

The Kashmir Talk

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PM vows 'harshest' response to Pahalgam perpetrators

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Terrorists and their backers carried out the Pahalgam attack to destroy Kashmir again as they did not like the return of peace and prosperity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday and vowed the "harshest" response to the "perpetrators and conspirators".

As the prime minister, in his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio address, spoke of a "decisive battle" against terrorism, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir razed more houses of terrorists and rounded up their sympathisers in a stepped-up crackdown on terror ecosystem after the



Pakistan-linked ultras on Tuesday shot dead 26 people, mostly tourists, in cold blood.

Sunday was the last day for Pakistanis having short-term visas in 12 categories to leave India and a long queue of vehicles was seen at the

Attari-Wagah border crossing. As many as 537 Pakistani nationals, including nine diplomats and officials, left India in four days from the border point since April 24 after the government announced the visa revocation the previous day,

officials said.

A total of 850 Indians, including 14 diplomats and officials, have returned from Pakistan through the crossing located in Punjab in the last four days. Some of the Pakistanis might have left India through airports too, the officials said, pointing out that since India does not have direct air connectivity with Pakistan, they might have left for other countries. The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26. For those carrying medical visas, the deadline is April 29.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) formally took over the Pahalgam terrorist

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Omar supports decisive fight against terrorism, cautions harming innocents

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday supported decisive fight against terrorism and its origin but cautioned against any misplaced action that alienates people who have voiced their concerns over innocent killings after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Abdullah's remarks came amid a major crackdown on the terror ecosystem, including the blasting of nine residential houses belonging to active terrorists and their overground workers, and the

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PM Modi monitoring situation in J&K post terror attack: Jitendra

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is monitoring the situation in Jammu and Kashmir post the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said whatever decision would be taken it would be in the best interest of the public.

He said there is no need

to worry or panic under the leadership of Modi who had assured "appropriate action" against the terrorists involved in the deadly attack on the tourists in Pahalgam on April 22, leaving 26 people dead.

Talking to reporters in his Udhampur parliamentary constituency, the Minister of state in the Prime Minister's office termed the Pahalgam ter-

ror attack as "painful" and said PM Modi has taken serious cognizance of the incident and "he is personally monitoring the situation".

"Overall, I feel that we do not need to worry or panic under the leadership of Modi...the home ministry and defence ministry are taking a very thoughtful decision based on their inputs and we believe that whatever decisions are taken by the government would be taken in the best interest of the public. We should be assured of that," the minister said.

Singh visited Udhampur where he held a comprehensive interaction with public representatives and local citizens and also conducted

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NIA registers case to probe Pahalgam Terror Attack, intensifies search for evidence

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has formally taken over the Pahalgam terrorist attack case, intensifying its search for evidence and questioning eyewitnesses to unravel the terror conspiracy, officials said on Sunday.

They said the anti-terror agency registered a case in Jammu on Sunday following orders from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and several teams are involved in the investigation.

After the dastardly terror attack on Tuesday afternoon that claimed 26 lives, a team of NIA officials led by its Inspector General (IG) was rushed to the site to assist the



local police, the officials said.

They said NIA teams have been camping at the terror attack site since Wednesday, looking for clues.

"The entry and exit points are being closely scrutinised by the investigating NIA teams for clues to the modus operandi of the terrorists. The teams, aided by forensic and other experts, are checking the entire area thor-

oughly for evidence to expose the terror conspiracy that led to the horrendous attack that has shocked the nation," an NIA statement said.

The eyewitnesses are also being questioned in minute detail to piece together the sequence of events that led to one of the worst terror attacks in Kashmir, it said. The teams, overseen by an IG, a Deputy Inspector

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Intelligence Bureau identifies around 5000 Pak Nationals in Delhi

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The Intelligence Bureau (IB) has handed over the list of around 5000 Pakistani nationals living in the national capital to the Delhi police to ensure these people return home.

The visas of Pakistan nationals have been

revoked in the wake of the recent directive of the centre, prompted by a recent terrorist attack on tourists in the Pahalgam district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) has shared the list with a special branch of the Delhi police,

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Govt taking action, need to be patient: VK Singh

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UJJAIN:

Former Army Chief and Mizoram Governor General VK Singh expressed his deep sadness over the recent Pahalgam terror attack and called on the public to exercise caution to prevent similar incidents in the future.

In an interview, Singh emphasized the importance of patience, adding that the central government



is actively addressing the situation.

"It is a very sad incident. The government is taking certain actions against this. We all need to be patient. We need to keep our eyes and ears open in the future so that, if we see something abnormal, we can catch it beforehand," Singh told reporters.

The Pahalgam attack has sparked widespread calls for stronger action against Pakistan. Earlier on the same day, Trinamool

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PM vows 'harshest'...

attack probe, registering a case in Jammu on Sunday. Several teams of the agency are involved in searching for evidence and questioning eyewitnesses, including relatives of victims, to uncover the terror conspiracy, officials said.

As the tensions between the two countries soared, the Pakistani military engaged in unprovoked firing along the Line of Control in the areas opposite Tutmari Gali and Rampur sectors for the third consecutive night, military sources said.

The Pakistan military was engaged in similar firing on Thursday and Friday nights as well. "Our troops responded effectively with appropriate small arms fire," said an Indian official.

While the Pakistan military has been put on high alert following India's promise that it will hunt down those involved in the April 22 strike, the Indian Navy on Sunday said its warships have successfully carried out multiple anti-ship firings, revalidating their readiness for long-range precision "offensive" strikes.

"Indian Navy ships undertook successful multiple anti-ship firings to revalidate and demonstrate the readiness of platforms, systems and crew for a long-range precision offensive strike," the Indian Navy said in a brief statement.

"Indian Navy stands combat-ready, credible and future-ready in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests anytime, anywhere, anyhow," it said.

The Indian Navy also released videos of the live firings at sea but did not provide details like when the exercise was carried out.

The Pahalgam massacre in Kashmir was the worst terror strike on civilians in India since the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "perpetrators and conspirators" of the Pahalgam attack will be "served with the harshest response".

"The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done," Modi said in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

The prime minister said the attack in the famous tourist town in Kashmir reflected the desperation and cowardice of the patrons of terrorism, a reference to Pakistan, at a time when peace was returning to the Valley.

He said there was vibrancy in its schools and colleges construction work had gained unprecedented pace, democracy was getting stronger, the number of tourists was increasing at a record rate, people's income was increasing, and new opportunities were being created for the youth.

Modi said, "Enemies of the country, the enemies of Jammu and Kashmir did not like that. Terrorists and the masterminds of terror want Kashmir to be destroyed again and hence they executed such a big conspiracy."

"In this war against terrorism, the unity of the nation, the solidarity of 140 crore Indians, is our greatest strength. This very unity is the foundation of our decisive battle against terrorism," he said.

Modi said, "I can feel that the blood of every Indian is on the boil after seeing the pictures of the terrorist attack." The prime minister said the attack has drawn condemnation from the whole world, noting that international leaders have called him up, written letters and sent messages.

As part of the anti-terror crackdown that picked up more steam after the Pahalgam attack, authorities have demolished the houses of three more alleged active terrorists in Bandipora, Pulwama and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir. With this, nine houses of suspected terrorists and overground workers of terror outfits have been razed so far since the April 22 attack in Baisaran.

Security forces have raided more than 500 locations in the Valley in just five days and grilled hundreds of suspects.

Political parties in J-K urged the Centre to ensure that innocent people are not targeted while it goes after terrorists.

The NIA teams said its teams have been camping at the terror attack site since Wednesday, looking for clues.

"The entry and exit points are being closely scrutinised by the investigating NIA teams for clues to the modus operandi of the terrorists. The teams, aided by forensic and other experts, are checking the entire area thoroughly for evidence to expose the terror conspiracy that led to the horrendous attack that has shocked the nation," an NIA statement said.

The eyewitnesses are also being questioned in minute detail to piece together the sequence of events that led to one of the worst terror attacks in Kashmir,

it said.

The teams, overseen by an IG, a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and a Superintendent of Police (SP) from the anti-terror agency, are examining eyewitnesses who had seen the horrifying attack unfold before their eyes at the peaceful and picturesque Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, according to the statement.

The NIA teams have recorded accounts from victims' family members in Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal among other states, they said.

An NIA team on Sunday visited the family members of Bitan Adhikari, one of Pahalgam attack victims, in Kolkata to record their statements, officials said.

India had announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan on Wednesday, including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operational land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack.

In response, Pakistan on Thursday shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. Pakistan also rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water would be seen as an "act of war".

Omar supports ...

questioning of hundreds of persons across Kashmir valley in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

As many as 26 persons, mostly tourists, were killed in the attack that sparked an unprecedented outrage and spontaneous protests in the valley – a never-seen-before development in the history of over three-decade-long terrorism in the region.

In a post on X, Abdullah said, "After the Pahalgam terror attack, there must be a decisive fight against terrorism and its origin. The people of Kashmir have come out openly against terrorism and the murder of innocent people, they did this freely & spontaneously.

"It's time to build on this support and avoid any misplaced action that alienates people. Punish the guilty, show them no mercy but don't let innocent people become collateral damage."

On Saturday, Abdullah questioned Pakistan's offer to join any "neutral and transparent" probe into the terror attack in Pahalgam.

His statement came in response to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks, "The recent tragedy in Pahalgam is yet another example of this perpetual blame game, which must come to a grinding halt. Continuing with its role as a responsible country, Pakistan is open to participating in any neutral, transparent and credible investigation."

Abdullah had told reporters in Ramban, "First they (Pakistan) did not accept that something happened in Pahalgam. Then they even said it was done by India. They were the ones who first accused us, so it's difficult to say anything about them."

Asked about Sharif's remarks, Abdullah said, "I do not want to comment much on their (Pakistani leaders) statements. I regret the incident, which should not have happened."

PM Modi monitoring...

a review of the security arrangements.

Referring to the annual 38-day Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to start on July 3 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district, Singh called for alertness at all levels for the successful pilgrimage.

During the meeting, while reassuring the citizens about reinforcement in security deployment, Singh also emphasized the government's initiatives for the all-round development of the district.

Speaking on security concerns, the minister said appropriate security responses will be ensured.

"The recent events are an eye-opener. We will address all concerns and constraints to ensure peace and safety. Miscreants will be dealt with firmly," he said.

Singh highlighted several key infrastructure and public welfare projects in the region which are being expedited because of their security relevance as well.

He also revealed that Udhampur's long-pending dream of an operational airport is close to reality, a development expected to significantly boost local connectivity both for civilians as well as the Army which has its Northern headquarters over here and also the economic prospects.

Adding to the infrastructure push, he informed that the proposed Chatargala Tunnel project in Doda district is on the agenda, promising to further improve road connectivity in the region and avoid its turning into a militant hideout particularly when it is snow clad and cut off.

He said efforts are underway to improve mobile connectivity in Udhampur, with the installation and streamlining of mobile towers across the district.

Addressing the needs of youth, the Minister announced that army recruitment drives have resumed, and discussions have already been held with the incoming General Officer Commanding (GOC), Lt Gen Prateek Sharma, who will soon assume charge.

Singh called for the formation of a Civil Society Committee to facilitate regular feedback, timely inputs and said such a mechanism will enhance participatory governance.

NIA registers case...

General (DIG) and a Superintendent of Police (SP) from the anti-terror agency, are examining eyewitnesses who had seen the horrifying attack unfold before their eyes at the peaceful and picturesque Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, according to the statement issued by NIA.

In the targeted attack, a group of terrorists killed male tourists milling around eateries, taking pony rides or just picnicking with their families including young children and parents at the meadow touted as 'Mini Switzerland' for its serene beauty.

Separate teams of NIA officials have been visiting across the country to seek details from survivors of the terrorist attack, said to be orchestrated by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the officials said.

NIA teams have recorded accounts from victims' family members in Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal among other states, they said.

Initial investigations into the dastardly terror attack indicate that the number of terrorists involved could range from five to seven, they said.

The attackers were also aided by at least two local militants who received training in Pakistan, the officials said.

Security agencies have released sketches of three terrorists suspected to be involved in the attack. The trio, from Pakistan, are said to be Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha, they said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh each for information leading to the neutralisation of the terrorists.

The probe suggested that the terrorists used body cameras to record their barbaric act, the officials said, quoting eyewitnesses.

Intelligence Bureau...

and it was further shared with the district concerned for further verification and identification.

The list includes the names of Hindu Pakistan nationals who have Long Term Visas (LTVs) and are exempted.

"The list has been handed over to the district concerned for verification, and asked the Pak nationals to return to their homeland. Central and North East districts have a high number of Pakistani nationals living in the area," said a senior official.

The official added that a meeting was called over the matter and Delhi police has been instructed to take immediate action on the matter. Senior officers are monitoring the situation.

The officers of the special branch of the Delhi police and the Intelligence Bureau have been entrusted to collect information about these Pakistani nationals residing in Delhi and ask them to leave India at the earliest.

Another officer confirmed that they have two lists of 3000 and 2000 Pakistan nationals staying in Delhi. There are certain names that overlap, and it is subject to verification of their stay as many Pakistan nationals have already left. On Friday, MHA issued an order regarding the revocation of visas of Pakistan nationals except Medical, Diplomatic and Long-Term visas, with effect from April 27, 2025. The existing medical visas shall also stand invalid after April 29, 2025. The government later clarified that LTVs already granted to Hindu Pakistani nationals will remain valid.

According to estimates, around 900 people are living near Majnu Ka Tila and 600-700 near Signature Bridge.

Govt taking action...

Congress (TMC) leader Abhishek Banerjee called for decisive measures, urging India to go beyond symbolic responses and take direct action. Banerjee stated that it was time to "teach them a lesson in a language they understand" and "reclaim Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)."

In a post on X, Banerjee said, "It's time we rise above such petty politics and confront this issue decisively, once and for all. This is not the moment for more surgical strikes or symbolic threats to Pakistan. It's time to TEACH THEM A LESSON in the language they understand."

District Biodiversity Committee reviews Environmental Conservation initiatives in Doda



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

In a proactive move to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity, the District Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Doda convened a crucial meeting at the Divisional Forest Office today. The session was chaired by District Development Council (DDC) Chairman and Committee Head Dhananther Singh Kotwal. The

meeting aimed to review ongoing conservation strategies, enhance protection measures, and ensure sustainable utilization of local biological resources.

The meeting saw the presence of key forest officials, including Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle, Sandeep Kumar, who also serves as the Committee's Secretary. He emphasized the need for updating People's Biodiversity Registers

(PBRs) and involving local communities in eco-restoration efforts. Also in attendance were Manohar Lal Aryan (Member) Bipna Manhas (Member) Sumit Kotwal (Member); Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mahesh Kumar (Doda) and DFO Bhaderwah, who shared updates on afforestation drives and steps taken to curb deforestation and encroachments in forest areas. Adding to the inclusive nature of the meeting, DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani participated virtually, reflecting the committee's commitment to collaboration and transparency.

The BMC stressed on enhancing public awareness through biodiversity awareness camps, school programs, and the promotion of traditional knowledge in preserving native flora and fauna. The session concluded with a call for collective action and stronger coordination among departments, local bodies, and civil society to secure the ecological future of the district.

DC Reasi chairs meeting on Change of Land Use Cases



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

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.

JK students of Aryans pay tribute to Pahalgam Victims in Srinagar



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In a heartfelt display of solidarity and mourning, students from Jammu and Kashmir studying at Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh, organized a solemn tribute to the victims of the recent

terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 27 innocent lives. The students paid their respects through a symbolic ceremony held on 27 Shikaras on Dal Lake, each representing a life lost in the cowardly assault.

With "United Against Terror" posters displayed prominently on

every Shikara, the event sent a powerful message of unity, peace, and resilience in the face of terrorism. The moving tribute aimed to honor the memory of the victims and demonstrate unwavering support for their families and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman of Aryans Group of Colleges, was present at the ceremony and extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

He emphasized that Kashmir, often described as "heaven on earth," will continue to retain its identity of peace and beauty despite all odds. "No act of terror can shake the resolve of India's 140 crore citizens. We stand united against terrorism," Dr. Kataria stated.

He further announced that the Aryans Group, in collaboration with over 2000 Kashmiri students and their families associated with the institution, will extend full support to the victims' families in Kashmir throughout the coming week.

JKHC allows Amicus Curiae to conduct site visit on NH-44, Mughal Road for comprehensive status report

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant step towards ensuring road safety and addressing the persistent issue of accidents on the National Highway-44 and Mughal Road, the Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu, comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, has granted permission to Amicus Curiae Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed to undertake a personal visit to the affected areas. The purpose of this visit is to evaluate the implementation of safety measures and submit a detailed Status Report to the court.

This development came during the hearing of a batch of three Public Interest Litigations (PILs) concerning

the repeated and tragic road accidents occurring in regions like Ramban, Batote, Doda, and Kishtwar, as well as along the Mughal Road. These PILs prompted the High Court to take the matter seriously, leading to the constitution of a four-member Expert Committee on December 7, 2023. The committee had earlier submitted its findings and recommendations through the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, on March 14, 2024.

Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, while making submissions before the Bench, offered to personally visit the relevant sites to assess whether any critical safety issues remain unaddressed. He requested that Advocate Syed Asim Hashmi, former President of the District Bar Association Doda, who has been actively involved in the

matter, be allowed to accompany him. The court accepted this request.

Additionally, Social Activist Asif Iqbal Butt, whose letter expressing serious concern over road safety was taken suo motu by the court and converted into a PIL, will also accompany the Amicus Curiae for the site inspection.

Advocate Ahmed highlighted that Butt has been a consistent voice in raising public awareness and concern on this matter. The court acknowledged the gravity of the issue and directed that a comprehensive Status Report be submitted before the next hearing, with an advance copy to the counsel representing the Union Territory administration and the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

DLSA Kathua organises Legal literacy programme on POCSO, Juvenile Justice Acts



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kathua, under the guidance of Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Jatinder Singh Jamwal, today organized a legal awareness programme here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School.

The programme, held under the aegis of National and J&K Legal Services Authorities, aimed to spread awareness regarding the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The event commenced with Saraswati Vandhana performed by Diksha Balotra (Class 12th). Secretary DLSA/Sub-Judge Mrs. Kamiya Singh Andotra emphasized the importance of the POCSO Act in safeguarding children against sexual offences, highlighting its gender-neutral provisions and child-friendly procedures.

She also discussed the importance of prompt FIR registration, medical examinations, and in-camera trials to protect the identity and rights of child victims.

Further, the session covered the Juvenile Justice Act's focus on the rehabilitation and protection of children, stressing that the law recognizes children's emotional and social development needs, beyond just legal accountability. The Principal Magistrate JJB Kathua, Mrs. Cheena Sumbria, stressed on balancing justice with empathy and urged stakeholders to prioritize reform over punishment.

CWC Chairperson Shashi Paul elaborated on the Child Welfare Committee's role in ensuring immediate care for children in distress, including foster care and rehabilitation measures.

Advocates Naiya Sharma, Puneet Kumari, and Sumit Jasrotia shared valuable insights on balancing justice with compassion under these laws.

DC Rajouri inspects Eklavya Model School, Panchayat Ghara, Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Gurdhan Bala



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of the Gurdhan Bala area to assess the functioning of public institutions and review the facilities being provided to the local population.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Eklavya

Model Residential School and took stock of the academic and infrastructural facilities. He interacted with the students, inquired about their academic progress, and encouraged them to remain focused on their goals. He also reviewed the availability of teaching staff, hostel facilities, extracurricular activities, and other essential services being provided to the students.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner

visited the Panchayat Ghar Gurdhan Bala and reviewed its functioning. He directed the concerned officials to ensure the Panchayat Ghar is effectively utilized for governance and community-related activities, while maintaining transparency and accountability at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Gurdhan Bala and reviewed the healthcare services being extended to the local population. He stressed upon the need for efficient service delivery and asked the health officials to ensure the availability of medicines, regular OPDs, and prompt attention to patients.

Senior officers from district administration and concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

The visit reflects the commitment of the district administration towards strengthening educational infrastructure, grassroots governance and healthcare delivery in the far-flung areas of the district.

District NCORD Committee discusses anti-drug measures in Kathua

Focuses on curbing drug abuse, awareness & enforcement



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

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.

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



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

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.

District Administration Samba orchestrates National Panchayati Raj Day Commemoration



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

District Administration Samba marked the National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 by organizing an impactful event with overwhelming participation across all levels of local governance.

The district-level celebration, spearheaded by District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and coordinated by

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Nar Singh Dayal Verma, brought together district officials, Panchayati Raj Institution members, youth leaders, women representatives, and diverse community stakeholders in a powerful demonstration of inclusive governance.

Attendees participated in a live broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address, which emphasized the transformative potential of self-reliant local govern-

nance systems. Following directives from district leadership, Block Development Officers ensured the Prime Minister's message reaches every Panchayat through synchronized broadcasts, creating a cascading effect of engagement throughout rural communities.

"Today's celebration represents more than ceremonial observance—it showcases our collective resolve to build transparent, accountable rural institutions that truly serve citizen needs," said DDC Sharma during the event. The gathering featured compelling exhibitions highlighting Samba's innovative local governance practices and developmental achievements, offering inspiration for further advancement of Panchayati Raj objectives. As India continues strengthening democratic foundations at the grassroots level, Samba District stands as a model of participatory governance through its whole-of-district approach to empowering local democratic institutions.

Modi Govt's CCS Decisions a Stern Warning to Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorism: Kavinder

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, on Wednesday said that the recent decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, serve as a clear and stern warning to Pakistan and its terror proxies — India will no longer tolerate cross-border terrorism in any form. Addressing a meeting at the BJP Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the Modi Government has once again



reaffirmed its uncompromising stance against terrorism and its steadfast commitment to safeguarding national security.

He stated that while Pakistan con-

tinues to act as a breeding ground for terrorism, the Modi Government has responded with decisive action, strategic planning, and unwavering political will.

Kathua observes National Panchayati Raj Day with live streaming of PM's address



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

A special programme was today organized in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Kathua to commemorate National Panchayati Raj Day

2025. The event featured the live streaming of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address from Madhubani, Bihar, where he distributed the National Panchayat Awards and launched several key developmental projects aimed at strengthening grassroots governance across the nation.

The event in Kathua witnessed the enthusiastic participation of senior district officials and local governance representatives.

Chairman DDC, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), District Panchayat Officer (DPO), and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the significance of Panchayati Raj Institutions in fostering democratic values and bringing governance closer to the people. They reiterated the administration's commitment to promoting participatory development and empowering rural communities through effective implementation of schemes and active public involvement.

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



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

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.

Establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant discussed

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

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.

JPDCL's 100% Power Tariff Hike Petition a Black Warrant for J&K Industry: FOIJ

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

An Urgent Meeting of Federation of Industries, Jammu was held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Lalit Mahajan, Chairman FOIJ in the presence of Co-Chairmen, Sh. S.C. Dutta, Sh. Jatinder Aul, Sh. Ajit Bawa, Sh. Raman Jolly, Sh. Viraaj Malhotra Convenor with the participation of large number of members of Federation to discuss the issue regarding the Power Tariff Proposal Petition for the FY 2025-26 submitted by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation to Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT with an unwarranted approx. 100% Power Tariff Hike proposal for Industrial Sector. It is pertinent to mention here that the JPDCL targeted the working as well New Industrial Units established in JKUT with the steep increase of Power Tariff in the range of approx. 100% increase in the Tariff in comparison to existing Power Tariff which we term as a Black Warrant for Industrial Sector of J & K and we fear that the Working as well New Units may opt for the clouser of their Units in near future which will be resulting in to steep increase in the Unemployment Graph of J & K UT. It is worthwhile

to mention here that the JPDCL failed to reduce the Transmission Losses which is in the range of 45 to 50% since last so many years in spite of the facts that the National Level Average Transmission Losses is in the range of 16% whereas the Power Development Department has failed to control the Transmission Losses resulting huge financial losses to the Government and the JPDCL is in the process to pass on the burden to the Genuine Industrial Sector of J & K with the average transmission losses in the Industrial Areas between 6 to 8% and the Industrial Sector is paying the amount of Power dues on regular basis.

While going through the Petition it has been observed that the gap in the projected Purchase purchased cost and the Revenue Generation is due to higher A & T Losses in comparison to National Level for which it is unjustified on the part of the JPDCL to hike the Power tariff for Industrial Sector as it is the reasonability of the JPDCL to reduce the A&T Losses rather than to increase the present Power Tariff.

It is worthwhile to mention here that on one side Industry and Commerce Department invited the Prospective Investors with the Slogan of "SUBSIDISED LOWER POWER

TARIFF' for Industrial Sector of J & K and on the other side JPDCL in the process of many fold increase in the Power Tariff for the FY 2025-26 which we term as BETRYAL with the Industrial Sector of J&K.

We wish to draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Chief Minister also holding the charge of Power Minister towards the Industrial Sector who is also suffering due to unscheduled Power Cuts reported in the Industrial Areas of Digiana, Gangyal, Bari Brahmana, Samba and Kathua District resulting huge production Losses well as losses to JPDCL with a request to issue directions to concerned officials to look into the matter to ensure to Uninterrupted Power supply to Industrial Sector working in the state in spite of all the Odds and providing Direct and Indirect employment to Local People. We request Hon'ble Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sh. Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Sh. Mohd Rafi Andrabi, Chairman JERC for immediate rejection of the Power Tariff Proposal for the FY 2025-26 which will provide great relief to the Existing as well as New Units being set up under the NCSS-2021 Industrial Development Scheme for J&K

President J&K Media Association Condemns Terrorists Attack on Tourists in Pahalgam Kashmir



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

President J&K Media Association Shri Tariq Mir, Joint Secretary Manjeet Singh Sodhi, Special Advisor To President Mehjabeen Nabi, Zahoor Bhat, Irshad Hussain, Ashok Sanasari Abdul Rasheed Omer, and others Members Across J&K strongly condemn the terrorist attack on tourists in Baisaran, Pahalgam Kashmir J&K.

This heinous act of violence not only highlights the desperation of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists but

also underscores their cowardice in targeting innocent civilians.

Such actions reflect their frustration and will not deter the commitment of our security personnel or the resilient spirit of the people of UT J&K

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and reiterate our unwavering support for all efforts to restore peace and security in the region.

The Media Association stands firm in its resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and ensure the safety of every Person.

Sant Nirankari Mission organises a voluntarily blood donation camp



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Reflecting the spirit of love and brotherhood, Manav Ekta Diwas (Human Unity Day) is observed annually on April 24 by the Sant Nirankari Mission in a spiritually charged atmosphere, in sacred remembrance of Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji. This day is not only an occasion to pay homage but also a spiritual confluence of humanity, harmony, and unity.

On this day, the Mission initiates a nationwide blood donation drive that flows throughout the year as a symbol of collective awakening toward selfless service. Alongside, spiritual congregations spread the message of love, peace, and inclusiveness to the masses.

This day signifies that service is not merely an act but an inner sentiment of selfless dedication. This year too, the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation organized an

extensive series of blood donation camps across more than 500 branches throughout India. In Jammu the camp was held at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Shastri Nagar and was inaugurated by Smt. Seema Basin JKAS Director Finance, Social Welfare Department Civil Secretariat Jammu. She said that the camp witnessing the enthusiastic participation of devotees who voluntarily donated blood with full dedication and zeal, contributing to the welfare of humanity. A total of 217 units of blood donated by devotees.

Through his realization of Truth, Yugdrishta Baba Gurbachan Singh Ji initiated movements that freed society from superstitions and social evils, encouraging de-addiction, simple marriages, and positive thinking among youth.

Carrying forward his noble legacy, Baba Hardev Singh Ji gave the eternal message, "Let blood flow in veins, not in drains," making blood dona-

tion an integral part of the Mission's spiritual service. This message continues to live in the hearts of Nirankari devotees as a glowing torch of service and sacrifice.

Dr. Geetika Duggal, Medical Director of Sant Nirankari Health City, shared that approximately 30,000 units of blood were collected across the country during this blood donation drive, with nearly 1,000 units donated at the Delhi camp alone.

This day also honors the sacred memory of devoted martyrs like Chacha Partap Singh Ji and many other saints who dedicated their lives walking the path of human unity, selfless service, and spiritual awakening. Manav Ekta Diwas keeps alive the inspiration drawn from their steadfast faith and noble resolutions.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu Welcome all and said that this grand initiative is more than just a blood donation drive; it is a living expression of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj's message of compassion, service, and unity. It teaches us that humanity is the supreme religion. Inspired by this divine vision, the Sant Nirankari Mission continues to pave the path of humanity through tireless service and wholehearted dedication.

Other Dignitaries presented on the occasion were Anu Behl JKAS Special Secretary to the Govt Revenue Deptt of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Dr. Vijay Sahni, Dr. Renu Menia, Dr. Zulfikar, Dr. Rashmika from Blood Bank GMC Jammu. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu and JKASCS.

ACS chairs SCERT's workshop held under Oasis Jyotirdhar Initiative



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

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 landscape 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 Chobber (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.

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

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

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.

Modi Sarkar ensure strong measures against Pakistan after Pahalgam terror attack: Rohiin Chandan

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan has strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where 26 tourists including a Nepali National were killed and many others injured in Kashmir's Anantnag District. He emphasized that this was a targeted killing aimed at innocent civilians, underlining the brutal nature of the assault. Rohiin Chandan expressed confidence that under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India will deliver a befitting reply to any act of terror emanating from the neighboring country, Pakistan, at an appropriate time. He highlighted that



the Union government is fully committed to a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and will respond decisively to such provocations.

Rohin Chandan stated that Pakistan now understands that

India will not remain passive or "sit like a lame duck" when faced with terror attacks. This resolve was echoed by our Home Minister Amit Shah and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh; they assured that those responsible for the cowardly attack will soon face a strong and appropriate response on Indian soil. The government, led by PM Modi, is taking every necessary step to ensure justice and security.

The Cabinet Committee on Security has banned several entities linked to terrorism as part of the government's comprehensive approach to counter terror threats. Although the specific details of the Cabinet Committee on Security's decision mentioned in the prompt are not verifiable.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme for LSUC at GHSS Zainapora

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Education Department, Shopian today organized an awareness programme for Legal Services Unit for

Children (LSUC), support for Admission/Re-admission in schools at Government Higher Secondary School Zainapora. The programme was organized under the guidance of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian. Deputy LADC, Dawood Ahmad Khan in his address briefed

the audience about the Role of District Legal services Authority in rendering the services. In his address he also apprised the audience about specific legal provisions for vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children.

On the occasion of the 610th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Bhakt Dhanna Jat, saag, puri and kheer were distributed and Triveni Peepal, Banyan and Neem trees were planted.

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JHAJJAR:

On the occasion of the 610th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Bhakt Dhanna Jat Ji, Baba Shivpuri Ji Maharaj, 19th Mathadhish, Baba Mukteshwar Puri Mathh, Kosli, planted the Triveni Peepal, Banyan and Neem trees in the premises of Baba Johri Wale Dhaam in Dharauli, the Devbhoomi of the heroes, in the function organized by the social organization of Maa-Matrubhoomi Seva Samiti of Dharauli village, situated at the end of the district headquarters. Baba Shivpuri Ji Maharaj said that while most trees release oxygen only in the presence of sunlight, Banyan and peepal trees emits of oxygen at night too. Neem is also known for its medicinal properties. Later, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Bhagat Dhanna Jat ji's, Baba Shivpuri ji Maharaj, 19th Mathadhipati, Baba



Mukteshwar Puri Math, Kosli, inaugurated the food and water offering program - saag, puri and sweet kheer bhandaar organized by Maa-Matrubhoomi Seva Samiti, in front of Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Akash Yadav Government Senior Secondary School, Kosli, near Levy Disposal House, Kosli. Baba Shivpuri ji Maharaj emphasized that it is believed that Bhagwan Shri Krishana was so pleased with Bhagat Dhanna Jat's devotion that He began to assist him in his daily life, even helping him plow his fields and water his crops. The lives of great Bhagats like Sant Shiromani Bakat

Shri Dhanna Jat exemplify an intimate and loving relationship with God. Bhagat Dhanna Jat's teachings and three hymns are preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib, the religious text of Sikhism, continuing to guide spiritual aspirants toward a path of true devotion. Yudhvir Singh Lamba, President, Maa-Matrubhoomi Seva Samiti, Veeron ki Devbhoomi Dharauli, who has donated blood 21 times, said that the following 1. Sanjay Kumar, Prop., Balaji Tent House and Light Decoration, Tumbahedi 2. Secret donation by a youth of Dharauli 3. Junior Engineer in Haryana

Government, Ajay Malik, Khanpur Kalan, Sonipat 4. Rakesh Lamba, Senior Advocate, Civil Court, Kosli 5. Master Harbir Malhan, resident of Girdharpur 6. Working in Army Engineer Jagdish Grewal, resident of Sasrauli 7. Working in a Government bank, Engineer Ajay Jangda, Bhiwani 8. Working in Income Tax Department, Engineer Sanjeev Ghangash, Bhiwani 9. PTI Kulvender Singh Yadav, Village Mumtazpur, Rewari 10. Pramod Jangra resident of Jahajgarh, District Jhajjar 11. Levy Disposal, Kosli Prop., Master Rohit Yadav, Kosli 12. Social worker Sagar Yadav, Railway Station, Kosli 13. Rakesh Saini resident of saini Anandpura, Rohtak 14. Nitesh Bhorla Prop., Urban Yuva Club (famous Clothing Shop), Kosli 15. Sonu Dharauli, Prop. Sonu Motor Winding Centre, Nahar Road, Railway Station, Kosli 16. Engineer

Martial arts inter-School competitions held at B'la



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

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 Dangiacha hosted its inter-school Wushu and Taekwondo events at the Community Hall Dangiacha. 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) Dangiacha 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.

GDC Anantnag organized solidarity March

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

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.

Candlelight Protest Held In Hafthrada Against Pahalgam Terror Attack

IRFAN GANI BHAT
HANDWARA:

In a heartfelt show of solidarity and condemnation, residents of Hafthrada staged a candlelight protest on Tuesday evening against the recent terrorist attack targeting tourists in Pahalgam. Led by Tehsil President of the Lambardar-Chowkidar Association, Mr. Rafiqat

Badana, and Lambardar of Hafthrada, Mr. Shafeeq Ahmad Badana and social activist Mr talib hussain the protest saw participation from members of the Lambardar-Chowkidar Association and local civil society groups. Protesters, holding placards and chanting slogans, demanded swift and strict action against those responsible for the heinous act. They also urged the gov-

ernment to enhance security arrangements to ensure the safety of both tourists and residents across Jammu and Kashmir. Participants expressed deep anguish over the tragic incident and conveyed their condolences to the families of the victims. Civil society members emphasized the need to maintain communal harmony and prevent such acts from disturbing the region's fragile peace.

SHEHJAR WELFARE TRUST STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF TOURISTS IN PAHALGAM, CALLS FOR PEACE AND UNITY

IRFAN GANI BHAT
HANDWARA:

Shehjar Welfare Trust expresses its profound anguish and vehemently condemns the tragic and senseless killing of tourists in Pahalgam. This heart-breaking incident has sent shockwaves across the region and is a direct attack on the values of peace, humanity, and the cherished tradition of Kashmiri hospitality.

The tourists, who had arrived to witness the natural splendor and serenity of Kashmir, fell victim to an act of cowardice that has no place in a civilized society. Such heinous crimes undermine the collective aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir who yearn for peace, stability, and a thriving future.

Condolence Message from the Chairman, Adv. Nadeem Khaliq

"I am deeply saddened



and shocked by the tragic killing of the tourists in Pahalgam. On behalf of the entire Shehjar Welfare Trust and the people of Handwara, I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. This incident is not just a crime—it is a wound to the soul of Kashmir. Let us not allow such acts to define our land, which has always stood for harmony, love, and humanity. I urge the authorities to ensure justice is swiftly delivered,



and I appeal to the people to unite against violence in all its forms."

Condolence Message from the President, Shabir Ahmad War

"This is a deeply distressing moment for all of us. The loss of innocent tourists, who came here in trust and admiration of our land, is not only a loss to their families but a blot on the conscience of humanity.

We pray for strength to the families during this

irreparable loss and call upon all stakeholders to ensure such incidents are never repeated. We must collectively protect the sanctity and spirit of Kashmir, known for its warmth and peaceful traditions."

Shehjar Welfare Trust urges the government and law enforcement agencies to carry out a transparent investigation and bring the culprits to justice at the earliest. The safety of all visitors must be ensured, and confidence must be rebuilt in our tourism sector which serves as the backbone of our economy and a symbol of our identity.

We appeal to all communities, especially the youth and civil society, to rise above fear and hatred, and to stand united for peace and justice. Kashmir's true strength lies in its unity, tolerance, and shared values of love and hospitality

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Bloody Wakeup

The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir has shaken the entire country, because more than two dozen people have died and more than a dozen have been injured in this cruel Islamic attack. The way the savage terrorists fired bullets on innocent people after asking their names, talking about making them read Kalma, checking their circumcision on suspicion, has shaken humanity. The way many videos of this incident are going viral on the internet, the barbarity of this attack is clearly visible in them. Hence, the burning question is that till when will such terrorist attacks stop and why does our administration fail every time in stopping them? However, the burning questions from the Pahalgam terrorist attack are now demanding a straight answer, but who will give it? This is a tough question! Needless to say, in this country where people feed milk to snakes and biriyani to terrorists, this misfortune has now befallen the lives of common people, because the police and the armed forces are busy in ensuring smooth travel of big leaders, bureaucrats, judges and their industrialists friends! At the same time, why proper security arrangements were not made in the valleys of Pahalgam, famous as 'Mini Switzerland', this should be clarified by the Omar Abdullah government of Jammu and Kashmir and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, because if this is not their clear negligence, then what is it, only they can tell? Let us tell you that this terrorist attack took place on Tuesday afternoon at around 2:30 pm, in which about 50 rounds of firing were done. The Resistance Front (TRF) associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has taken responsibility for this heinous act. But the biggest question is that what is the reason behind this terrorist incident? Why did the terrorists target Pahalgam and the tourists? Why were only men targeted there, leaving women and children behind? The question is also why were tourists targeted in Pahalgam before the Amarnath Yatra? For example, some people have said that these terrorists wanted to send a big message to the Narendra Modi government after the 'amendment in the Waqf Act' and that is why they have vented all their anger on the tourists. Because in one of the viral videos, the victim is seen saying that after shooting her husband, the terrorist had said 'tell your Modi.' It is clear from this that were they trying to send a message to the government of the country that they will not listen to anything they say? In such a situation, the same question arises again whether terrorism has been revived in the Omar Abdullah government of National Conference elected with the support of Congress in Kashmir? Because the way this well-planned and unexpected attack has happened before the Amarnath Yatra, it has once again given clear evidence of terrorism being alive in Kashmir. However, now the lost tourist confidence cannot be restored immediately by an action like beating the line when the snake has run away. Because this terrorist attack is not the first time that the base camp of Amarnath Yatra, Pahalgam, has been targeted. Statistics show that earlier on 6 August 2002, nine people were killed in an attack on a camp in Pahalgam, while on 20 July 2001, 13 people were killed in an attack on a camp. If we look at it, this is the 11th major attack of this kind in the last two and a half decades, in which 227 people have lost their lives so far.

Paths to healthy eating

BASAB DASGUPTA

The topic of healthy living by avoiding processed food has drawn renewed interest in recent months in the US because of President Donald Trump's selection of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (RFK) as the Secretary of Health and Human Services in his cabinet. RFK was known for fighting the major food companies in his past career as an attorney. He is a strong advocate against processed food and food additives; he also believes that USDA has been easy on the food industry allowing them to prioritize profit over people's health. I didn't even know the word "processed food" when I was growing up in India. We had no refrigerator, and our domestic help went to the bazaar every day to buy groceries. While living in the US, I have been hearing for the past several decades that processed food is bad for our health. Now India has also entered this market. I do not know how much processed food is consumed in the country, but India reportedly exports processed food to more than 100 regions world-wide, mainly because of migration of Indians to foreign countries and acceptance of Indian food in other countries.

However, processed Indian food has some nutritional value because of the use of whole grains, legumes, beneficial spices and vegetables. The immediate questions are: What is processed food? Why is it bad for our health? and Why do we even process the food? Here are the answers in the simplest layman's language. Processed food is a generic name to indicate that food has been changed from its natural original state. There are two main types of processing: a) altering the food, which includes cutting, peeling, chopping, grinding, crushing, smashing, freezing, packaging, and so on, and b) adding some artificial ingredient to natural food for the purpose of making it more flavourful or lengthening its shelf-life or to ensure that food retains its structure.

Hormones injected into animals and birds to speed up their growth fall in the second category. Sometimes colour is added to food just to make it attractive to consumers. It is harmful because our body does not know how to deal with anything artificial. At a molecular level, there is a friendly interaction between cells in our body and molecules of natural food, be it vegetables or proteins in meat and fish. A foreign synthetic molecule or even molecule of food that has been significantly altered does not interact with natural organic molecules in a normal way. It is almost like introducing aliens or severely altered human species in a mass gathering of normal human beings. There would be no usual interactions with this strange intruder in that case. As a result, the normal functioning of the body is disrupted, paving the way for various diseases, including diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, dementia, obesity etc. Processed food is especially harmful to children because their bodies are in a developing



stage and need all the nutrients for healthy growth. This results not only in physical issues but also impacts their emotional development causing stress, anxiety and depression. Shockingly, in the US, 80 per cent of food consumed by children is processed food. In rural areas, people subsist on natural food: fruits and vegetables from the farm, fish from rivers and lakes and meat from poultry and butcher shops.

There is no need for refrigerators or packaging the food. Food processing is intimately connected with urbanization which requires food to be available in smaller quantities on an as-needed basis from grocery stores and preserved for an extended period in a refrigerator or freezer. This avoids frequent trips to buy groceries which are inconvenient because of lack of time, money or transportation. Of course, one can shop for organic and natural foods even in urban areas, but an economic factor kicks in. Any handling of food not done by automated machines requires manual labour which is expensive in western countries. Furthermore, it is necessary to ship food from where it is grown, usually in a different part of the country and sometimes even a different country to urban areas in a cost-effective way.

That necessitates cutting and packaging in various boxes and containers, as well as adding various preservatives. Some additives are deliberately put in food for making it artificially tasty (such as fruit flavors) or worse, addictive to the consuming public. For example, sugar is added to almost every food – even crackers and potato chips – to make the public addicted so that they eat more. RFK has targeted this latter category of food processing as his first order of business and that is a good start. However, achieving major goals like replacing junk food by fruits in school menus would probably be financially prohibitive. RFK might settle by restricting his agenda on food to changing dietary guidelines, relabeling of food packaging and making changes in USDA.

There is already a movement, labelled "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) in progress and even many liberals who cannot stand Trump have joined in. Is it even possible to get rid of processed food from our everyday diet, especially diets of children?

Unfortunately, I do not see how that can be done in existing urban areas. However, when we have the opportunity to design a new city from ground zero, we can plan for green areas just like parks and lakes and label them "community farms". Members of the community can grow vegetables and keep chickens, goats, etc there. They can share labour and expenses involved in buying seeds and fertilizers and reaping the output.

The members of the community can also hold frequent "farmer's markets". A more fundamental change is possible by going back to Gandhiji's "self-sufficient village" (SSV) concept ("Gram Swaraj"), even though it sounds like an obsolete idea in the modern age of fast living and international trade. In Gandhiji's vision, an entire state or a country can be divided into large numbers of these SSVs whose charter would be to manage themselves.

The village itself will take care of education, food supply, housing, employment, security, infrastructure and all other public services for all its residents without relying on others.

Each SSV can have farmlands, and it would be straightforward to supply fresh vegetables and meat/fish products to all the residents without processing the food. If the SSVs are small enough in area, there would be no need to package, transport and refrigerate. Perhaps, Trump's tariff war is a blessing in disguise because it would discourage shipping of processed food across the globe. However, we must keep in mind that processed food is not the only cause of detrimental effects on our body. Others include pollution in air and water, impurities in food not related to processing as well as a variety of personal genetic traits and habits. I am fortunate that I survived and lived a productive life eating mostly processed food. I believe the reason to be my first twenty-three years spent in India on natural organic food, thus giving me a resilient foundation and immunity that lasted a lifetime. My advice to my fellow Indians: "Do not follow Western culture when it comes to food. Be thankful that you are in a country where natural food is still easily accessible and affordable".

(The writer, a physicist who worked in industry and academia, is a Bengali settled in America.)

Special measures to identify security personnel: Judicial Council

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

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 intelligence 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.

MLA, DC conduct tour of Kishtwar Town

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Member Legislative Assembly Shagun Parihar along with Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted a comprehensive tour of various parts of Kishtwar town to assess key civic issues, including drainage, electricity infrastructure, and market regulation.

During the visit, many public delegations met with the MLA and apprised about the critical issues of the town. The MLA asked for the intervention of the District Administration and early redressal.

The DC issued on-spot directions to the Executive Officer, Municipality for the beautification of Gudhali Chowk under the town Beautification plan. He also instructed the Public Works Department to undertake widening works at Dak Bungalow Chowk and Harra Pond Chowk within two days to facilitate the installation of clock towers at both locations. The Deputy Commissioner further directed the EO Municipality to expedite the preparation and submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for drainage works from Hidyul Chowk to Shall Gadi, setting a timeline of one week for submission.

Emphasizing the need for synergy, the DC called for close coordination among all the concerned departments to ensure timely and efficient completion of drainage work. Additionally, the Power Development Department (PDD) was directed to streamline the town's electricity infrastructure by removing irregular electrification and ensuring a more organized and safe setup.

Public of the area thanked the MLA for her visit and assured to extend full cooperation in the developmental works.

District-Level RAMP awareness workshop organised by JKTPO at Poonch

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Continuing its efforts to promote awareness and outreach for the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in association with the SPIU – Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Poonch, successfully organized a district-level awareness workshop at Dak Bungalow, Poonch.

The workshop is part of a larger series of district-level initiatives being conducted across Jammu and Kashmir under the RAMP scheme to enhance understanding of various support mechanisms available to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These workshops aim to foster an enabling ecosystem for MSME growth through focused interventions, capacity building, and improved access to markets and finance. The workshop was chaired by ACR Poonch, Mohd Sayeed, who underscored the significant role of MSMEs in the district's economic growth. He encouraged MSME units and stakeholders to utilize the support mechanisms provided by the RAMP scheme to boost productivity, enhance market access, and strengthen institutional linkages.

DIC General Manager, Khalid Hussain Wafa remarked that this workshop is to build awareness and capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative. The workshop saw active participation from MSME entrepreneurs, stakeholders of self-employment schemes, officials from the Industries and Commerce Department, ITI students, representatives from financial institutions, and other notable attendees.

The workshop provided an overview of the RAMP scheme's objectives, key components, and various programs being rolled out for the benefit of MSMEs in the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from JKTPO/SPIU emphasized the importance of proactive participation by MSMEs to fully leverage the opportunities provided under the scheme. They also outlined the upcoming initiatives and encouraged entrepreneurs to connect with DIC and JKTPO for further support and guidance. The District Industries Centre, Poonch, also facilitated an interactive session where participants raised queries and shared feedback on challenges faced at the grassroots level.

KVK-Anantnag organizes awareness/ Input Distribution programme for Tribal Farmers

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, under the aegis of SKUAST-Kashmir and ICAR, today organized a grand awareness-cum-input distribution programme under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) at the KVK Campus.

The event was aimed at raising awareness among tribal farmers about the various agricultural initiatives being undertaken by the Government of India to improve the livelihoods of tribal communities through modern, sustainable, and inclusive farming practices.

Prof. Rihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of officers, Programme Coordinators, and Scientists from various Research Stations and KVKs participated in the programme, showcasing a collaborative effort to uplift tribal communities in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kanth emphasized the importance of adopting innovative, climate-resilient, and sustainable agricultural technologies. She urged tribal farmers to



maintain regular contact with KVK scientists and field officers to ensure proper technical guidance and maximize the benefits of government-supported schemes.

Earlier, Dr. Ishtiaq A. Khan, Head, KVK-Anantnag, presented the welcome address and highlighted the pivotal role of KVKs in transforming agriculture at the grassroots level.

He also elaborated on the multifaceted achievements of KVK-Anantnag

in areas such as capacity building, varietal promotion, entrepreneurship development, and climate-smart agriculture.

As part of the input distribution initiative, over 350 tribal farmers were provided with approximately 150 quintals of potato seed, 33 quintals of fodder maize, 10 quintals of improved paddy seed (variety SR-4), along with soybean, rajmash seeds, and agricultural tool kits.

IEC Against Drugs: GDC Hajin Organises Awareness Programme

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
HAJIN:

In continuation of the IEC campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, Government Degree College (GDC) Hajin on Wednesday hosted an awareness programme aimed at sensitizing students about the growing threat of drug abuse.

The event, held at the college auditorium, was chaired by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Gazala Firdous, who highlighted the vital role of families and educational institutions in early identification and prevention of substance abuse. "It is crucial that parents remain observant and



involved, as they are the first line of defense in identifying changes in their children's behavior," she said, while calling for stronger social bonds and value-based upbringing.

Speakers on the occasion urged students to serve as peer educators and community ambassadors in the fight against

drug addiction. They stressed the need for collective action, community engagement, and informed dialogue to tackle the menace effectively.

Resource persons from various departments also spoke about the multifaceted impact of drug addiction—ranging from health deterioration to economic

loss and social alienation—emphasizing that curbing this societal challenge requires sustained awareness and community cooperation.

The programme was attended by number of faculty members, officials, and students including Dr. Mehraj-ud-Din, Falak Firdous, Javid Ahmad, Nusrat Naseem, Dr. Firdous Ahmad, Dr. Rahi Rashid, Coordinator Mohammad Shafi Wagay, Showkat Ahmad project coordinator Drug deaddiction centre Bandipora, Ghulam Mohi ud din from Excise department, Nazir Ahmad from the Youth Services and Sports Department, and ASI Abdul Hamid

DIC Shopian organizes awareness programme under RAMP



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

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.

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

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

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: Reinvest, 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 Purmandal -where healthcare professionals conducted awareness sessions, distributed informational pamphlets, and emphasized the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding grounds.

Special outreach and education programs were also organised in multiple educational institutions including GMS Jakh, GMS Budhwani, GHS Rahya, GMS Dagshore.

Students were educated about the symptoms, diagnosis, and prevention of malaria.

The initiatives aimed to foster community involvement and ensure the younger generation plays a role in spreading awareness about this preventable disease.

National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated at Shopian

DC for strengthening of grassroots Democracy, briefs parents on combating Drug Abuse

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

District Administration Shopian today celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day at the Mini Secretariat here, underscoring the importance of empowering local self-governance and strengthening grassroots democracy. The event was chaired by DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta, who spoke about the crucial role Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play in promoting participatory development and responsive governance at the village level. During the programme, DC held a brief counselling session with parents and teachers, sensitizing them about the rising threat of drug abuse among youth. He urged proactive involvement from families and educational institutions in guiding the younger generation and pledged the administration's continued support in



awareness and intervention efforts.

As part of the celebrations, DC felicitated the Best Performing employees of RDD for the year 2024-25, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to rural welfare and

development. The event was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACD Shopian, DPO, BDOs and other senior officers of the district.

Implementation of Road Safety measures reviewed in Udhampur



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh today convened a meeting here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex to review the road safety measures in the district.

Threadbare discussions were held on various aspects such as the enforcement of traffic rules, identi-

cation of black spots, road safety audits, minimizing road accidents, road maintenance and curbing issues like overloading, over speeding and rash driving, traffic decongestion on busy routes, installation of signage and conducting awareness programs etc.

The ADC was informed that several black spots have been identified and remedial actions were underway

by the concerned departments. To prevent accidents, the Executive Engineers PWD and PMGSY were directed to ensure regular road maintenance, promptly address black spots and install safety measures such as signboards and crash barriers.

Traffic Police were instructed to work in coordination with the police to regulate traffic flow, reduce congestion and curb overloading for the convenience of commuters. Emphasizing the importance of public awareness, the ADC called for widespread campaigns on road safety rules and stressed the need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations. The MVD and traffic authorities were urged to take stern action against violators and impose penalties for offenses such as overloading, driving without helmets, and over-speeding.

Director Agriculture reviews agriculture scenario in Ganderbal

Inaugurates Hi-tech polyhouse, farm machinery bank, village soil testing laboratory

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb today visited Ganderbal and reviewed overall agriculture scenario in the district in a meeting with the concerned officers.

During the visit, he also inaugurated a Hi-tech poly house (under HADP 2024-25) at Gujjar Patti, Prang Wussan, farm machinery bank and a Village soil testing laboratory.

Speaking to the farmers of different areas, Director Agriculture said that department is working on an ambitious plan of providing farmers with round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable crops. He said to achieve this goal department has already established hi-tech powerhouses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

He said the Farm machinery bank would help concerned farmers in performing their farm mechanical activities easily and timely. He fur-



ther said the village soil testing laboratory would be very helpful to the farmers of the area in ensuring the optimal use of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides.

Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of integrated farming, and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

Director asked the concerned officers to guide the farmers during their preparation of paddy nurseries and during the pre and post harvest operations of oil seed (Mustard) crop.

He asked the farmers that department would provide all the technical assistance to them in comprehensively performing their agriculture activities.

Later, Director Agriculture visited some seed village areas. He held interactions with the concerned farmers and took feedback from them. He also appreciated their role in agriculture sector.

Director was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal and other officers of the department.

WORLD NUMISMATIC WEEK 2025

Principal Secretary Culture inaugurates rare Coins Exhibition at Kala Kendra



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, today inaugurated a two day Rare Coins Exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The event was organized to mark observance of World Numismatic Week-2025 by Kala Kendra under the aegis of Department of Culture, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

A galaxy of art lovers, painters, heritage collectors and dignitaries were present to witness the inaugural ceremony.

While addressing the gathering, Brij Mohan Sharma stated "each coin on display is not merely a piece of metal, it is a witness to history,

culture and tradition. It stands as a silent storyteller of trade, governance, empires and the everyday lives of our ancestors." He emphasized that through their inscriptions, materials, shapes and symbols, coins serve as vital carriers of our collective cultural memory.

The Principal Secretary invited all the collectors and cultural organizations to join hands with the government for resolving issues faced by the heritage collector community. He announced that the Department of Culture has devised a new scheme to recognize and reward Non-Governmental Organizations working with commitment and zeal in the field of culture, heritage preservation and promotion.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra, informed that the exhibition is featuring around 1000 rare coins from various historical periods. These included those of Kanishka, Indo-Greek rulers, Pre and post Islamic Kashmir, the Mughal Empire, British era, Sikh and Dogra regimes besides post-Independence India. He said the primary objective of the event is to provide a platform to the collectors to showcase their prized coin collections.

Prominent collectors whose collections are on display included Dr. Suresh Kumar Abrol, Founder, Shashvat Art Gallery, Jammu, Inder Singh, Himalayan Heritage Museum, Jammu, Sudhir Gupta, Ashok Kumar Koul and Ramesh Kumar Raina.

Their exhibits have been displayed at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery within Kala Kendra.

Special Secretaries Culture Department, Trishla Kundal and Malikzada Sheeraz ul Haq besides eminent authors and cultural personalities like Khalid Hussain, A.S. Amn, Liaqat Jafri and Raj Kumar Behrobia, along with senior officers of Culture Department including Vishivjeet, Raiz Chowdhary and Amar Singh were present on the occasion. They also spoke on the subject and appreciated the initiative.

The exhibition will remain open to the public till evening of April 25, 2025.

Strong condemnation of provocative remarks and solidarity in fight against terrorism



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Today the executive body of Dogra Sadar Sabha met under the chairmanship of its President Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister to examine the latest developments in the India- Pakistan relations after the dastardly terror attack at Pahalgam. DSS discussed in detail the ramifications of the punitive measures as declared by the Government of India against Pakistan and the Pakistan's reactions thereupon. All the members of the Sabha (an amalgam of various religious, social and trade organisations of Jammu region) strongly condemned the recent provocative remarks made by Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asif Munir, at the Overseas Pakistanis Conference held in Islamabad. His statements concerning Jammu and Kashmir are not only baseless but also clearly reflect that the power structure in Pakistan continues to thrive on a divisive and hate-driven agenda. The words of Pak Army Chief are in complete resonance with the recent barbaric action of the Pak sponsored terrorists on the innocent tourists in Pahalgam. He said that Pakistan has been making multi pronged attacks in India to destabilize our country, by a narcotics Jihad in J&K and Punjab, pumping arms, infiltrators and running terror training camps on their soil and in PoJK.

Charak while appreciating the Government of India's firm and decisive action plan which is a timely and necessary response to continued acts of aggression that threaten the sovereignty and security of India, urged upon the government to take more stronger punitive measures to avenge the loss of innocent lives of the civilians, thereby putting an end to the proxy war imposed by Pakistan.

He also expressed deep appreciation to the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for their unity and resilience in unequivocally condemning the heinous Pahalgam incident by observing a complete Bandh across the Union Territory.

Furthermore, he appreciated the representatives of various social and trade organizations in Kashmir for their recent press conference, where they not only expressed solidarity with the victims but also pledged support to the government in combating terrorism. He urged the people of all the three regions to come together and form a Joint Coordination Committee to strengthen collective efforts against terrorism and to promote lasting peace in the Union Territory.

Central EPFO kashmir division bids farewell to retiring official Lateef Ahmad Zargar

PEERZADA ZUBAIR
SRINAGAR:

The Central EPFO kashmiri division bids farewell to it 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, insurance 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).

One-Day Training Program on Revised Birth & Death Registration Rules held at CMO Office Rajouri



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In line with the recent amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2022, issued by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Jammu and Kashmir, a one-day training program was

organized here at the Auditorium of the office of Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

As per the amended rules, Superintendents, Medical Officers, and In-charge officers of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), and other government health institutions have

been designated as Registrars of Births and Deaths for their respective institutions.

The training program was conducted under the directions of the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Jammu & Kashmir UT, with the objective of sensitizing and equipping the newly designated Registrars with the necessary knowledge and tools to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

The session was chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, who also serves as the District Registrar. Also present was District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), Rajouri, who has been designated as the Additional District Registrar.

The training was attended by Block Medical Officers, in-charge officers of 28 Government Health Institutions and the data entry operators.

MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurates work on NABARD funded road Project

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Member Legislative Assembly Pawan Kumar Gupta today inaugurated the construction work of the Dehail to Bakal road in Village Hartaryan being executed under NABARD scheme.

The road project carries a tender cost of ₹3.56 crore and an allotted

cost of ₹2.85 crore. The road project will significantly improve connectivity in the rural area and provide the local population better access to essential services and markets.

Several prominent persons and dignitaries were also present at the inauguration ceremony including District Development Council Chairman Lal Chand. In his address, MLA Gupta emphasised the union

government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and ensuring timely and quality development. He assured that the construction work would be completed efficiently and with full transparency. Local residents expressed their gratitude for this long-awaited project and appreciated the efforts of all the leaders for bringing meaningful development to their area.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for smooth conduct of NEET Examination

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In order to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET UG-2025) examination in the district, a meeting to review the preparedness

was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed stock of the preparations and the arrangements with regard to various logistical and security measures



ures being put in place at all designated NEET examination centers across the district, which is scheduled to be held on May 4, 2014.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme for LSUC at GHSS Zainapora

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Education Department, Shopian today organized an awareness programme for Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), support for Admission/Re-admission in schools at Government Higher Secondary School Zainapora.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian.

Deputy LADC, Dawood Ahmad Khan in his



address briefed the audience about the Role of District Legal services

Authority in rendering the services. In his address he also apprised the audience

about specific legal provisions for vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children at risk of trafficking or abuse.

Earlier, Assistant LADC, Bisma Rafiq gave a brief introduction about the programme.

Sajad Ahmad Najar, Assistant LADC, briefed the audience about LSUC and about educational opportunities for children particularly those rescued from trafficking, abuse, and other challenging circumstances and how we can support them for Admission/Re-admission in schools.

Adjudicating Officer FSSA Jammu imposes Rs 1.79 lakh fine for food safety violations

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and safeguard public health, the Adjudicating Officer under the Food Safety and

Standards Act (FSSA) in Jammu has imposed a fine of Rs 1.79 Lakh on various commercial establishments for violations of food safety norms. The penalties were levied on manufacturers, distributors,

and retailers found guilty of selling or distributing substandard and misbranded food items in the district. The enforcement authorities have urged all food business operators to comply with the prescribed

guidelines under FSSA 2006 to avoid punitive measures. Citizens can also report food safety violations by calling the toll-free number 104 or messaging on WhatsApp at 9484002101.

DIC Kulgam organizes Awareness programme under RAMP

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam today conducted an awareness creation cum outreach programme under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating of MSME Performance) here at Higher Secondary School, Qaimoh. Officers from line departments viz. Lead District Manager Kulgam; Principal, Higher Secondary School, Qaimoh; District Nodal Officer, EDI Kulgam; Principal ITI, Qaimoh; besides representatives from Agriculture, Handicrafts/Handloom, CSC centres and Cooperatives Department, IPOs and other officials of DIC Kulgam were present in the programme.

More Than 100 beneficiaries from various departments, viz. Handicrafts/ Handloom, NRLM, Cooperatives, EDI, Agriculture, CSC operators, and industrial unit holders of DIC Kulgam attended the pro-



gramme. In the inaugural address, participants and other stakeholders were sensitized about the importance and vibrancy of Udyam Registration for taking their business and industrial establishments to new heights in collaboration with the

Government and the flagship schemes run by it.

The process flow and benefits under Udyam Registration was explained to the participants through a detailed power point presentation.

Chinar Yuva Centre Baramulla bags award for Sustainable Innovation at CASCA 2025

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a moment of pride for the district Baramulla, the Chinar Yuva Centre Baramulla has been honoured with the prestigious award in the "Sustainable Product Innovation" category at the CASCA 2025 (Climate Action and Sustainability Conference and Awards) held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Chinar Yuva Centre is a public outreach initiative by Northern Command and Chinar Corps of the Indian Army for Kashmir Valley to help youth to be part of the main stream development.

Presented by the M3M Foundation and organised by the CSRUUniverse, CASCA 2025 is one of India's leading platforms celebrating exemplary efforts in sustainability and climate action. The event brought together global leaders, policymakers, environmental experts, and innovators committed to fostering a greener and more sustainable future. The Chinar Yuva Centre's recognition stems from its groundbreaking work in youth led innovations in climate conscience, circular product design and eco-friendly practices that significantly reduce environmental impact. Speaking on the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, congratulated the team and said, "This award is a testament of the youth of Baramulla and their commitment to sustainability. It also reflects our district's growing role in contributing to India's climate action goals."

GDC Ramkote accords farewell to Outgoing batch of students

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

A farewell function filled with zeal and splendor was today organised for the outgoing batch of BA Semester 6th of Government Degree College Ramkote.

The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers, to remember and recall memories made during college life.

The function commenced with the formal welcome of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal of the college, staff and the outgoing batch of students. In his inspirational speech, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul motivated the students to lead a happy and contented life and wished them good luck for their future endeavours. He also guided the students with the essential tips for scoring better in their upcoming exams and CUET for pursuing further studies.

He told the students to uphold the motto of the college "Knowledge is power" with their utmost sincerity.

A group dance by Nitakshi Sharma and Rita Devi of semester 2nd was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Students of the outgoing batch assigned the title "The Trigger of Transformation" to worthy Principal Sir. Various entertainment games and activities like bursting the balloon, ramp walk, singing and dumb charades etc. kept the seniors engaged and entertained throughout the event.

DLSA Srinagar holds Lok Adalat; settles 04 cases, awards Rs.01 lakh as settlement amount

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

For amicable resolution of consumer cases, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Lok Adalat for Consumer cases at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the Supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar. A single bench was constituted for the Lok Adalat, which was presided over by Dr. Farah Deebea, (Officiating President District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Srinagar) and Shabnum Munshi (Member District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Srinagar)

Overall 10 Consumer Cases were taken up for settlement out of which 04 cases were settled and Rs. 01lakh was awarded as settlement amount.

Dy CM, Advisor to CM meet Maharashtra Dy CM

Expresses condolences, raises concern for J&K people residing in Maharashtra



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on the instructions of

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, today met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, to express their deepest condolences on the death of Maharashtra civilians in Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The J&K Dy CM also raised the

concern regarding safety of Kashmiri people residing in Maharashtra with Eknath Shinde.

Shinde assured full support from his government, assuring committed towards taking care of J&K residents in Maharashtra. He assured establishment of a dedicated helpline number with a Nodal Officer to assist those in need.

Surinder Choudhary said that the brutal targeting of innocent civilians in this cowardly attack is highly reprehensible. He added that targeting innocent tourists, is extremely condemnable and painful.

Condemning the cowardly terrorist attack, the Dy CM also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased. Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, while expressing his condolences, said that the entire nation is united in fighting the scourge of terrorism. He added that these dastardly targeted attacks are a blot on humanity.

Satish Sharma, Mian Altaf visit GMC Anantnag; meets injured of Pahalgam attack



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU ANANTNAG:

Minister for Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, Member of Parliament,

Mian Altaf Ahmad along with MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag to meet the injured of the tragic Pahalgam terror attack.

The visit was aimed to assess the medical condition of the injured, inspect the healthcare facilities and take stock of the treatment being offered to the attack victims there.

The Minister and the MP were briefed extensively on the immediate emergency response carried out after the incident, the current health status of the injured and the logistical and clinical support being extended to the victims and their families.

They interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of complete support from the administration. They expressed deep concern over the traumatic episode and conveyed heartfelt wishes for the victims' speedy recovery.

They praised the medical teams for their rapid and effective response, expressing hope that they will continue their yeoman service with the same zeal and spirit.

Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of Anti-Crime NGO, Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack, Calls for United Stand Against Terrorism

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of Anti-Crime (NGO), has strongly condemned the barbaric terrorist attack on tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam, Anantnag district, in which 26 innocent lives were lost and dozens more were injured. He described the act as cowardly and inhuman, aimed at disrupting the growing atmosphere of peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing deep anguish over the heinous incident, Gupta said such acts of terror reflect the desperation of those who cannot tolerate the return of normalcy, tourism, and stability in the Union Territory. "Attacking unarmed civilians who had come to enjoy the natural beauty and cultural warmth of Kashmir is a shameful and despicable act," he stated. "These attempts to tarnish the image of Jammu and Kashmir must be condemned by every right-thinking citizen."



He further emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have repeatedly voiced their aspiration for peace, development, and brotherhood-an aspiration that terrorists are trying to sabotage.

"The enemies of peace are trying to instill fear among tourists and local communities. But their nefarious

designs will not succeed, as the people of this region are united in their resolve against terrorism," he asserted.

Calling for a strong and decisive response, Sham Lal Gupta urged the security forces to act with full strength against the perpetrators of the attack and anyone who supports or shelters the terror ecosystem. "There should be zero tolerance towards those spreading bloodshed and disrupting communal harmony," he said.

He also appealed to society at large, including political leaders and civil society organizations, to rise above all differences and come together in support of the victims, while extending full backing to the security forces in their mission to eliminate terrorism from the region.

In conclusion, Gupta expressed heartfelt solidarity with the injured tourists and their families, assuring them that Anti-Crime NGO stands firmly with all peace-loving citizens in the collective fight against terror.

Photography Exhibition-cum-Workshop opened at Jammu University



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

A five days Group Photography Exhibition-cum-Workshop organized by Rinchen Bzangpo Art Gallery of University of Jammu in association with Aperture-The Photography Club of Jammu, was inaugurated by Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of University of Jammu at Rinchen Bzangpo Art Gallery. Prof. Manju Bhasin, Dean Academics, University of Jammu was the special guest on this occasion. Participating artists, Chandan Sunder, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Amarjeet Singh Jandhu, Mohud Amwar Alnasir and Shishu Pal along with Sh. Rakesh Sharma, Coordinator, Rinchen Bzangpo Art Gallery, Sh. R K Goyal, President, Aperture and a large number of art lovers and award winners in photography, were present in the inaugural ceremony.

This Exhibition-cum-Workshop has been dedicated to Sh. Chandan Bhadranshastry, popularly known as Dada (1920- 1994), the celebrated photographer of the yesteryears & the Founder of Aperture-The Jammu Photography Club. After second World War he left for Ganges, Rishikesh. Under the guidance of Swamy Shivanand, he started the journey of meditation and photography.

Swamy Ji gave him the name- Chitra Kala Kushla. Later on, he learnt photography under German photographer M Friedrich at Mumbai. During 1965, he started Studio Madras in Jammu. His legacy is being carried forward by his renowned photographer son Chandan Sunder in J&K.

Forty five exceptional works by renowned photographers Chandan Sunder, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Mohud Anwar Alnasir, Shishupal and Amarjeet Singh Jandhu, reflecting diverse themes artistic perspectives and technical brilliance, have been put on display in the show.

Jal Shakti Minister reviews Water Supply Schemes in Kashmir



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a meeting with Superintending Engineers of the department at Civil Secretariat to review the progress on different Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) being executed in Kashmir division.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also participated in the meeting.

Javed Rana had a detailed review of the department functioning focusing on implementation of JJM in J&K, completion of different schemes, physical targets achieved besides fund utilisation under various schemes. While addressing the meeting, Rana directed the Superintending Engineers to keenly monitor working of all water supply schemes, ensuring these function unhindered. He directed the concerned officials for fast-tracking completion of pending projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other ongoing water supply schemes. He also asked them to increase their visibility on ground and take proactive initiatives like a complaint redressal system to address the problems of the general public.

Indian Army Conducts Medical Patrol to Uplift Local Communities in Shikari, Reasi

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

Reinforcing its unwavering commitment to the welfare of local populations in remote and underserved regions, the Indian Army conducted a dedicated medical patrol in the hilly and isolated region of Shikari in Reasi district. This noble initiative was part of the Army's continued outreach efforts to deliver essential health services to communities that lack access to proper medical infrastructure.

Shikari, like many other remote villages in the region, faces challenges such as difficult terrain, limited connectivity, and scarce medical facilities. Recognizing these issues, a team of qualified Indian Army medical professionals reached the area with the aim of providing primary healthcare services to the residents. The camp offered free medical check-ups, distribution of essential medicines, and consultations regarding common and seasonal illnesses. Special attention was given to women, children, and the elderly, who often bear the brunt of inadequate healthcare access.



quate healthcare access.

In addition to treating ailments, the medical team also emphasized health awareness. They educated villagers on the importance of hygiene, balanced diets, and preventive care. Information on government health schemes was also shared to encourage the community to take advantage of available resources.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the local populace. Dozens of villagers arrived at the medical camp, many walking long distances to seek medical attention.

The outreach was not only seen as a source of medical aid but also as a symbol of care and solidarity from the Indian Army. The villagers expressed heartfelt gratitude, highlighting how such initiatives bridge the gap between isolated communities and essential services. These medical patrols are part of the Indian Army's broader mission of "Winning Hearts and Minds" in the region. Beyond its role as a defender of the nation, the Army continues to prove itself as a force for social development and humanitarian support.

Indian Army Organizes Afforestation Drive on World Earth Day at Samote, Rajouri

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a meaningful celebration of World Earth Day, the Indian Army organized a comprehensive Afforestation Drive at Samote in Rajouri district, aiming to promote environmental sustainability and create awareness about ecological conservation among the local population. This green initiative forms a vital part of the Army's ongoing commitment to enhancing environmental stewardship and combating the ill effects of deforestation across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from both the Indian Army and the local community, underlining a shared responsibility toward protecting nature.

A total of 15 Army personnel and 20 residents from nearby villages actively engaged in the plantation of saplings.

The drive witnessed the planting of 18 saplings from various ecologically significant tree species, including Bamboo, Acacia Glauca, and Senegalia Catechu (locally known as Khair). These species were carefully selected due to their beneficial environmental properties such as reducing soil erosion, purifying air, and promoting local biodiversity.

The plantation drive was not just a one-time activity but was also focused on spreading awareness about the long-term benefits of afforestation. Participants were educated on the vital role trees play in regulating climate, conserving water, and preserving the delicate ecological balance.

The event fostered a sense of collective responsibility, encouraging the villagers to adopt the saplings and take care of them to ensure their healthy growth in the coming years.

Local villagers and community members, including elders and youth, expressed deep appreciation for the Army's initiative.

Doda Admin observes National Panchayati Raj Day to celebrate grassroots level democracy

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The District Administration Doda today organised a mega event here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to celebrate National Panchayati Raj Day.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh led the event, which served as a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy through empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The participants led by the Deputy Commissioner took a salmon hygiene pledge, reaffirming their commitment to promote clean and hygienic surroundings.

Later a comprehensive review was conducted of the works being carried out by different departments including Rural Development (RDD), Agriculture, AYUSH, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Sports, and others.

The Deputy Commissioner took a department-wise assessment of ongoing projects and the implemen-



tation of government-sponsored schemes across panchayats. He particularly emphasized the importance of the JJM initiative, urging officials to ensure the protection and conservation of natural springs and water bodies, and to explore urban water resource tapping.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Assistant Commissioner

Panchayats to promote hygiene initiatives in every panchayat. Additionally, he reviewed the progress under the Kisan Ghar Ghar (KGG) and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). He instructed officials to maintain proper records of migrant labourers working in the area, including their contact details and addresses.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Education Department Shopian today organized an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attack) Scheme, 2016 at GHSS Shopian.

The awareness programme was held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary and the supervision of Secretary DLSA Mudasar Farooq. The program aimed to raise awareness among the participants about the provisions and benefits of the NALSA Scheme, 2016. Addressing the programme, Secretary DLSA emphasized the importance of legal aid services and support to victims of acid attacks.

He highlighted the various provisions of the NALSA scheme, aimed to protect and empower victims.

Chief LADC Shopian, Rafiq Ahmed highlighted the objectives of the program and the importance of awareness about rights of Acid victim to claim compensation from the accused as well as from State through DLSA.

Deputy LADC, Shah Nawaz Raina emphasized the paramount role played by DLSA regarding the compensation of victims & Supreme Court guidelines for prohibition sale of chemical substance.

He also emphasized the importance of free Medical support in the Hospitals to the victims.

Assistant LADC, Meenu Jan also stressed upon the fair and dignified treatment of Acid Attack victims as per the article 21 of constitution.

The program among others was attended by PLVs, Teachers and students.

Bumper Wheat harvest begins along Zero Line in Hiranagar Sector

Kathua Admin's collaboration with Agriculture Dept. and BSF brings record yield to Border farmers

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

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."

Awareness programme on 3 New Criminal Laws held at SP College



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In order to educate the masses on the new three criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023,

awareness programme was organized today by the District Administration on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at S P College here.

Besides senior Officers of District Administration, the awareness pro-

gramme was attended by Principal SP College, HoD Department of Forensics GMC, SDPO Kothibagh, Prosecuting Officer, Assistant LADC, students and others

Speaking on the occasion, Resource persons and other speakers stressed the need of creating awareness among the general public regarding transformative reforms having a positive impact on all in general and specifically on the women and children.

They emphasized that the new criminal laws provide a lot of protection to women and minors through special provisions in the Act.

During the programme, a detailed talk about the three new criminal laws and how they will protect the citizens and ensure transparent & speedy justice were given by the other speakers also.

District Level Workshop on AWAAS Plus 2.0 held at Rajouri



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAJOURI:

A one-day District Level Workshop-cum-Awareness Programme on AWAAS Plus 2.0, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), was organized at the PWD Dak Bungalow by the District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The workshop aimed to provide comprehensive insights into the key features of the scheme, the registration process and strategies for effective and timely implementation.

The programme was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who underlined the significance of the timely and inclusive execution of the PMAY-G scheme to fulfill the vision of "Housing for All."

During the technical sessions, field functionaries were sensitized about various processes involved in the implementation of AWAAS Plus 2.0, with a strong emphasis on enhancing efficiency and accuracy in data collection and beneficiary registration. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Vijay Kumar provided an overview of the programme's targets and achievements so far.

Shiv Sena Demands strict & similar action against Bangladeshis and Rohingyas

FIND THE "SNAKE IN THE SLEEVE" AND CRUSH ITS HOOD: SAHNI

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

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.

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that in the 10th class mark sheet of Gunreet Kour Dhillon daughter of Surinder Bir Singh residing at H.no.177, Sector C, Sainik Colony Jammu issued by CBSE Board, the name of her father is incorrectly recorded as Surinderbir Singh. The correct name of her father is Surinder Bir Singh. An affidavit for the correction of the father's name has been duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate on 24th of April, 2025. All concerned are requested to note the correct father's name as Surinder Bir Singh for all future references. Any person having objections to this correction may contact the undersigned within 7 days.

J&K celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day with over 1 Lakh participation across UT

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Jammu and Kashmir today joined the rest of the nation in commemorating the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) 2025 with unprecedented enthusiasm and overwhelming public participation.

More than one lakh people from across 4,291 Gram Panchayats took part in the vibrant programmes held at the Panchayat, Block and District level, reaffirming the Union Territory's commitment to grassroots democracy and community driven development. The national highlight was a historic event at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat in Bihar's Madhubani district, presided over by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Addressing the nation, the Prime Minister called for a minute of silence

in memory of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, offering prayers and condolences to the bereaved families.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also presented the National Panchayat Awards, recognizing best-performing Panchayats from across the country for their excellence in governance and development.

The NPRD 2025 observance also commemorated the continued legacy of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which institutionalized Panchayati Raj in India and empowered local self-governance at the village level. In Jammu and Kashmir, the celebrations focused on promoting transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Gram Sabhas were held across the UT, with a special focus on Water Management & Conservation,

Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and awareness campaigns under Nasha Mukta Bharat to address drug addiction. In a strong show of unity, districts across the UT passed unanimous resolutions at District, Block and Panchayat level condemning the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The resolutions reflected the collective grief, outrage and unwavering resolve of the people to stand against terrorism.

A live telecast of the Prime Minister's address was arranged in Gram Panchayats across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring wide viewership and participation. Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal, lauded the efforts of all districts in organizing special Gram Sabhas and reaffirmed the administration's commitment towards strengthening grassroots democracy.

BJP organizes Shradhanjali Sabha to pay tributes to the 26 civilians martyred in Pahalgam terror attack



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir organized a Shradhanjali Sabha at Church Lane, Srinagar, to pay tribute to the 26 innocent civilians who were brutally killed in a terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22nd April 2025.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Gh. Ali Khatana, MP (Rajya Sabha), Dr.

Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary, J&K BJP & MLA, Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP and other senior leaders of BJP paid floral tributes on the occasion.

Offering floral tributes to the martyrs, BJP leaders observed a two-minute silence in memory of the innocent lives lost. The attack, which targeted peaceful visitors, has drawn strong condemnation from all corners and has been described as an attack on the soul of Kashmir.

While paying the tributes, Sat Sharma stated, "These tourists came

here in trust and peace, and their murder is a crime against humanity. We grieve with their families and promise that their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Ashok Koul added, "Terrorists want to instill fear and divide us, but Kashmiris will never allow such darkness to overpower the spirit of our land. We stand united in mourning and in resolve."

Sunil Sharma strongly condemning the heinous act said, "Brutality has crossed all limits of humanity. Their actions are a direct attack on the values we hold dear as a society".

All speakers emphasized the need for national unity, stronger security measures, and a firm stance against terrorism to ensure such heinous crimes are never repeated. The BJP leadership expressed deep solidarity with the victims' families and called upon society to collectively work toward peace and justice.

The Sabha concluded with collective prayers for the departed souls and reaffirmation of the BJP's commitment to a terror-free, peaceful Jammu & Kashmir.

Aftermath Pahalgam Terror Attack | Demolition of Terrorist-Linked Houses in Jammu and Kashmir



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant escalation of counter-terrorism operations following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives, security forces in Jammu and Kashmir demolished four houses linked to active terrorists on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The demolitions, carried out using explosives, targeted properties in Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora, and Pulwama districts. This action is part of a broader crackdown aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem in the region, bringing the total number of such demolitions to nine since the Pahalgam attack.

Details of the Demolitions

Kupwara District

House of Farooq Ahmed (also referred to as Farooq Ahmad Tadwa or Farooq Teedwa in some reports) at Nagri Kot, Kalaroos area. Farooq Ahmed, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative, is currently believed to be based in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

His residence was demolished in a controlled explosion on Saturday evening. The operation was part of the intensified measures against terrorists linked to the Pahalgam

attack. Ahmed's long-standing association with LeT and his reported activities from across the border highlight the focus on targeting operatives with external connections.

Shopian District

House of Adnan Safi Dar, son of Mohammad Shafi Dar at Wandina village, Zainapora area (also referred to as Chotipora in some reports). Adnan Safi Dar, affiliated with both LeT and The Resistance Front (TRF) since 2024, had his residence razed on Saturday night. The demolition underscores the targeting of relatively new recruits to terrorist ranks, signaling a zero-tolerance policy. Dar's involvement with TRF, a shadow group of LeT, reflects the evolving nature of terrorist networks in the region.

Bandipora District

House of Jameel Ahmed Sheer Gojri (also spelled Shergojri), son of Abdul Ahd Sheer Gojri at Naaz Colony. Jameel Ahmed, an active LeT terrorist since 2016, had his house demolished following a blast on Saturday night. Visuals from the scene showed significant destruction, with locals sifting through rubble to salvage belongings. Sheer Gojri's long-term involvement in terrorism marks him as a high-value

target, and the demolition serves as a deterrent against entrenched terrorist operatives.

Pulwama District

House of Amir Nazir Wani at Khasipora, Tral area. Amir Nazir Wani, a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist who joined terror activities in 2024, had his residential property destroyed in a suspicious explosion on Saturday night. The operation aligns with efforts to curb JeM's influence in the region. The targeting of a JeM operative indicates a multi-pronged approach to address different terrorist outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

The demolitions are a direct response to the Pahalgam terror attack, where gunmen opened fire at Baisaran meadow, a popular tourist spot, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, and injuring several others. The attack, one of the deadliest since the 2019 Pulwama bombing, has heightened India-Pakistan tensions, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowing to pursue the perpetrators "to the ends of the earth." The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the attack, and security forces have detained hundreds of overground workers (OGWs) and sympathizers, primarily in south Kashmir districts, to track down those responsible.

The four demolitions on Saturday follow the destruction of five other terrorist-linked houses on Thursday and Friday nights across Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Kupwara districts. Notable among these were the homes of:

Ahsan ul Haq Sheikh (Pulwama), trained in Pakistan in 2018 and recently infiltrated back into the Valley.

Shahid Ahmad Kuttay (Shopian), a top LeT commander active for 3-4 years.

Zakir Ahmad Ganie (Kulgam), under surveillance since 2023 for terror-related activities.

Adil Hussain Thoker (Anantnag) and Asif Sheikh (Pulwama), both LeT operatives linked to the Pahalgam attack.

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



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATRA:

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.

DC Bandipora reviews Departmental Proposals for Capex Budget 2025-26



KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

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 threadbare 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.

Shiv Sena released poster "Fearlessly visit Baba Barfani"

Appeal to devotees to take part in the yatra and give a befitting reply to terrorism

KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has issued a poster with the message "Fearlessly visit Baba Barfani" and appealed to devotees of Bholenath to take part in the Amarnath yatra and give a befitting reply to terrorism.

Along with this, a warning has been issued to terrorist organizations to face dire consequences if they dare to carry out any untoward incident.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the purpose of the cowardly attack on Hindus in Pahalgam is to affect the Shri Amarnath yatra and create fear among Hindus. Sahni has issued a warning to the terrorist organizations that they will have to face serious consequences if they make any nefarious attempt to carry out any untoward incident during the pilgrimage.

Along with this, Sahni said that to

encourage the devotees of Baba Barfani, a group of Shiv Sainiks of revered Bala Saheb Thackeray will be present at the main base camps Pahalgam and Baltal during the yatra.

Sahni has released a poster "We will have darshan of Baba Barfani without fear" and appealed to people to participate in the yatra and take blessings of Bhole Baba. General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Senior Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli were present on this occasion.