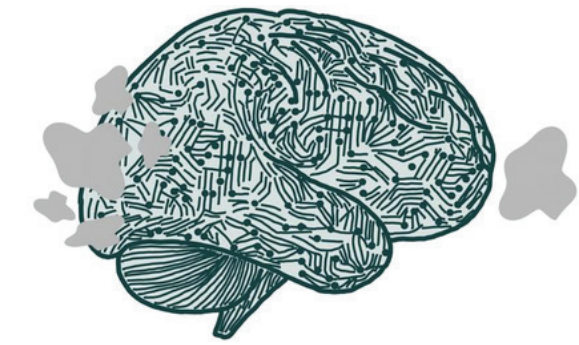
A Columbia University's School of Engineering study in the US has shown that the brain's visual regions play an active role in making sense of information, which could help build more adaptive AI systems.

Crucially, the way it interprets the information depends on what the rest of the brain is working on.

Published in the journal Nature Communications, the study led by biomedical engineer and neuroscientist Nuttida Rungratsameetaweemana, provides some of the clearest evidence yet that early sensory systems play a role in decision-making - and that they adapt in real-time.

It also points to new approaches for designing AI systems that can adapt to new or unexpected situations.

The findings challenge



the traditional view that early sensory areas in the brain are simply "looking" or "recording" visual input. In fact, the human brain's visual system actively reshapes how it represents the exact same object depending on what you're trying to do.

Even in visual areas that are very close to raw information that enters the eyes, the brain has the flexibility to tune its interpretation and responses based on the current task.

"It gives us a new way to think about flexibility in the brain and opens up ideas for how to poten-

tially build more adaptive AI systems modelled after these neural strategies," said Nuttida.

Most previous work looked at how people learn categories over time, but this study zooms in on the flexibility piece: How does the brain rapidly switch between different ways of organising the same visual information?

The team used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to observe people's brain activity while they put shapes in different categories. The twist was that the "rules" for categorising the shapes

kept changing. This let the researchers determine whether the visual cortex was changing how it represented the shapes depending on how we had defined the categories.

They analysed the data using computational machine learning tools, including multivariate classifiers.

Activity in the visual system - including the primary and secondary visual cortices, which deal with data straight from the eyes - changed with practically every task.

They reorganised their activity depending on which decision rules people were using, which was shown by the brain activation patterns becoming more distinctive when a shape was near the grey area between categories.

Those were the most difficult shapes to tell apart, so it's exactly when extra processing would be most helpful.

## Wearable tech may help people manage everyday stress

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

The virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) technology could simulate stressful situations and help people practice stress-relief strategies, a new study has revealed.

Everyday situations can sometimes feel like big stressors, whether it's delivering an important work presentation, attending a party full of strangers or confronting a partner. Talking to a friend or a therapist can help. But so can practice.

A new project from Carnegie Mellon University researchers in the US aimed to make that practice easier by using VR/AR technology.

The research team, led by Anna Fang in the School of Computer Science's Human-Computer Interaction Institute, tested their stress simulation technology on a group of 19 participants, the majority of



whom overwhelmingly supported it.

"For the past 10 to 20 years, virtual reality and augmented reality have taken a really big hold on the health and mental health space," said Fang, noting the many meditation apps available for

download.

The team built eight prototypes with different design elements for each of the three scenarios, for a total of 24 prototypes. Those prototypes took various forms - virtual reality, mixed or augmented reality, or a text-based

environment without visual cues - and offered different degrees of interaction.

Overall, Fang and her team found that people liked using the technology to gain more awareness about themselves. "They wanted technology that would help them learn self-sufficiency skills that they didn't feel they had," she said.

Participants also noted that they preferred being able to decide when the large language model suggested guidance instead of receiving that guidance automatically.

They also wanted to take the headsets to other locations to help them become immersed in and more comfortable with the stressful setting.

In this next version, the team plans to upgrade the avatars to look more realistic and to include more text-to-speech features so the avatars can speak to users more naturally.

## Scientists use AI to reveal the neural dynamics of human conversation

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

By combining artificial intelligence (AI) with electrical recordings of brain activity, researchers have been able to track the language exchanged during conversations and the corresponding neural activity in different brain regions, according to a new study.

The team from Department of Neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in the US investigated how our brains process language during real-life conversations.

"Specifically, we wanted to understand which brain regions become active when we're speaking and listening, and how these patterns relate to the specific words and context of the conversation," said lead author Jing Cai in a paper published in Nature Communications.

They employed AI to take a closer look at how our brains handle the



back-and-forth of real conversations. The team combined advanced AI, specifically language models like those behind ChatGPT, with neural recordings using electrodes placed within the brain.

This allowed them to simultaneously track the linguistic features of con-

versations and the corresponding neural activity in different brain regions.

"By analysing these synchronised data streams, we could map how specific aspects of language-like the words being spoken and the conversational context were represented in the dynamic patterns of

brain activity during conversation," said Cai. They found that both speaking and listening engage a widespread network of brain areas in the frontal and temporal lobes.

What's interesting is that these brain activity patterns are highly specific, changing depending on the exact words being used, the context and order of those words.

"We also observed that some brain regions are active during both speaking and listening, suggesting a partially shared neural basis for these processes. Finally, we identified specific shifts in brain activity that occur when people switch from listening to speaking during a conversation," said the authors.

The findings offer significant insights into how the brain pulls off the seemingly effortless feat of conversation.

## Congress holds solidarity Candlelight March in Jammu City and all Districts in Jammu Region against terrorism

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Congress took out an impressive candlelight march today evening in the parts of Jammu city and at all district level to express solidarity with those martyred at Pehalgam and against terrorism.

As part of nationwide call of congress party, senior leaders of JKPC, DCC Jammu Urban and DCC Jammu Rural, Frontal organizations and Mahila workers and a large number of workers took out candlelight march from Shaheedi Chowk to Raghunath Temple Chowk to express solidarity with the families of those martyred and injured at Pehalgam and against terrorism and Pakistan.

The march started with a prayer meeting outside

PCC HQ Jammu and at the culmination point Raghunath Temple Chowk prayed for peace to martyrs and early recovery of injured.

Led by Working President JKPC Shri Tara Chand (former Dy. C.M.), the march was attended by Thakur Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma, DCC Presidents Jammu Urban & Rural Th. Manmohan Singh & Th. Hari Singh Chib, Th. Balbir Singh, Kanta Bhan, T.S. Tony, Narinder Sharma, Namrata Sharma, Satish Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Zahida Khan, Thomas Khokhar Dwarka Choudhary, Neeraj Gupta, Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ch. Hussain Ali Baffa (ST), Hira Lal Pandita, Gajan Singh, H.S. Mehta, San-



jeev Panda, Rajiv Saraf, Kapil Singh, Sahil Sharma, Rajvir Singh, Vijay Kumar Shastri, Hoshiar Singh Chib, Michael Wazir, Jatin Raina, Bharat Priye, Bhavishya Sudan, Sandeep Dogra, Ashok Bhagat, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Varinder Manhas, Ricky Dalotra, Pawan Dev Singh, Bodh Raj Sharma, Sohni Sharma, Ranjit Singh Manhas, M.S. Bedi, Raj Kumar Sodi,

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Rahul Mehra, Ajay Kumar, Atul Sharma, Chander Shekhar, Nageshwar Sharma, Pradeep Bhalla, Latish Sharma, Nasir Masih, Zahoor Tantery, Mandeep Choudhary, Anuradha Sharma Prabhu Ji and large number of people participated.

The silent march joined by hundreds of congress activists walked through

Residency Road, Denis Gate and culminated at Raghunath Mandir Chowk where former Dy C.M. and Working President Tara Chand told reporters that peaceful march all over the country in all states and districts level were held by the congress party as per decision of congress working committee to express solidarity with the martyrs and to send a strong and united message against terrorism. He said that nation is together at this juncture and our leadership has sent out a message that congress party is with the Govt. and the security forces to deal with the situation. He said that people of all religion caste creed and color have unitedly came out against this gruesome incident.

Yogesh Sawhney Former Minister said that congress party stands in solidarity with the martyrs and their families and united against the fight against terrorism. Our leadership as has categorically conveyed that we are together with the Govt. and the forces to defeat terrorism. Shri Rahul Gandhi cut short his visit and visited Kashmir today to express solidarity and to enquire about the condition of the injured.

Th. Manmohan Singh, President DCC Jammu Urban said that people of entire Jammu and Kashmir and in all parts of the country have arisen against this heinous crime against humanity and attack on the nation irrespective of caste creed color and political affiliations. The entire nation is together to defeat terrorism in the strongest possible manner.

The Department of Computer Applications at Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Cyber Jagrookta Cell, organized a seminar on "Cyber Crime and Its Impact on Society" on April 25, 2025, at the college Computer Lab.



J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 25

Held under the insightful guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Savi Behl, Principal of the college, the seminar aimed to raise awareness among students about the alarming rise in cybercrimes and their pro-

found impact on individuals and society. Dr. Behl's continued emphasis on empowering students with contemporary knowledge and digital safety skills was instrumental in the successful conduct of the program.

The resource person for the event, Mr. Sachin Jeet Singh, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Computer Applications, delivered an informative and engaging session. He discussed various forms of cybercrime, their consequences, and the precautionary measures individuals can adopt to protect themselves in the digital world.

## Watershed Janbhagidari Cup training empowers farmers in Doda: PMKSY 2.0 spurs green growth

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APR 25

In a proactive stride towards sustainable agriculture and water conservation, the Watershed Janbhagidari Cup (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) training program was held at Pranoo, Doda, igniting a spark of green empowerment among local farmers.

Spearheaded by the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in cooperation with the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0, the event focused on organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and soil fertility preservation. The program began with a warm inauguration by Rajeshwar of the Yusuf Meherally Centre, who welcomed and introduced the participating farmers. He emphasized how



the PMKSY 2.0 scheme is revolutionizing agriculture across Pranoo, Seeri, and Masri by promoting agro-

forestry, organic farming, and crucial soil-water conservation practices. Amit, one of the coor-

dinators, highlighted the construction of water-harvesting structures such as check dams and ponds. These initiatives have significantly alleviated the region's drinking water crisis.

"Where once tankers were a necessity each summer, today water flows throughout the year," he noted. Yogesh Kumar offered deep insights into organic farming and rainwater harvesting. He stressed that though the initial yields from organic methods like green manure, earthworm compost, and Amrut Mitti may be lower, long-term use revives soil health and maintains yields.

"The real reward is in reduced costs, sustainable soil quality, and a healthier environment for future generations," he said.

He issued a cautionary note on the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, linking them to a rising tide of health issues such as cancer and heart disease. The message was clear – soil is life, and its preservation is the key to national health and prosperity. The event concluded with a pledge by all attendees to uphold the principles of soil and water conservation, ensuring that future generations inherit a cleaner, healthier Earth.

Atif Beigh, agriculture expert, and Sabawani from IWMP, also lent their expertise, enhancing the session's impact.

In a world grappling with climate change and depleting resources, Doda's farmers are now marching forward – aware, empowered, and ready to lead a green revolution from the grassroots.

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

In line with its mission to make Jammu an Open Defecation Free (ODF) city, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is ramping up efforts to enhance sanitation infrastructure across all wards under JMC jurisdiction.

Addressing public demand and prioritizing hygiene and accessibility, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today laid the foundation stone for a new public toilet complex at below bridge opposite Hanuman Mandir Ward No. 13. The upcoming facility will include two bathrooms and eight toilets. It is part of a larger plan to construct 16 such public toilet complexes across Jammu city, with a total



project cost of approximately Rs. 1.5 crore.

Strategically located near a bus stand, a Super Speciality hospital, and en-route to Jewel Chowk, the site has been chosen to serve a diverse group of users, including commuters, patients, pedestrians, and pilgrims.

The facility will be especially beneficial during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra and for devotees visiting the nearby Hanuman Temple. Similar complexes would also be established of sanitation facilities to accommodate the increasing number of

worshippers. With this initiative, the JMC reaffirms its commitment to public welfare and sustainable urban development by ensuring essential sanitation amenities are accessible to all. This marks another significant step forward in Jammu's journey toward becoming a fully ODF city.

Among others joint commissioner Health and Sanitation, Abdul sattu, Joint Commissioner Works, Firdos Ahmed Qazi, Executive Engineer Project, Lokesh Gupta also accompanied the Commissioner JMC

## Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture by Gallantly Awardee at Thanamandi, Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, 25 APRIL 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through Awam and with the aim of motivating the future of the nation, the school children, towards joining Armed Forces and to instill a sense of patriotism, Indian Army organised a 'Motivational Lecture by Gallantry Awardee' at Thanamandi. The aim of the event was to spread awareness amongst students about how to join armed forces and various initiatives taken by the Govt. During this event, representative of Indian Army gave a motivational lecture on the subject matter for Students of Government Higher Secondary School, Thanamandi. The representative also conveyed to the teachers that tremendous potential in terms of talented and academically bright students is available in the region, however, due to lack of proper guidance, they fail to harness their full potential. Keeping the same in perspective, the interaction was aimed to tap the raw potential from these students and to



urge them to join armed forces through Sainik Schools, other education institutions and through pre commissioning training academies. The event helped in spreading awareness amongst the students about the significance of education and its role in growth of society. Representative of Indian Army also advised the children to pursue their aim in respective fields and contribute towards the environment, society and country as a responsible citizen. He motivated and assured them of all possible guidance and assistance from Indian Army for their future endeavors.

The Students and Teachers appreciated the initiatives taken by Indian Army for the welfare of the local populace, students and the school. This endeavor by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and Awan. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased the Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## Dr Rajeev Bhagat hands over Engagement Letters to new Anganwadi Workers, Helpers in Bishnah

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BISHNAH, APRIL 25

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, along with the CDPO Bishnah, Ms. Anjum Ganie, today handed over appointment orders to newly recruited Anganwadi workers and a helper. The distribution ceremony took place in Bishnah, marking a significant step towards strengthening the grassroots level of child and mother care services in the region.

The newly appointed Anganwadi Workers are Vishali, daughter of Shri Roop Lal resident of Ward No. 1, Bishnah; Priya Bharti, wife of Shri Jagdish Raj resident of Ward No. 2, Bishnah; Diviya Kumari, daughter of Shri Sham Lal resident of Ward No. 2, Bishnah; and Nisha Devi, daughter of Shri Kuldeep Raj resident of Bamaal. Additionally, Pooja Devi, wife of Rinku Kumar resident of Chak Avtara, Bishnah, received her appointment order as an Anganwadi Helper.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhagat congratulated the newly appointed individuals and emphasized the crucial role Anganwadi workers and helpers play in the holistic development of chil-



dren and the well-being of mothers in the community. He highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening the Anganwadi network and ensuring quality early childhood education and nutrition. Dr. Bhagat urged the new appointees to serve with dedication and sincerity, recognizing their responsibility towards shaping the future of young children.

Anjum Ganie echoed Dr. Bhagat's sentiments and expressed her optimism about the new team members. She emphasized the importance of teamwork and community participation in making the Anganwadi centers effective hubs for health, nutrition, and early learning. Ms. Ganie assured the new appoint-

ees of the department's full support and guidance in carrying out their duties.

The newly appointed workers and helper expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community and pledged to work diligently towards achieving the goals of the Anganwadi program. The event was attended by local community leaders and officials from the Social Welfare Department, underscoring the collective effort towards empowering women and children in Bishnah. The addition of these new members is expected to further enhance the reach and impact of the Anganwadi services in the Bishnah constituency.

## Pawan Sharma appeals central, state govts to ensure safety of J&K students studying across the country

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

Pawan Sharma, BJP Senior leader and former state secretary J&K, while expressing his anguish over the brutal killing of innocent tourists by Jammu terrorists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, said that a stark reminder of the challenges our nation faces from anti-national elements. I strongly condemn this act of terrorism and assure the nation that the Modi government will take all necessary steps to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Sharma emphasized that the government is committed to taking stringent action against those who carried out this heinous incident and those who supported terrorism. We will not tolerate any form of terrorism or anti-national activity in our country.

Our security forces are working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, and we will continue to support them in their efforts.

Sharma further stated that as a nation, we are angry and outraged by

this incident, but it is essential that we maintain peace and harmony. I appeal to the central and state govts to take responsibility for ensuring that students, employees, and businessmen from Jammu and Kashmir across the country do not face any kind of problem. We must stand united against terrorism and work towards building a strong and prosperous India.

Sharma said that, in this hour of grief and anger, it is crucial that we remain calm and composed. We must not let terrorism divide us or undermine our national identity. I urge all citizens to cooperate with the authorities and support our security forces in their efforts to combat terrorism.

Pawan Sharma assured the nation that the Modi government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens. We will not rest until we bring the perpetrators of this heinous incident to justice. I would also like to appeal to all citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

## Ex-Servicemen holds meeting, expresses outrage over Pahalgam incident, administrative apathy towards citizens

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

The monthly meeting of Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association Akhnoor, Jammu was held under the Chairmanship of Navy Veteran Lakhbir Singh Sohal, to discuss issues relating to welfare of Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris and widows.

Two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the civilians and defence officers who sacrificed their lives in Pahalgam Aattack. The Association extended heart felt condolences to the bereaved families.

Various issues such as pension and benefits, health care, employment and resettlement, Memorial and welfare schemes, the latest rule positions with regard to different



schemes were discussed.

While addressing Ex-serviceman Chairman said that government should form a dedicated Exservicemen Commission as redressal mechanism for ex-servicemen with transparent and time-bound responses to their grievances under separate Ministry for Exservicemen Welfare. Chairman said that What is particularly disturbing is the apathy shown by senior officers who have consistently failed to acknowledge or act upon

urgent grievances of Ex-servicemen - who have served the nation with honour, have reported being denied basic respect and assistance when raising matters of public interest and welfare. Their concerns regarding security arrangements, in areas like Pahalgam have shocked everyone, wherein the safety and security of citizens and pilgrims were gravely compromised due to apparent lapses in administrative oversight and coordination among concerned

authorities.

Chairman said that Exservicemen Association demands holding a high-level inquiry into the Pahalgam incident and accountability of senior bureaucrats who failed in their duty be ordered. If these steps are not taken, it will further erode public trust in the system and widen the gap between the administration and the people it is meant to serve. This is a wake-up call for the authorities. The dignity of the common citizen must be upheld, and the guilty must be held answerable for its failure.

We urge the concerned departments and government authorities to take swift action, identify and penalize those responsible for these lapses, and ensure stringent safety measures are put in place

to prevent such incidents in the future. The Chairman welcomed large number of Ex-Servicemen on taking membership of the association.

The meeting proceedings were conducted by Gen. Secy. Kaka Ram who thanked all veterans for participating in the meeting.

Prominent among others who attended the meeting included President Santosh Sharma, Sunita Sharma, senior veteran Sub. Khazan Singh, Bodh Raj, Gurmukh Singh, Puran Chand, Om Parkash, Bhagwan Dass, Karan Singh, Puran Chand, Banarsi Dass, Tilak Raj, AK Malhotra, Ram Dass, Dev Raj, Kartar Chand, Aswani Sharma, Satish Kumar, Gurdeep Singh Rajinder Singh, Vijay Singh and others.

## IIM Jammu concludes Eighth Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 25

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the valedictory ceremony of the Eighth Nurturing Future Leadership Program (NFLP) on 25th April 2025 at its permanent campus, Nyaya Classroom, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. The program, organized under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering leadership in academia.

The five-day residential program, held from 21st April to 25th April 2025, equipped 18 academicians from institutes across India with leadership, communication, and skill development insights. The curriculum, structured into four key themes, focused on leadership excellence, effective communication, skill enhancement, and recent government initiatives,

ensuring a comprehensive learning experience through lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises.

Dr. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, during the valedictory ceremony emphasized the value of collaborative learning in his address, stating, "All of us learn from each other. When wisdom is collected, it grows exponentially." He assured attendees that the feedback received would be diligently reviewed and utilized to enhance and refine the program for future iterations.

Dr. Kapil Gumte, Program Director, IIM Jammu, acknowledged the achievement of program objectives and the valuable networks established during your collaboration. He extended an invitation for your faculty members to visit IIM Jammu, emphasizing the potential benefits of such interactions. Additionally, he suggested that analys-

ing case studies could further enrich the learning experience. He also mentioned about the possibility of future collaborations and the continued exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The valedictory ceremony also featured participant reflections, where they shared their key takeaways and expressed appreciation for the enriching learning experience. Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the completion of the program. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu. The event culminated with the national anthem.

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission continues to reinforce IIM Jammu's role as a hub for leadership, innovation, and academic excellence, contributing to the national vision of empowering educators for a transformative impact on the education sector.

## Devotees at Srinagar's Jamia observe silence for Pahalgam victims

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

In a rare gesture, devotees at Kashmir's historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar observed a one-minute silence on Friday in solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

The emotional tribute came as Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was allowed to return to the pulpit after being barred from delivering sermons and offering prayers at the mosque for over a month.

On his return to Jamia, Mirwaiz strongly condemned the Pahalgam massacre, where 26 people were brutally killed in front of their families after being identified.

"The manner in which a carnage was carried out after ascertaining their identities and in front of their families is shocking and chilling beyond belief. We strongly condemn it. Who better can understand the pain and grief of loss to the families of those affected than a people who have suffered it for decades and still continue to," Mirwaiz said in his Friday sermon.

"Today, as I say this, as per the Islamic calendar, it is the 36th martyrdom anniversary of my father, Shaheed-e-Millat Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Farooq, and 70 others who lost their lives on this tragic day. Our hearts go out to these families who will never see their loved ones again, and our prayers are with them. We also pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

Mirwaiz said that Kashmiris are known for their hospitality, and once again, they showed it during this tragic time.

"...Being left helpless, locals helped those at the spot to flee, even at the risk to their own lives, in which pony operator Adil Hussain lost his life. We pay homage to this brave young Kashmiri who gave the ultimate sacrifice of life while saving that of others. Others rushed the injured, some even on their backs, trekking miles to hospitals. Kashmiris, in every manner, reached out to help the distressed tourists, as can be seen in videos where tourists are thanking them for opening up their homes to them, giving them food and free taxi rides to airports and other destinations, and even providing emotional support," he said.

## Airtel announces new plans to revolutionize International Roaming (IR) experience

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Bharti Airtel has announced new plans to its IR portfolio that will make it simpler, more affordable and completely hassle-free for customers. The company has unveiled India's first unlimited\* IR plans that offers unlimited data across 189 countries.

Additionally, for the long-staying NRI community, Airtel also launched a unique recharge plan for Rs. 4000 with one-year validity. The plan offers 5GB data and 100 voice minutes for use when abroad, while in India customers can use the same plan and get 1.5GB daily data and unlimited call benefits. The plan gives customers a hassle-free connectivity experience anywhere across the 189



countries and use the same number while in India without having to do a separate recharge.

Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO - Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said, "At Airtel, we are dedicated to simplifying our customers lives and delivering greater value and convenience to

them. We have dramatically simplified our IR plans that will truly redefine our value proposition for customers and give them the freedom to use data and voice generously while roaming the world. We remain continuously committed to delivering solutions that meet our customers' ever-evolving needs."

Customers will continue to enjoy other IR benefits with these plans that include:

- In-flight connectivity, auto activation of services upon landing overseas, 24x7 contact centre support.

- One Plan for travel to 189 countries. No

confusion over which zone or pack to select. No need for multiple packs across multiple countries or transit airports.

- Auto renewal feature for frequent travelers. This will remove the need to buy the pack multiple times and will enable hassle free travel

- Affordable packs. These will be more affordable than most in-country / local sims and will eliminate the hassle and expense of acquiring local SIM cards, providing globetrotters with a simplified solution to stay connected.

- All control will rest in the customer's hands. They will be able to manage their entire International roaming needs on the Airtel Thanks app with updates on usage, billing amount and addition of data or minutes as needed.

## People's Hut Foundation inks MoU with Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu to enhance healthcare access in Jammu region

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

The People's Hut Foundation and Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 25, 2025, to improve healthcare access and delivery in the region, leveraging the strengths of both organizations to benefit the community.

The MoU signing ceremony took place in Jammu and was signed in presence of representatives from both institutions. Dr. Harmeet Singh, Managing and Medical Director and Group Director - Emergency & Trauma at Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu, represented the Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity along with Mr. Ritvik Mahajan, Management Consultant and in presence of Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Marketing Head and Mr. Mehran Khan, Marketing Officer at Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu while as People's Hut Foundation was represented by Dr. Rohit Koul, Director and CEO and Dr. Ritu Koul, Director and COO, in presence of Advocate Meenu Padha, Legal Advisor and CTM at People's Hut Foundation.

While speaking to



media Dr. Rohit Koul said through this MOU, Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu and People's Hut Foundation will work together on various initiatives, including Organizing free medical camps to provide essential healthcare services to underserved populations and training the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in CPR and Emergency Support services. This partnership underscores the commitment of both Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu and People's Hut Foundation to improving the health and well-being of the community in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ujala Cygnus JK Medic-

ity Jammu is a leading healthcare provider in the region, offering a wide range of medical services and committed to delivering quality care to its patients and People's Hut Foundation which is a registered national NGO dedicated to providing essential services, including healthcare, to underserved communities under its flagship initiative "Mobile Health Clinic Program".

Dr. Harmeet Singh said that this partnership with People's Hut Foundation marks a significant step in our commitment to providing better healthcare facilities to the underprivi-

leged communities of the society who lack the basic healthcare facilities. Meanwhile Director and COO of People's Hut Foundation Dr. Ritu Koul emphasized that this initiative sets a new benchmark in community healthcare and follows the principle of giving back to the society.

Meanwhile, Advocate Meenu Padha, Legal Advisor and CTM at People's Hut Foundation praised the collaboration between two Institutions. She also highlighted MoU's potential to not only provide advanced healthcare access but also pave the way for community societal development.

## Amit pledges to establish Mamit as Mizoram's First e-District with Cooperatives at Forefront



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
MAMIT (MIZORAM), APRIL 25

Amit Sharma, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and Cooperation Departments today visited the Aspirational District of Mamit to give impetus to ICT influx and assessing its growth potential in e-Services domain alongwith focusing on the ongoing campaign for development of Cooperative sector in observance of the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025 in the district.

A meeting under the chairpersonship of Secretary Amit Sharma's visit was convened at Taitesena Buk, DC Office, Mamit by the Deputy Commissioner K. Lalrawlmlova attended by senior officials from the DC Office, Superintendent of Police Mr. Pukhraj Kamal, heads of various Government departments, Manager of the State Cooperative Bank, and representatives/chairpersons of Primary Cooperative Societies (PACS).

During the Meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mamit, Carolyn L.B. Kiangte, delivered a presentation on the district's administrative overview especially its current

status in ICT domain while District Cooperative Officer Mamit Rothangliana Bawitlung presented a status report on the Cooperative sector here.

On the ICT front, Secretary Amit Sharma reviewed the status of Common Service Centres (CSCs) and mobile network connectivity, who is having vast experience in this domain, serving as IT Secretary in UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh in the past. He proposed expanding the business of Multi-Purpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies (MPACS) with inclusion of CSCs for benefit of public here and it was resolved that Mamit district shall strive towards becoming the first e-District in Mizoram and that the district administration shall soon submit a proposal to Government in this behalf.

Further, in his lead remarks, Secretary ICT/Cooperation Amit Sharma called upon all stakeholders to outperform past performances during the ongoing IYC-2025, as declared by UN, emphasizing the need for quality over quantity in the development of Cooperative societies. He encouraged the District Cooperative Officer to actively engage

with successful cooperatives to promote the vision of "prosperity through cooperation."

Amit also advocated the need for exploring new avenues for funding and market access, along with enhanced utilisation of the State Cooperative Bank (APEX Bank) and NDCD.

Highlighting the success of Darlak Agri and Allied Services Cooperative Society Ltd., which recently won first prize for Mamit District in the Chief Minister Bana Kailh Innovation Challenge, Secretary ICT/Cooperation Amit Sharma stressed the importance of scaling such successes. He also urged focus on dairy cooperative societies to usher in a cooperative-led "White Revolution 2.0" in the district.

Additionally, discussions were held on road connectivity issues, law and order, and the status of ongoing developmental projects in the district.

Before leaving, Secretary Amit Sharma also visited few leading Cooperative Societies alongwith DC Mamit, SP Mamit, DCO Mamit and others to overview their functioning and he assured them of more financial and marketing support to expanding production lines in the ongoing IYC, 2025.

## V-Marc India Limited expands to Jammu, launches Innovative Wire & Cable Products

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

V-Marc India Limited, a leading manufacturer of wires and cables in India, announces its expansion plans in Jammu. Known for its embrace of technology and innovation, Jammu is a key market for V-Marc to introduce its latest range of advanced wire and cable solutions. The launch of new products Flexi-TUF eB-HFFR Wires and eB+ Power Cables, developed through extensive research and powered by electron beam (eBeam) technology, was also held in the launch conference in Jammu.

“V-Marc is the fastest-growing wire and cable company in India. As a public-listed company, our goal is to deliver the best results for our customers and stakehold-



ers while expanding our product portfolio by creating new business verticals. Our expansion into Jammu and the launch of our latest eBeam technology-based products aligns with India's growing focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency,” said Mr. Deepak Tikle, Executive Director, V-Marc India Ltd. The Flexi-TUF eB-HFFR

Wires and eB+ Power Cables feature a unique insulation material, developed by V-Marc, that replaces hazardous PVC with XLPO-based polymer. These innovative solutions offer 80% higher current-carrying capacity, a service life exceeding 60 years, the ability to withstand working temperatures up to 150°C, and robust

protection against short circuits. This eco-friendly insulation prevents chlorine emissions during fire incidents, significantly reducing the risk of suffocation. The advanced technology used in these products is already well-established in Europe, US, and Southeast Asia. It will become a trend-setter in India.

“The company believes in partnering with dealers and distributors as a core strategy to drive its business growth across India”, said Mr. Anurag Madan, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, V-Marc India Ltd. “We are bringing the latest technology for the safety of the our people by building robust dealer network”, said Mr. Bimal Raina, Assistant General Manager - Jammu & Kashmir.

## GGG College of Management and Technology signs Landmark MoU with Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi



Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal  
Emeritus Professor (Ph.D. D.Litt)  
Principal, GGSCT



Prof. Aman Agarwal  
Dean (International Relations)  
Indian Institute of Finance

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

GGG College of Management and Technology has entered into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Finance (IIF), New Delhi, marking a significant step toward enhanced academic and research collaboration. This strategic partnership is designed to foster innovation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and create transformative learning opportunities. Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal hailed the collaboration as a pivotal milestone, emphasizing its potential to unlock

new avenues for academic excellence and institutional advancement. The MoU outlines a broad spectrum of joint initiatives, including collaborative research publications, knowledge-sharing seminars, international conferences, and specialized workshops. It also aims to promote global academic alliances, support student development programs, offer consultancy services, implement faculty development initiatives, enhance skill-building efforts, and strengthen industry-academia linkages. Dr. Aman Aggrawal, Director of IIF, expressed his appreciation for the distinguished

academic standing of GGS College of Management and Technology. He affirmed his confidence in the partnership's ability to drive innovation, spur institutional growth, and elevate the academic and research environment. Both institutions are committed to leveraging their combined expertise and resources to achieve academic excellence and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of research. This collaboration underscores their shared dedication to enriching the educational landscape and inspiring future generations of scholars and professionals.

## Kunwarani Ritu Singh strongly condemns Pahalgam terror attack

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

Kunwarani Ritu Singh strongly condemned the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam, expressing profound grief and anguish over the loss of innocent lives. The brutal assault on tourists has sent shockwaves across the region and brought immeasurable pain to the affected families and the wider community.

“We stand in unwavering solidarity with those who have lost their loved ones in this horrific tragedy,” she said. “My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. May they find strength and peace during this incredibly difficult time.”

Calling for unity and compassion, Kunwarani Ritu Singh emphasized that such cowardly acts must not be allowed to shake the collective spirit of the people. “Violence has no place in our society. These heinous actions must be condemned in the strongest terms. We must continue to uphold the values of peace, humanity, and resilience,” she added.

## WAVES Bazaar unveils its First-Ever 'Top Selects' Lineup Showcasing 15 Projects in 9 Languages

JI NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APR 25

India occupies a dominant position in Media & Entertainment sector with talents spread across different geographies of the country, creating compelling contents through its rich cultural heritage. The World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), to be held from 1st to 4th May in Mumbai, is poised to become one of the landmarks in the Media and Entertainment sector. The summit will promote India as one stop destination for content creation, investment destination and leverage ‘Create in India’ opportunities as well as for global outreach.

WAVES Bazaar is the premier global marketplace for the media and entertainment industry, a dynamic platform designed to foster connection, collaboration, and growth. It offers filmmakers and industry professionals the opportunity to engage with buyers, sellers, and a wide range of projects and profiles, while also showcasing their skills and expanding their professional network.

The Viewing Room is a dedicated physical platform set up at Waves Bazaar, taking place from May 1st to 4th, 2025. It serves as a space for showcasing recently completed films and projects in Post Production from around the world. These films are actively seeking opportunities for film festivals, global sales, distribution partnerships, and finishing funds.

Designed for film programmers, distributors, world sales agents, investors and other industry professionals, the Viewing Room offers a secure environment where delegates attending Waves Bazaar can watch these films, access detailed project information, and connect directly with filmmakers through our specialized Viewing Room Software.

For the first ever WAVES Bazaar, a total 100 films from 8 countries namely India, Sri Lanka, USA, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Germany, Mauritius and UAE will be available to watch in the Viewing Room Library. The overall lineup includes 18 titles of NFDC produced and co-produced films and adds 8 restored classics from the National Film Archive of India (NFAI). It also includes 19 student projects from Film & Television Institute of India (FTII, Pune) and Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI, Kolkata)

## Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags, Mosquito Nets to Bakarwal Community at Salani, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 25 APRIL 2025

In an initiative aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the Bakarwal community in the remote areas of Poonch district, Indian Army has distributed essential winter gear and health protection items. Recognising the challenges faced by this nomadic community, especially during the harsh winter months, Indian Army provided sleeping bags to offer warmth and comfort, and mosquito nets to safeguard against vector-borne diseases prevalent in the region. The distribution event, was attended by local leaders and community elders. These areas are known for their rugged terrain and limited access to basic amenities, making such initiatives crucial for the well-being of the residents. The sleeping bags are designed to withstand low temperatures,



ensuring that individuals, particularly children and the elderly, remain warm during the cold nights. The mosquito nets provided are treated with insecticides, offering protection against diseases such as malaria and dengue, which are common in the region due to the presence of stagnant water bodies. Community members expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for this timely assistance, highlighting the positive impact on their daily lives.

This distribution is part of a broader effort to support marginalised communities in Jammu and Kashmir, aligning with the government's initiatives to uplift the tribal population and improve their living standards. Through such collaborative efforts, Indian Army plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between remote communities and essential resources, fostering a sense of solidarity and support among the people of Poonch district.

## Sacrifice of Syed Adil Hussain Shah sets narrative of J&K in right direction: Khatana

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, Senior BJP Leader and Member of the Rajya Sabha, today paid tribute to the heroism of Syed Adil Hussain Shah and other brave citizens whose selfless actions saved innocent tourists during the recent Pahalgam attack.

Khatana began his day with heartfelt prayers at a BJP-organized congregation in Srinagar, solemnly remembering those who lost their lives in the cowardly assault on tourists in Pahalgam. He then participated in an all-party meeting at the SKICC to foster unity and resolve among J&K's political leadership.

Early this morning, Khatana visited the family of martyr Syed Adil Hussain Shah at their home in Poni Bala, offering his deepest condolences and assuring them that the people of Jammu & Kashmir stand united in honoring his sacrifice. Shah's



courageous intervention not only saved lives but also sent a powerful message of solidarity across the region.

“I salute the bravery of Adil Hussain Shah and all those ordinary citizens who rose to protect innocent lives,” said Khatana. “Their actions have set our community on the right path—one of courage, communal harmony, and unwavering resilience against terror.”

Later, Khatana called on the family of the late Lt. Aga Syed Baker al-Moviesi, a respected religious leader who passed away recently, to convey his sympathies and support

during their time of grief. He also engaged with numerous deputations throughout the day, listening to their concerns and reaffirming his commitment to ensuring peace and security for all residents.

Khatana extended his gratitude to every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir for “standing as a rock against terrorism” and lauded the exemplary courage shown by ordinary men and women. He urged that those found responsible for the Pahalgam attack be dealt with “the full severity of the law,” emphasizing that justice must be swift and exemplary.

## If you are deprived of social security, do visit EPFO regional office Srinagar: Vinay Kumar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 25

The Central EPFO Kashmiri division bids farewell to its retiring official Lateef Ahmad Zargar, Area Enforcement Officer.

He has given a long service to JKPF and subsequently central EPFO Kashmir division.

He had a long tenure of more than 40 years wherein he served in JKPF till October 2023 and subsequently to central EPFO that is April



2025. Another employee Ali Mohd Shah will also be retiring this month.

Central EPFO is providing PF (Provident Fund) pension, and insurance benefits governed under EPF and MP act 1952, EPF scheme 1952, EPS scheme 1995, EDLI scheme 1976 to all eligible members of Kashmir valley.

Meanwhile EPFO Regional Director, Vinay Kumar said that EPFO regional director office is always available to help people who are deprived of social security, viz; PF, insur-

ance or other social security benefit.

Compliance and enforcement of these acts and schemes are being extended in 10 districts of Kashmir valley under the overall supervision of Regional provident fund commissioner, Shri Vinay Kumar Rajput (Officer regional office Srinagar)

The said regional office is located at 1st and 2nd floor of Labour commission building at Batamaloo Srinagar.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION**  
**DIVISION NO. 1ST, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU.**  
Email/Fax : [ifcjmuxenid1jmu@gmail.com](mailto:ifcjmuxenid1jmu@gmail.com)

**E-NIT No.: 04/2025-26**

**Dated : 24.04.2025**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No-I, Jammu invites e-tenders in two cover system **Cover 1st** containing Technical prequalification bid documents and **Cover 2nd** containing Price Bid from registered contractors of appropriate Class for the below mentioned works (**Stage works 2025-26**).

S.No	Name of work	Advertisement Cost of the work (In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of the completion	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)	Class Contractor
1	Annual Repair Maintenance Main Rabir Canal from RD 26400-28353m including Distribution system /khuls/ Minor , escapes and other allied works under Irrigation Sub Division Tawi Island Jammu	1.00	2% of the advertised cost	8 months	200.00	ABCD

**A) Position of Funds : Budgetary Provision under MH 2700.**  
**B) -M&R-023.**  
**C) Position of TS : Under Process.**  
**D) Position of AAA : Under Process.**

**Important Dates :**

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24.4.2025 ( 6PM)
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24.4.2025 ( 6 PM) to 30.04.2025 upto 4 PM.
3	Pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Div.I Jammu.	25.04.2025 at 1.00 PM
4	Bid Submission Start Date	24-04-2025 (6.00 PM )
5	Bid Submission End Date	30.04.2024 upto 1600Hrs
6	Date and time of opening of Technical bids (online)	30.04.2025 at 4.15 (Subjective) in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division No.I, Canal Road Jammu.
7	Date and time of opening of Financial bids ( online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1.The complete bidding process will be online.  
2.Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders, specifications, bill of quantity, conditions and other detail.

No: JID-I/579-91  
Dated. 24.4.2025

**DIP/J-594/25**  
**Date: 25-4-2**

**Sd/-**  
Executive Engineer,  
Irrigation Division No: I,  
Jammu

## Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on Drug Abuse for Youth at Bhagwah, Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA: 25 APRIL 2025

As part of its ongoing commitment to community outreach and youth empowerment, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture on drug abuse for school students and teachers in Bhagwah. The session aimed to sensitize the students & teachers about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of fostering a safe and healthy environment for young minds. Held at Higher Senior Secondary School Bhagwah, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 70 attendees, including students & faculty members. The lecture covered the harmful effects of drug consumption on physical health, mental well-being, and social life. Special emphasis was placed on the long-term consequences of addic-



tion, including its impact on education, family ties, and future prospects. The session also addressed legal implications and shared practical strategies to prevent drug abuse, empowering parents and teachers to play an active role in guiding the youth. Interactive discussions and real-life examples helped reinforce the message of staying drug-

free. Local residents and school authorities appreciated the Indian Army's proactive role in spreading awareness and contributing to the holistic development of the younger generation. The Indian Army reaffirmed its dedication to building a resilient, responsible, and drug-free society through continued engagement with local communities.

## Kavinder inaugurates MS Ridefusion state-of-the-art tyre solution showroom

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

MS Ridefusion, a state-of-the-art tyre solution showroom, was today inaugurated by Sh. Kavinder Gupta, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The grand opening marked a significant step in providing high-quality and comprehensive tyre solutions to customers in the region.

With a strong focus on customer satisfaction, MS Ridefusion has been established with the mission of delivering top-tier products and services under one roof. The owners of the showroom, Akshit and Nimish both the highly educated duo, proudly presented their vision of creating a one-stop destination under one roof that makes the tyre, and other car accessories experience both convenient and enjoyable.

Speaking at the event, Sh. Kavinder Gupta praised the initiative and expressed confidence in the shop's



ability to meet the growing demands of motorists through professionalism and quality service. "Our aim is to redefine how people approach tyre maintenance and replacement," said Nimish. "We want to make sure every customer leaves satisfied, with the right product and the best service." Akshit added, "Mahashakti MS Ridefusion is more than just a tyre shop. It's about creating trust, offering expert guidance, and being part of our customers' journey on the road." The new showroom showcases a wide range of branded tyres, accessories, and related services, making it a hub for automobile enthusiasts and everyday drivers alike. With dedication and a customer-first approach, MS Ridefusion is set to become a trusted name in tyre retail and service in the region and as a part of promotional offer we will be offering 10% discount on all products and free alignment for a week added Nimish.

## Yudhvir Sethi, Surinder Bhagat holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Yudhvir Sethi, vice-president, J&K BJP and MLA Jammu East and Surinder Bhagat, MLA Marh listened to the public grievances in a public darbar held at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Scores of deputations hailing from different areas of Jammu and surrounding districts visited BJP headquarters and presented their grievances in front of BJP MLAs.

Deputations presented the public issues like construction and repair of lanes and drains, repair and installation of street lights, issue related to Revenue Department, concern for erratic water supply etc.

The BJP leaders listened patiently and attentively, resolving several grievances on the spot by directly engaging with concerned departmental officials through both oral communication and written instructions.

While attending committedly to the issues put forth by the public, Yudhvir Sethi reiterated the BJP's commitment to serve the people beyond political slogans.

"Despite being out of power in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues to assert its commitment to the region's development and welfare. The party actively supports central government schemes, facilitates infrastructure projects, and pushes for employment and social welfare programs", said Yudhvir Sethi.

Surinder Bhagat said that the public darbar reflected the BJP's proactive approach in ensuring transparency, accountability, and direct communication between the public and their elected representatives. He, on the occasion, also reaffirmed the party's dedication to public service and urged people to actively participate in such interactive platforms.

## Special measures to identify security personnel: Judicial Council

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APR 25

At least 26 tourists were shot dead by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday i.e. 22 April. The attack was carried out by terrorists wearing military uniforms.

Judicial Council's Chairman Shri Rajiv Agnihotri said that the extent of condemnation of the cowardly attack in Pahalgam Kashmir can't be expressed in words, This is the deadliest terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir since the Pulwama attack in February 2019.

Agnihotri wrote an email to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The killing of innocent Indians and foreigners at Baisaran in Pahalgam needs to be taken very seriously as the terrorists who killed 26 people were in military fatigues. This is



the biggest attack on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. This issue is of a very serious nature, you are requested to increase the security in those areas of Jammu and Kashmir region from where infiltration is possible to avoid any such incident in the future, there is a greater need for the police forces and intel-

ligence agencies to be alert and deploy more personnel in these areas.

Not only this, special measures should be taken to identify the security personnel where by any terrorists can be identified easily.

Shri Sanjeev Chauhan, Member, Judicial Council on Human Rights

The death of innocent people is very sad, unfortunate and inhuman, the government should take strict action as well as ensure proper compensation, justice to the victim families.

In this hour of grief, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families and against the terrorists. I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray to God to give strength and courage to all the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

## Shiv Sena demands strict action against Bangladeshis and Rohingyas

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 25

Modi government should issue strict orders to expel illegal Bangladeshis and Rohingyas from the country, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni has demanded the Jammu and Kashmir police and intelligence agencies to find the accomplices (snake in the sleeve) of the terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and take strict legal action against them.

Sahni said that these snakes of the sleeve, who are helping the terrorists in their nefarious, cowardly activities in the Pahalgam attack, have bitten the



Hindu Muslim brotherhood along with the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. Which should be crushed with strictness.

Sahni termed the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis illegally camping in the country and Jammu and Kashmir as a serious threat from the security point of view and said that they have been found involved in many criminal and anti-national incidents including drug trafficking, women trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir.

Before these illegal intruders dare to carry out any major unpleasant incident, strict action should be taken in time and they should be shown the way out of the country.

Sahni has demanded that Pakistani citizen Seema Haider, who illegally entered the Indian border through Nepal about two years ago (May 13, 2023), should be sent back to Pakistan within the stipulated time frame. Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to immediately arrest and expel illegal Bangladeshis and Rohingyas.

## Time to unite as a nation & fight terrorism with one voice: Bali Bhagat

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 25

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat has strongly criticized the remarks made by former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik regarding the tragic Pahalgam terror attack, in which 28 Hindu tourists lost their lives in a brutal assault carried out by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. Expressing deep anguish

and anger over the heinous act, Bali Bhagat said that while security lapses may occur, it is unacceptable to undermine the gravity of such attacks or politicize national security. "This is indeed a lapse in security," he acknowledged, "but the real question is—how long will innocent people continue to live under the shadow of terror? For how many more years must we tolerate this bloodshed?"

## Shrine Board holds Joint Security Review - AI based ICCC at Katra to be operationalised in May

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATRA, APRIL 25

To assess security and operational preparedness of Shrine area for hassle-free pilgrimage, Chief Executive Officer, Anshul Garg today presided over a joint security review meeting with security agencies and other stakeholders at Central Office, Katra.

The meeting was attended by Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SP, Katra; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Katra; Tehsildar, SMVDSB and officers from Army, intelligence agencies and Shrine Board.

The CEO stressed that the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) coming up at Katra must be operationalized by the first week of May to ensure pilgrim safety and facilitate smooth yatra regulation. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the timeline, highlighting that a robust security grid across all key sectors of the shrine relies on the



timely activation of the ICCC as this center will enable real-time monitoring, swift response to emergencies and effective coordination among security agencies through a network of 700 CCTV cameras with features like gesture recognition, face recognition, PTZ and such others as per operational requirements. The CEO urged all concerned quarters to strictly follow the deadline to ensure a safe and secure yatra.

Intelligence sharing and coordination among security agencies also remained key focus areas. The meeting highlighted the need for seamless

communication and data exchange to prevent security breaches. Strategies to verify the credentials of Pithoo and Ponywallas to prevent impersonation and ensure their legitimate involvement were also discussed to ensure a secure pilgrimage experience.

The meeting also explored deployment of additional security personnel, area domination and the use of drones and other advanced technologies to monitor the Shrine and surrounding areas. The latest advancements in security scenarios including AI-powered surveillance systems and data analytics were also

discussed. The meeting emphasized the importance of staying ahead of potential security threats by adopting cutting-edge technologies and best practices.

The CEO reiterated the importance of effectively utilizing advanced security equipments crucial for maintaining robust security measures provided to security agencies as per the Hon'ble Chairman's (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) directives to ensure a safe environment for pilgrims. These equipments include X-Ray Baggage Scanners, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Hand-Held Metal Detectors and Under Vehi-

cle Search Mirrors recently procured and installed by the Board in the Shrine area.

Geo-fencing technology to enhance security in the Shrine area was also discussed for optimizing resources and improving shrine management.

The CEO emphasized that security agencies must maintain zero tolerance and not allow any relaxation or leniency in security checks at all points, ensuring strict adherence to protocols to guarantee the safety and security of pilgrims visiting the Shrine. It was informed by SSP Reasi that FIRs have been registered against unauthorized personnel caught plying as service providers on the track and continuous inspections are underway.

The meeting also thoroughly discussed the peripheral security of Katra town, focusing on strategies to strengthen surveillance, improve intelligence gathering and implement effective access control to ensure a secure environment for pilgrims.

## DLSA Samba organisred training and sensitization programme on POCSO and JJB Act



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, APRIL 25

The District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) Samba in compliance with the Action Plan for the April 2025 issued by the J&K Legal Service Authority and under the guidance of R.N. Wattal Chairman District Legal Service Authority Samba organized a training and sensitization program on the POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice Act at Shemford Futuristic School, Birpur today.

The Program hosted by Ms. Varsha Anthal Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel featured lectures

by Ms. Suman Bhagat (Deputy Defence Counsel) and Ms. Rajni Sambyal (Assistant Defence Counsel) on the POCSO Act and its provisions. Ms. Neemisha Rajput Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Samba on the role and responsibilities of the CWC and the toll free Child Helpline Number 1098.

Ms. Cheena Sumbria, Ld. Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board Samba on the functioning of the JJB and the importance of vigilance.

Mr. Sandeep Singh Sen Ld. Secretary District Legal Service Authority informed the audi-

ence about the benefits provided by DLSA and other stakeholders under the aforementioned Acts. The Vice Principal of the School Ms. Kiranjit Kour extended vote of thanks to the visiting team.

The Program was attended by the staff of DLSA, Plv's, Counsellor from the District Child Protection Unit, Supervisor of Child Helpline Samba, teachers, staff and students of the School.

The program aimed to educate students about their rights and the resources available to them, promoting a safer and informed community.

## Medical Camp organized at Jaganoo by Narayana Hospital, SBSPMCT

J1 NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 25

In a profound display of compassion and commitment to public service Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Narayana super speciality Hospital, in collaboration with Shri Bhupinder Singh Pathania Charitable Trust (J&K) organized a Free Medical Camp at Block Jaganoo.

The initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services to underserved communities, particularly in rural areas where access to medical facilities remains limited.

The camp was inaugurated by MLA Ramnagar Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj in presence of Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur Juhi Pathania, Chairman of the Trust Arjun Singh Pathania and trustees.

Over 400 patients were registered during the

camp, availing a total of 1,300 consultations, as many patients received evaluations from multiple specialists. The camp placed special focus on female health and hygiene, aiming to address critical healthcare gaps in rural areas and promote well-being across communities.

Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, lauded the efforts of the Trust and Narayana Hospital for organizing such a meaningful healthcare initiative in memory of a towering personality like Lt. Bhupinder Singh Pathania. He emphasized the importance of extending advanced medical services to remote and underserved areas and appreciated the commitment shown by the organizers in making specialized healthcare accessible to the people of Jaganoo and surrounding regions. Dr. Bhardwaj called for



more such collaborative efforts to bridge the rural-urban healthcare divide and ensure that no one is left behind due to lack of medical facilities.

Juhi Manhas Pathania extended her heartfelt thanks to the District

Administration, particularly the Department of Health and Narayana Superspeciality Hospital for deputing a distinguished team of super-specialist doctors for the camp. She highlighted that while Jaganoo has only a

Primary Health Centre catering to basic healthcare needs, it was through the collective support of the administration and the hospital that specialized consultations were made accessible to the local population—many of whom had never before interacted with such advanced medical expertise.

In a poignant tribute, Vijay Gupta, General Secretary of the Trust, recalled the extraordinary selflessness of Lt. Bhupinder Singh Pathania, who turned down prestigious opportunities—including gazetted posts such as Dy. SP, DFO and Tehsildar, as well as admissions to top institutions like BITS Pilani and Patna to dedicate his life to the service of the people. His absence in the Legislative Assembly was deeply felt, as noted by Late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who once said,

“The Assembly has suffered his non-presence. We needed a man of such caliber and character.”

Prominent among those present were Brij Mohan Sharma, former councillor, Romesh Gupta, former Sarpanch, Kuldip Singh (trustees), Ashish Sharma, Arti Sharma, Madan Lal, Sobe Chand, Joginder Sharma, CMO Anil Manhas, CEO Kishore Kumar Badyal, Principal HSS Jaganoo Pawan Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Koul (Professor General Surgery), Dr. Geetu Mahajan (Assistant Professor Obs & Gynaecology), Dr. Archana Shah (Associate Professor ENT), Dr. Gurkim Kaur (Assistant Professor Dermatology), Dr. Ankita Sharma (Assistant Professor General Medicine) Dr. Tamishi Sharma (Assistant Professor Respiratory Medicine), Dr. Akash Narangyal (Sr. Resident, Orthopedics).

## Awareness events organised across District Samba to mark World Malaria Day 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APRIL 25

District Samba today observed World Malaria Day 2025 as a series of awareness programs and educational activities were held across various health institutions and schools.

The deliberation centered on this year's theme "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvent, Re-imagine, Reignite, which aims to re-energize efforts at all

levels, from global policy to community action, to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination.

The events were held across all three medical blocks of the district—Ramgarh, Nud and Purnamandal—where healthcare professionals conducted awareness sessions, distributed informational pamphlets, and emphasized the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding grounds.

## Martial arts inter-School competitions held at Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 25

Continuing its mission to nurture young talent and promote physical fitness among school-going children, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Baramulla, successfully conducted a series of inter-school zonal level sports events across multiple zones of the district.

In Zone Baramulla, the Under-14 and Under-17 Boys and Girls Wushu and Taekwondo Championships were held at the Kashmir Combative Academy. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from over 24 government and private institutions, with more than 300 students demonstrating exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship across various weight categories.

Zone Wagoora organized its zonal level Wushu and



Taekwondo competitions for the Under-14 and Under-17 boys at HSS Kreeri, where 53 students from different schools displayed commendable performances in their respective bouts.

Simultaneously, Zone Dangiwachha hosted its inter-school Wushu and Taekwondo events at the Community Hall Dangiwachha. The Taekwondo segment recorded the

participation of 64 students in U/14 and 35 in U/17, while the Wushu event saw 25 students in U/14 and 20 in U/17 competing fiercely.

The event was graced by the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Dangiwachha as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the participants and the organising committee for their efforts.

Apart from martial arts, focus was also laid on indoor and wellness sports. In Zone Chandanwari, an Inter-School Chess Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls was held at HSS Bijhama, encouraging strategic thinking among young minds.

Similarly, Zone Tangmarg hosted its Inter-School Chess Championship for girls at GGHS

Chandilora, witnessing enthusiastic participation and a battle of wits across the boards.

Meanwhile, Zone Fatehgarh contributed by organising an Inter-School Yoga Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls, promoting mindfulness and physical well-being.

DYSSO Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Wani expressed great satisfaction over the smooth conduct and vibrant participation across all zones. “These competitions are not just about winning medals, but about empowering our youth, inculcating discipline, and encouraging them to lead healthy lifestyles,” he said, while congratulating all the participants and organisers.

These multi-zone events reaffirm the department's commitment to holistic student development through sports and physical education.

## DC Reasi chairs meeting on Change of Land Use Cases

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 25

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district.

A total of 8 cases were taken up for discussion. After thorough scrutiny in the light of policy regulations, 2 cases were approved, 5 cases were deferred, and 1 case was rejected by the committee.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the ACR to ensure proper safety measures are in place before granting CLU approval for petrol pumps. She also instructed the Town Planner and Executive Engineer PWD to assess road conditions and ensure proper clearance. A joint



site visit by the Town Planner and the executing agency was also directed.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to applicants after thorough verification of documents. She underscored

the importance of strictly adhering to guidelines and policies while considering CLU cases.

The meeting was attended by ACD Pardeep Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, XEN PWD, CEO MC, CAO, AEE and other concerned officers.

## DIC Shopian organizes awareness prog under RAMP

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, APRIL 25

The District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative, organized an awareness-cum-outreach programme at ITI, Shopian today.

The event witnessed the participation of senior officers, including General Manager, DIC Shopian, Lead District Manager Shopian, Block Development Officer, Shopian, District Nodal Officer, EDI Shopian, Superintendent, ITI Shopian along with representatives from the Departments of Handicrafts, Banks, and officials from DIC Shopian were also present.

More than 150 beneficiaries from various sectors, including Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM, EDI trainees, ITI trainees/Passouts and MSME entrepreneurs actively participated in the programme.

During the inaugural session, participants were sensitized about the significance of Udyam Registration and its role in empowering businesses and industrial establishments.

Emphasis was laid on



how collaboration with government initiatives and flagship schemes can help enterprises grow and succeed.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was delivered, outlining the udyam registration process, associated benefits, and available support systems.

On the occasion, the General Manager DIC Shopian, Lead Bank Manager Shopian, Functional Manager DIC Shopian, District Nodal Officer EDI Shopian and Industrial promotion officer DIC Shopian also

addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of Udyam Registration. They interacted with participants, discussed various entrepreneurship opportunities, and encouraged them to leverage government schemes to scale their ventures.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, during which participant's queries were addressed, reinforcing DIC Shopian's commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and MSME development in the district.

## ACS chairs SCERT's workshop held under Oasis Jyotirdhar Initiative

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 25

In a significant stride towards educational rejuvenation, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office, Jammu, hosted a workshop and training under OASIS JYOTIRDHAR Movement phase-3, for the Heads of Institutions in Partnership with Department of School Education and SCERT Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu.

The ACS, on the occasion, inaugurated an exhibition showcasing a diverse array of curriculum enrichment tools including academic documents, books and educational aids developed by SCERT Jammu Division. It served as a visual narrative of the institution's academic journey.

In his address, the ACS applauded the vision of the proactive endeavours of SCERT in advancing educational innovation and excellence. He encouraged all stakeholders to remain cognizant of evolving pedagogies and adapt to the dynamic educational land-



scape through continuous reflection and innovation. Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT, highlighted the vision behind the Oasis Jyotirdhar Initiative. She underscored the importance of collaborative learning, innovation in teaching practices and development of an inclusive academic resource to ensure quality education for all.

The event witnessed the release of two strategic blueprints; The Syllabus cum Academic Planner 2025-26 and the BaLa (Building as Learning Aid) Vision Document, both poised to strengthen pedagogical practices and infrastructure-based learning in schools. The Academic Planner was meticulously developed through collaborative efforts of members of Assessment Cell including Ranjeet Singh Manhas (Head, Assessment Cell SCERTJ&K), Rakesh Chob-

ber (Head, Assessment Cell, SCERT Jammu Division), Dr. Nazneen Mehraj and Dr. Saima Qadir from SCERT Kashmir Division. Besides, Manisha Chun and Parshotam Singh, Academic Officers, SCERT Jammu Division contributed significantly towards development of the vision document “BaLa”.

An incisive overview of the workshop was presented by Tina Vasudeva, Chief Coordinator Oasis Movement, who elucidated the key themes, participatory engagement and expected outcomes of the program.

In the feedback session, valuable insights and reflections on the learning experiences and effectiveness of the workshop modules was provided by Anwar Khan, Principal, GHSS Sawjian Poonch and Kiran Bhadwal, Principal, GHSS Camp Nagrota Jammu.

## Establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant discussed in Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APRIL 25

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today at the DC Office complex to review the establishment of solid waste management plants in the district.

The meeting aimed to address the growing concerns regarding waste disposal and explore sustainable solutions for the same.

Key discussions included planning and implementing a comprehensive solid waste management system, which encompasses collection, transportation, segregation, processing, and disposal methods.

Officials from different line departments gave updates on the implementation status of Solid Waste Management Rules

to bridge the existing gaps in solid and liquid waste management in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the relevant authorities to identify potential sites for waste management structures, create a detailed plan for the transportation of solid waste to these sites, mark all SBM structures for waste management on a GPS map and compile all relevant records for submission to the office as soon as possible.

The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACR Mohammad Sayeed; EXEN PWD Poonch/Surankote, Tehsildars from Haveli, Surankote, and Mandi, BDO Poonch, EO Municipal Council Poonch, MC Surankote and other concerned officials.