

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication



**Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK**

*We must carry the ideals of Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Ji, a true karma-yogi, to every segment of society. He discharged his duties without any expectation, served without any desire for fame, and built not for himself but for the coming generations.*

Srinagar • Wednesday 22, April 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 97 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

## Year After Pahalgam Attack, Tourists Return

Stakeholders Report Gradual Rise In Footfall



JAHANGEER GANAIE

**PAHALGAM:** A year after the tragic terror attack in the Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam that shook Kashmir's tourism industry to its core, signs of revival are slowly emerging across the Valley, bringing a sense of cautious optimism among those whose livelihoods depend on the sector.

On April 22, 2025, at least 26 persons, mostly tourists were killed in a brutal attack that led to an abrupt decline in tourist arrivals, leaving hotels empty, businesses shut, and thousands grappling with severe financial distress.

The incident dealt a heavy blow not only economically but also emotionally to the region, long known for its hospitality and scenic charm.

According to the details available, with the onset of spring season this year

Pahalgam and other popular destinations are witnessing a gradual but steady return of visitors. Tourists in Pahalgam say they feel safe and welcomed, countering the fears that had gripped the region following last year's attack.

"We have not seen such hospitable people anywhere else. Kashmir is peaceful and safe, and we have not faced any security concerns during our visit," said a group of tourists in Pahalgam, reflecting a growing confidence among travellers.

Local stakeholders, who bore the brunt of last year's downturn, say the recent uptick in tourist flow has revived hope for recovery.

Hotelier Zakir Ahmad said that while the numbers are still below pre-attack levels, the improvement over the past few weeks is encouraging. "There has been a gradual increase in

tourists, mostly tourists were killed in a brutal attack that led to an abrupt decline in tourist arrivals, leaving hotels empty, businesses shut, and thousands grappling with severe financial distress.

## PM Modi Led Regime Has Taken Development To Every Doorstep: LG

Says India Is Moving Decisively Towards Becoming Developed Nation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led regime has taken development beyond mere statistics and has carried it to every doorstep, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that crores of families who once had no roof over their heads now have their own homes.

"Roads have reached every village, the number of airports has doubled, the digital revolution has connected every section of society. Today the marginalised section have bank accounts, they have an identity, they hold smart mobile phones for financial transactions, and in my view this is not merely technological progress but social empowerment," Lieutenant Governor said while speaking at the statue unveiling ceremony of Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, a well known social worker and the founder of Mahamandaleswar Shri Bal Krishna Yati Inter College at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.

Lieutenant Governor called for building India which our freedom fighters once dreamed of and in which every section and every individual is part of the mainstream of progress.

"India is moving decisively



towards becoming a developed nation. The goal of 2047 is not merely a date; it is a national resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Paying homage to Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, the Lieutenant Governor that he discharged his duties without any expectation, served without any desire for fame, and built not for himself but for the coming generations.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that we must carry the ideals of Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Ji, a true karma yogi, to every segment of society.

"I feel particularly proud

that Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Ji did not ask what Bindraan could do for him; instead, he showed what Bindraan and the Jakhania region could do for themselves. This Inter College, born of a people's movement, is just a small symbol of his transformative work.

Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Ji did not merely establish a college; he made a pledge, a promise to the future. In 1974, when he laid the foundation of this institution, there was no major financial support and no assurance of success. All he had was an unshakable belief that education is the power

LG unveiled statue of renowned Social Worker Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh

We must carry the ideals of Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Ji, a true karma yogi, to every segment of society

He discharged his duties without any expectation, served without any desire for fame

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India has taken development beyond mere statistics and carried it to every doorstep

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The goal of 2047 is not merely a date; it is a national resolve

## J&K Braces For 7 GW Winter Load By 2030

RIYAZ BHAT

**SRINAGAR:** In a stark warning, Jammu and Kashmir has indicated that a power load requirement of up to 7 Gigawatts (GWs) by the coming five years needs to be considered in the winter season—signaling major infrastructure upgrades to avoid seasonal blackouts.

However, the officials have conservatively trimmed the load requirement to 5 GW by the financial year 2029-30.

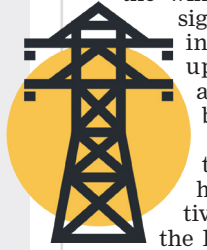
The statutory body Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a joint study meeting has said that "J&K indicated that a load of 6-7GW needs to be considered in the winter season by 2029-30."

"However, on conservative side load is considered to the tune of 5 GW," it reads.

Stating the details of Northern Region states load considered in Power System Simulator for Engineering (PSSE) for 2029-2030, the committee has projected 4211 Megawatts (MWs) of Emergency Power Supply (EPS) load in J&K by 2029-2030 timeframe.

However, the load considered in the revised PSSE file is 5000 MWs.

Pertinently, as



## Justice Is Served, India Doesn't Forget Army Recalls Op Sindoor On Pahalgam Attack Anniversary



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** On April 22, 2025, the nation was shocked as terror struck Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. Known as a tourist spot with scenic beauty, Pahalgam was rendered in blood as Pakistan-backed terrorists entered a village and killed 26 innocent people.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the heinous attack, the Indian Army recalled Operation Sindoor and warned the terrorists against crossing boundaries.

"When boundaries of humanity are crossed, the response is decisive. Jus-

ice is Served. India Stands United," ADG PI wrote on X, along with a Sindoor graphic which read, "Some boundaries should never be crossed. India does not forget."

In the cross-border communal attack in Pahalgam, the assailants questioned the victims about their religion before killing them.

Families of those killed in the Pahalgam attack are still coping with their loss. The wife of the late Prasanta Satpathy recalled how the incident upended her life, taking away the family's breadwinner.

She said, "My husband's name was late

## Awaiting Terror-Free India: Tourists Pay Tributes To Pahalgam Attack Victims

Gather At Razdan Top To Honour Victims, Urge Stronger Security Measures

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Describing the Pahalgam terror attack as unfortunate, tourists on Wednesday paid tribute to the victims on the eve of its first anniversary at Razdan Top in North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

According to the details available, number of visitors gathered at the high-altitude pass, which connects the Kashmir Valley with the remote Gurez Valley, and observed a brief silence in memory of those killed in the April 22, 2025 attack in Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam.

The attack had left 26 people dead and over 20 injured, including tourists from different parts of the country.

Tourists said the incident had shocked the nation but asserted that such acts would not deter



them from visiting Kashmir.

"While the attack was deeply unfortunate, we have come here to pay our respects to the victims. We also want to send a message that fear will not stop us from travelling," said Rakesh Sharma, a tourist from Delhi.

Another visitor, Meena Gupta

from Punjab, said Kashmir continues to remain a safe destination. "We feel secure here. The arrangements are good and people are welcoming. Incidents like that should never happen again," she said.

A female tourist, Meenakshi, said the country

## Kashmir Rises Against Drug Abuse

TABIYA ASLAM

**SRINAGAR:** Cutting across religious lines, whole of the Kashmir Valley with a growing sense of urgency is bringing people together in the fight against drug addiction. What began as part of the 100-day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan is now turning into a broader, people-led movement, with communities stepping forward to protect their future.

Cities, towns and villages are responding to the call of LG Manoj Sinha to eradicate this menace once and for all. Surprisingly, religious heads from the ramparts of grand mosques are supporting and joining crusade against drug use.

From bustling towns to quiet villages, awareness activities are picking up pace. Rallies are being held where students, officials, and residents walk together, raising slogans and spreading a clear message about the

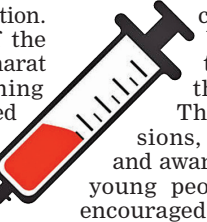
dangers of substance abuse. Plantation drives, organized alongside these efforts, reflect a shared hope for a healthier and more positive environment.

Schools and colleges have become important spaces in this campaign.

Through discussions, competitions, and awareness sessions, young people are being encouraged to understand the risks of addiction and make better choices early in life. The emphasis is on guiding the youth before they fall into harmful patterns.

Efforts are also reaching homes directly. Teams involved in door-to-door campaigns are engaging with families, urging them to stay aware and involved. These conversations, though simple, are helping open up a topic that many often hesitate to discuss.

A notable shift is the involvement of religious leaders and



## Pahalgam Attack First Anniversary Kashmir Trips Will Go On, No Terror Attack Will Dampen Spirits, Say Tourists

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** On the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 tourists dead, visitors on Tuesday said no such incident would stop them from travelling to the Kashmir, asserting they would continue their visits without fear and that Pakistan would not be able to disrupt the prevailing peaceful atmosphere.

Pertinently, on April 22, 2025, a major terror attack took place in Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam in South Kashmir, where terrorists targeted tourists in the popular meadow known as "Mini Switzerland." Victims included 25 tourists



from across the country, one from Nepal, and a local pony operator, Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who died while trying to disarm an attacker.

From various tourist locations, visitors said, "Pakistan would not be able to disrupt peace in Jammu

and Kashmir," and asserted that tourists would not be deterred by fear, adding they would continue to visit and explore destinations across the Valley.

"We are not afraid of Pakistan or those trying to disrupt peace in Kashmir. India

is a peace-loving country and we want peace. We will not tolerate any attempts to harm us," said Sunil Kumar, a retired Army officer from Himachal Pradesh, at Razdan Top in Bandipora.

He said the nation is paying tributes to the Pahalgam terror attack victims and that they will always be remembered. At several places, including Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Gurez Valley, tourists paid tribute to the victims.

"Kashmir is a peaceful place and its people are peace-loving. We see them as our family members and there is no fear at all. We are visiting Kashmir and will continue to come again and again because it is a

## 'Was Major Setback To J&K' Farooq Abdullah On Pahalgam Terror Attack Anniversary

UMAISAR GULL

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday Pahalgam attack was a major setback for Jammu and Kashmir as he paid tributes to those who lost their lives in the terror incident last year.

Speaking to reporters in Bijbehara, Abdullah said he wants pay tribute to those who lost their lives, especially to those who stood against the terrorists.

On the proposed second round of US-Iran talks, he expressed hope that the ongoing dialogue between would ultimately lead to peace, asserting that "there is no alternative" to it.

"Many rounds are going to be held, but peace will prevail. There is no other alternative to peace. The world would be saved through peace," he added.

On Women Reservation Bill, he said his party is not against reservation, noting that when the bill was introduced in 2023,

## Record 15 Lakh Birds Flock Kashmir Wetlands, Hygam Tops

WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Kashmir's wetlands have become a paradise for migratory birds this season, attracting over 15 lakh feathered visitors, with the Ramsar-designated Hygam wetland in Sopore hosting the lion's share of more than 4 lakh birds.

Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Tawheed Ahmed Deva, said the Hygam wetland in Sopore accounted for the highest share, with over four lakh birds recorded during the annual census.

He said Hygam, a designated Ramsar site spread over 7.62 square kilometres, remains fully demarcated and free from encroachment. "The entire wetland area is intact. There is no encroachment, and the water level is being maintained," he said.

Deva said the wetland has effectively served its ecological purpose this season, reflected in the unprecedented arrival of migratory



birds. He said the counting was carried out under the Asian Waterbird Census programme, and the final report is being compiled and will be released within two months.

Highlighting conservation efforts, he said the department remains committed to preserving wetlands across Kashmir. "We are taking sustained measures to conserve these habitats and ensure they continue to support biodiversity," he said.

The warden added that two major project

## Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan DIPR's Cultural Unit Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme at BHS Theed



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organized an awareness programme at Government Boys High School (BHS) Theed, Harwan.

The event featured a thematic short play and a series of folk songs aimed at highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, substance-free lifestyle. The performances were well received and widely applauded by the students and staff, who appreciated the engaging and impactful medium of communication.

Addressing the gathering, AECO, Cultural Unit Srinagar, Syed Shakeel

Shan delivered a strong message to the youth, urging them to stay away from drugs and contribute positively to society.

Principal BHS Theed and other speakers also emphasized the importance of awareness, community participation, and early intervention in combating substance abuse.

The Principal expressed gratitude to the Cultural Unit Kashmir, for organizing such meaningful programmes across the Valley, stating that these initiatives play a vital role in educating and guiding young minds.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment among students to uphold the values of a drug-free society and to act as ambassadors of positive change within their communities.

## Sarmad Hafeez Flags off Padyatra Under 100-Day Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** As part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir campaign, the District Administration Baramulla Tuesday organized a mega Padyatra to intensify awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthier, addiction-free society.

Padyatra was flagged off by Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez who is also Distinct Mentor for 100 days NMBA campaign, from Dak Bungalow in presence of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, SSP Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, SSP Sopore, Iftikhar Talib, ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, ADC Sopore, S.A. Raina and saw enthusiastic participation from other officers, officials, civil society members, youth and a large number of students.

The initiative aimed to sensitize people, especially the youth, about health consequences of drug addiction while encouraging them to adopt a positive and disciplined lifestyle.

The padyatra traversed through key areas of Baramulla town and culminated at Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla. Throughout the march, participants carried placards and raised slogans, powerfully highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

Earlier, Sarmad Hafeez, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and enforcement of the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir initiative in district Baramulla.

During the meeting, the commissioner secretary directed the district administration to intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to penetrate every section of society, particularly targeting the youth, to educate them about the ill effects of substance abuse.

He further urged officers to adopt innovative and engaging methods to combat the drug menace, including the involvement of national figures, sportspersons, and local icons who can effectively influence and inspire the younger generation.

Highlighting the importance of impactful execution, Commissioner Secretary instructed that the campaign should not be reduced to a mere ritualistic exercise, but must bring about a tangible and meaningful change in society.

Stressing the need for collective responsibility, he called for a collaborative approach wherein all stakeholders, including government departments, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and civil society work in close coordination.

stance abuse and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

He was accompanied by ADC, ACR, SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, renowned cricketer, Parvez Rasool and other officials. Local cricket stars besides a large number of youth and spectators were present during the inaugural ceremony.

The tournament is being organised by District Administration in collaboration with local industries and cricket associations. With 48 teams competing for glory, JCC Tahab and The Elite Shamsipora played the inaugural match, marking the commencement of a major sports initiative.

On the occasion, the DC administered Nasha Mukht pledge to the gathering, urging them to actively contribute towards eliminating the menace of drug

## Training Programme for Field Trainers for Census 2027 held in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The training programme for Field Trainers for the upcoming Census 2027 was Tuesday formally inaugurated at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, marking a key step towards strengthening district-level preparedness for the national exercise.

The programme is being conducted under the overall supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bihaqi, who is also serving as District Census Officer, Ganderbal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Director Census, Arun underscored the significance of accuracy, dedication and strict adher-

ence to prescribed guidelines during census operations. He highlighted the pivotal role of Field Trainers in ensuring effective dissemination of training to enumerators and other field-level functionaries, thereby laying the groundwork for smooth execution of the exercise.

The training sessions, being conducted by experienced Master Trainers, focus on essential aspects of census operations including enumeration procedures, data collection practices, use of technology and handling of field-level challenges.

The programme is designed to equip participants with practical knowledge and clarity on their roles and responsibilities.

# NZATI, RIHFW organise training session on BLS for JKAS Probationers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu in collaboration with Regional Institute of Health and Family Welfare (RIHFW), Nagrota organized a training session on Basic Life Support (BLS) for JKAS (Accounts) probationers of Phase-II training programme (SAC-II).

The programme was presided over by Director General Accounts & Treasuries, Fayaz Ahmad Lone and conducted under the able guidance of Director Finance/ Principal, NZATI, Jammu, Rajesh Talwar.

Among others Principal, Regional Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Manoj Bhagat, Master Trainer, Dr. Shelly Mahajan, Dr. Kapil Sharma (Public Health), In-charge



Skill Lab Coordinator at RIHFW Nagrota, Rajeev Gupta; Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu, Rajesh Kotwal and Joint Director (Central), Directorate General of Accounts & Treasuries, J&K, Ishfaq Ahmad Pandith were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Fayaz Ahmad Lone emphasized the importance of such capacity-building initiatives, stating that officers must be

equipped not only with domain knowledge but also with essential emergency response skills.

The session was organized with the objective to equip the probationers with essential life-saving skills and enhancing their preparedness to respond effectively in emergency situations. The technical and practical sessions were conducted by Dr. Shelly Mahajan, Dr. Kapil Sharma and Rajeev Gupta.

The team provided hands-on practice sessions wherein participants performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and airway management techniques for both adult and neo-natal resuscitation under Basic Life Support protocols, aimed at saving lives during emergency situations. They emphasized on the importance of such training programmes in building first-response capabilities among officers.

The training was delivered through a simulation-based and interactive approach, enabling participants to gain practical exposure and confidence in handling real-life emergencies.

The session witnessed active participation and was highly appreciated by the probationers for its practical relevance and importance.

## Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan DC Anantnag inaugurates South Kashmir Cricket Cup

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** To promote sports among youth and realise the goal of a drug free society through Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Tuesday visited Sports Stadium Bijbehara and inaugurated South Kashmir Cricket Cup.

He was accompanied by ADC, ACR, SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, renowned cricketer, Parvez Rasool and other officials. Local cricket stars besides a large number of youth and spectators were present during the inaugural ceremony.

The tournament is being organised by District Administration in collaboration with local industries and cricket associations. With 48 teams competing for glory, JCC Tahab and The Elite Shamsipora played the inaugural match, marking the commencement of a major sports initiative.

On the occasion, the DC administered Nasha Mukht pledge to the gathering, urging them to actively contribute towards eliminating the menace of drug



abuse from society. The initiative seeks to engage youth in positive activities and channelise their energy in a meaningful and constructive manner, he remarked.

Interacting with the players and other participants, the DC highlighted the vital role of sports in promoting discipline, teamwork, competitive spirit and resilience especially among the youth. He said the district has great advantage to have the services of well recognised sports stars mentoring and guiding youth to develop into better athletes as well as responsible citizens. He advised participants to stay away from drugs and act as role models and ambassadors of the NMJK Campaign and spread aware-

ness against the substance abuse.

The DC reiterated that the fight against drug menace requires collective efforts and emphasized the importance of community participation, especially the involvement of youth, in making the campaign successful. He said sports and games have great potential to inculcate the values of hardwork, discipline, leadership, perseverance and patience ultimately leading to a healthy and drug free society. He called upon the youth to fully utilise the opportunity and develop into better athletes and responsible citizens while learning discipline and sports etiquettes from the local stars.

Highlighting the role of

NMJK Abhiyan, the DC said that a 100 day intensive campaign has been launched to create mass awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and engage youth in sports and other constructive activities. He noted that a multi pronged strategy has been adopted and the vulnerable groups are particularly sensitised so the objectives of a healthy and drug free district, UT and country are realised.

Cautioning about the ill effects of drug abuse, the DC said that addiction not only destroys the life and career of individuals but has devastating consequences on social and moral fabric of families and society. It is therefore every citizen's moral and civic responsibility to contribute to the cause of a drug free society in one's personal, official and professional capacity, he stressed. He assured the administration is committed to provide better sports infrastructure and other necessary facilities for boosting sports ecosystem besides facilitating smooth conduct of such events in the district.

## Save water bodies to save Kashmiriyat: MLA Lone



BILAL DAR

**SOPORE:** Congress MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone said on Tuesday said preserving Kashmir's water bodies is crucial to safeguarding the region's traditional identity of 'Kashmiriyat' and ensuring a crime-free society.

The legislator from Wagoora-Kreeri visited the Haigam wetland along with Pattan MLA Javid Riyaz Bedar and officials from the forest and wildlife departments.

Speaking to media, MLA Lone quoted a well-known Kashmiri proverb: "An posh tila dil wan posh" — when the food bowl is full, the heart is content.

"Many places in the world can be beautiful, but Kashmir was called Jannat-e-Benazir because it was a crime-free society. Drugs were unknown to

us," the Congress leader said, adding that water bodies are an integral part of Kashmiri identity.

While asserting that constitutional issues would be resolved through peaceful means, MLA Lone said the protection of water bodies and the future generation was equally critical.

He raised concerns over two specific projects in Rakh-e-Haigam — Nala-e-Nigli and Baal Kaul — warning that flooding was leading to silt accumulation in the Rakh. Environmentalists have flagged the spread of willow as dangerous for the wetland ecosystem, he said, calling for a diversion strategy to protect the area.

"We need to act in a peaceful manner while ensuring our identity and environment are not lost," MLA Lone added.

## DPEO Pulwama reviews progress of Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO), Pulwama Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to review the progress of the ongoing revision of Panchayat electoral rolls in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that the revision process is being carried out across all polling

stations. Special camps are being organized at polling booth locations, where Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBOs) along with Booth Level Officials (BLOs) remain available every Saturday and Sunday to facilitate voters in updating the Panchayat electoral roll.

The DC took a detailed halqa-wise review of the progress achieved so far and emphasized the need for maintaining transparency and ensuring saturation in the electoral roll update process.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the name on my Aadhar Card bearing No. 209866596169 from Sarwah to Sarah W/o Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Syedpora Hamchi Srinagar as per my domicile certificate. In this regards if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

## SAD DEMISE

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un



With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of Saleema Bano, wife of late Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, resident of Mallapora, Rainawari, Srinagar, a respected and noble woman, who left for her heavenly abode on 20 April 2026 (Monday). Fatima Khwani will be held at 10:30 am on Thursday. May Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

**BEREAVED  
BHAT FAMILY  
7051983585, 7889382344**

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. KAMALJIT SINGH Son of MUKHWANT SINGH, Resident of 63 TOBARI MOHALLA TANDA ROAD JALANDHAR PUNJAB in respect of LMV/Three wheeler/ Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. PB01A4110 Chassis No. MBJIJUV400746367 Engine No. 2KDU529639 in favour of ASIF KHAN Son of: TUFAIL KHAN Resident of: WAYIL WOODER GUTLIBAGH GANDERBAL JK 191201 (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in writing and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/91/MVD/ARTO  
Dated: 20-04-2026

Sd/-  
Assistant Regional Transport Officer  
Ganderbal

E-mail: cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in Phone No. 0194-2506484-85 (Sgr) 0191-2572889 (Jmu)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**  
**DRUGS & FOOD CONTROL ORGANIZATION, J&K**  
**CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR**

**FOOD ALERT/ STOP USE NOTICE**

Whereas, a sample of food article, Chilli Powder, "Chinar" was lifted by the Food Safety Officer, Purmandal, District Samba from the premises of M/s Navrang Traders Bari Brahmana, District Samba for analysis under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; and

Whereas, the Food Analyst, National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, where the said sample was analyzed, has declared it as 'Unsafe', the report whereof is as under-

Name of the Food Article	Manufacturer/ Marketer	Batch No/ Date of Packing/ Use by Date/ Net Content	Report No. & Date	Opinion of the Director	Reasons of failure
Chilli Powder, "Chinar"	M/S Navrang Traders Bari- Brahmana-181133, District Samba	25 16/02/2026/, 15.08.26 500grams	JK- 85/ March/26/105 Dated: 18.03.2026	Unsafe	The Sample shows presence Mineral Oil

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under section 18 and 29 of the Food Safety & Standard Act, it is hereby notified for information of the general public to discontinue consumption and usage of the food product Chilli Powder, "Chinar" Batch No.: 25, Net Weight: 500 grams Date of Manufacture: 16.02/2026 .Use by Date: 15.08.2026 Manufactured by M/S Navrang Traders Bari- Brahmana-181133, District Samba as the same has been declared 'Unsafe' due to presence of Mineral Oil.

Further, all the Food Business Operators, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and other stakeholders who are in possession of any stock of the food product detailed above shall not only inform the concerned Designated Officer(s) about the stock position but also stop the sale of the forth with.

Non-compliance with this notice shall attract penal action under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The food alert is being issued as an abundant caution and shall in no case prevent FBOs from having the said food product re-analyzed from any FSSAI notified RFLs after following due procedure as laid down under the FSS Act 2006. The report of RFL is final as per Provision laid down under FSS & Rules made thereunder.

No: FADA-Tech /04/2023-05  
Dated: .04.2026  
DIPK-613-26  
DT: 21/04/2026

(Smita Sethi) JKAS  
Commissioner,  
Food and Drugs Administration,  
J&K.

# CM unveils 'Six Seasons'- Shishur magazine of J&K Tourism Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday unveiled the January-March 2026 edition of the 'Six Seasons' - Shishur (Severe Cold) magazine of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department at the Civil Secretariat here.

The issue, themed Shishur, captures the winter essence of J&K and highlights a range of tourism initiatives undertaken during the period. The magazine has been compiled by

the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Information Shreya Singhal, Directors Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta besides other senior officers.

The magazine features curated stories on prominent tourist destinations, coverage of international

events organised by the department, annual conventions of travel, trade and hospitality bodies, participation in major travel marts, and outreach programmes led by the Chief Minister.

Appreciating the efforts of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister commended the initiative, noting that such publications play an important role in showcasing the rich tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir and strengthening its global outreach.

# A tale of women under representation in J&K Assembly

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Amid discussions over women reservation in politics, official data shows that the number of female candidates elected to the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly has remained abysmally low.

According to data accessed, since 1967, when the Election Commission of India first conducted state election in Jammu and Kashmir, only a few female candidates have managed to win Assembly elections.

As per records, only one female contested the 1967 election, but she lost.

The data shows that four women were elected in 1972-the highest-ever number of female winners in a J&K Assembly election so far. The four winners were Zainab Begum (Amira Kadal), Hajira Begum (Banihal), Nirmal Devi (Tikri), and Shanta Bharti (Jandrah Gharota). All of them belonged to Congress.

In 1977, only one female candidate, Gurbachan

Kumari, won from the Bari Brahman constituency. In 1983, no female candidate managed to win. In 1987, Swaran Lata was the lone woman elected, again from Bari Brahman.

In 1996, two women managed to win their seats, with Sakina Itoo (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti (Congress) winning Noorabad and Bijbehara seats, respectively.

In 2002, two women-Suman Lata Bhagat (Congress, R.S. Pura) and Mehbooba Mufti (PDP, Pahalgam)-won their seats.

The number of female candidates in that Assembly rose to three when Kanta Andotra, wife of former Congress leader Lal Singh, won a by-election from the Basholi constituency.

In 2008, three women-Mehbooba Mufti (Wachi), Shamima Firdous (Habba Kadal), and Sakina Itoo (Noorabad)-were elected, all from the Kashmir Valley. In 2014, the tally dropped to two, with Shamima Firdous (Habba Kadal) and Asia Naqash

(Eidgah) winning their constituencies.

The tally went up to three in 2016 when Mehbooba Mufti, who was then Chief Minister, won a by-election from the Anantnag seat.

In the last Assembly election, three female candidates won: Shamima Firdous (Habba Kadal), Sakina Itoo (D.H. Pora), and Shagun Parihar (Kishtwar). Shagun Parihar is the first female from the BJP to get elected to the J&K Assembly.

The number of female MLAs in the current Assembly went up to four when Devani Rana, daughter of the late Devinder Singh Rana, won a by-election in November 2025.

It is worth mentioning that two females were also nominated as MLAs by the Governor of J&K before 2019 in line with the provisions of J&K's Constitution.

The provision of nominating two females to the Assembly was also retained in the J&K Reorganisation Act enacted by Parliament in 2019--(KNO)

# Dy CM calls for enhanced connectivity through 4-Lane Domel-Katra road project



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday emphasized the need to strengthen connectivity across Katra, Reasi and Pouni regions through the proposed Domel-Katra-Reasi-Bambla road project.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the progress of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation and examined the proposed alignment of the project.

He described the initiative as a vital infrastructure development, saying that the proposed four-lane road will significantly improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and enhance overall mobility in the region.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PMGSY, Purshotam Kumar, Director Planning and other senior officers.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure that approaches

connecting the major populated habitations particularly at Reasi, Pouni, Katra are comprehensively included in the DPR.

"Our aim is to ensure improved road connectivity and deliver tangible benefits to the people," he stated.

During the meeting, the Consultant briefed him on various aspects of the project, including alignment feasibility, land acquisition requirements, tunnel construction, projected travel time savings and potential cost implications.

He instructed the concerned departments to expedite the engagement of consultancy services and fast-track the DPR preparation to facilitate timely approval.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "We are dedicated to ensuring seamless and enhanced road connectivity across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on inclusive and balanced development."

# 88.85% students qualified JKBOSE Declares Class 10 Result 2026 for Summer Zone

Sakeena Itoo lauds students for outstanding results

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Tuesday declared the results of Annual/Regular 10th Class (Summer Zone) areas of Jammu division.

A total of 50,754 candidates appeared in the examination, out of which 45,094 candidates have qualified, making overall pass percentage of 88.85%, which is much better than the last year's percentage of 79.94.

Among the candidates, 27,486 boys and 23,268 girls appeared in the examination. Of these, 24,054 boys and 21,040 girls qualified. The pass percentage of boys stood at 87.51%, whereas girls have recorded a higher pass percentage of 90.42%.

The examination was conducted smoothly across 527 centres.

Notably, 26,706 candidates from Government schools appeared in the examination with 22,283 qualifying, making pass percentage of 83.44%. From Private Schools, 24,048 candidates appeared with 22,811 qualifying, making pass percentage of 94.86%.

## CM congratulates students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday congratulated the students of summer zone schools on the declaration of the Class 10 results by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.

The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to all successful candidates and encouraged those who may not have achieved their desired outcome to remain determined and continue striving for excellence.

Earlier today, the JKBOSE declared the Class 10th Annual Regular Examination results for Summer Zone of Jammu Division, recording an overall pass percentage of 88.85 percent. A total of 50,754 students appeared in the examination, out of which 45,094 qualified successfully.

The results once again reflected stronger performance by girls, who secured a pass percentage of 90.42 percent, while boys recorded 87.51 percent, continuing the trend of female candidates leading in academic outcomes.

Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the students of 10th Class (Summer Zone) for passing the examination with flying colours.

The Minister commended the students for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance, stating that the results are a testament to their commitment and the collective efforts of teachers, parents, and the

education system at large. She added that the pass percentage of 83.44 for Government schools is very encouraging and highlights the improvement of educational standards in Government institutions.

"These outstanding results reflect the Government's sustained focus on strengthening the education sector and ensuring quality learning outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir", she stated.

Highlighting the achievements of girl students, the Minister lauded their outstanding performance in the examinations. She noted with pride that girls have once again outshined boys, showcasing their determination, resilience, and academic excellence.

"This achievement is not only a matter of pride but also a clear indication of the positive impact of various government initiatives aimed at empowering girls through education," she said.

Encouraging students to remain focused and motivated, the Minister urged them to pursue their future academic and career goals with confidence and determination. She also advised those who could not perform as expected to remain hopeful and work harder, emphasizing that success is a continuous journey.

The Minister further reiterated the Government's commitment to providing an inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education system. She assured that continuous efforts are being made to improve infrastructure, enhance teaching standards, and create a conducive learning environment for all students.

# PAG organizes Workshop on Accounting Procedures in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** District Level Workshop on capacity building and awareness regarding accounting procedures conducted Tuesday at the Auditorium of SAM Degree College Budgam.

The workshop was organized by the Office of the Principal Accountant General (PAG) (A&E), Jammu & Kashmir with the objective of strengthening financial management practices and enhancing awareness among stakeholders on various accounting-related issues.

The workshop witnessed the participation of all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of District Budgam, along with treasury officials and other concerned functionaries.

The programme focused on sensitizing officers about financial discipline, compliance requirements, and best practices in government accounting systems.

On the occasion, the District Treasury Officer Budgam, Dr. Showkat Ali Rather delivered the welcome address, highlighting

the importance of capacity building for financial officers and the need for strict adherence to accounting norms.

During the workshop, expert resource persons from the office of the Principal Accountant General delivered comprehensive presentations covering key areas such as preparation of budget estimates, classification checks, accounting, implementation of the e-voucher system, and clearance of pending audit paras. The sessions also addressed common accounting discrepancies and provided practical guidance for improving financial accuracy and transparency in departmental transactions.

Interactive discussions were held throughout the programme, allowing participants to raise queries and share field-level challenges related to accounting procedures. The experts provided detailed clarifications and emphasized adherence to prescribed financial rules and timely reconciliation of accounts to ensure effective public financial management.

# Javid Dar meets delegation of FICCI Ladies Organisation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar on Tuesday met a delegation of the FICCI Ladies Organisation at the Civil Secretariat here.

The delegation raised a range of issues concerning promotion of women-led enterprises, skill development and greater economic participation of women across Jammu and Kashmir. They also suggested measures to enhance the institutional support and improve market access for women entrepreneurs.

The Minister assured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed in a time-

bound manner. He said the government is focused on creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs through the targeted initiatives, improved access to finance and capacity-building programmes.

Emphasising inclusive growth, Javid Dar said women are key drivers of economic development and their active participation is essential for sustainable progress, particularly in rural areas.

He also highlighted the ongoing efforts aimed at boosting the entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities adding that the Omar Abdullah government is committed to ensure that women receive adequate support to expand and sustain their enterprises.

# Satish Sharma releases Coffee Table Book on IEC activities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, Tuesday released the Coffee Table Book on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Activities and unveiled the annual IEC Calendar 2026 of the Department of Science & Technology, Jammu & Kashmir government, at a formal function held here.

The Coffee Table Book offers a comprehensive documentation of IEC initiatives undertaken across Jammu & Kashmir, showcasing the outreach, impact and diversity of science and technology interventions at the grassroots level. It reflects the department's sustained efforts to promote scientific temper, strengthen innovation ecosystems and foster meaningful engagement between institutions and communities.

The annual IEC Calendar 2026 outlines a detailed, month-wise roadmap of awareness campaigns, outreach programmes and thematic activities aimed at



ensuring continuous public engagement with science and technology. By integrating key observances, innovation-driven events and awareness drives, the calendar institutionalises a structured and sustained approach to science communication across the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized that science and technology must act as catalyst for inclusive growth and social transformation. He stated that the real measure of scientific progress lies in its ability to positively impact the lives of common citizens. He highlighted that IEC initiatives play a crucial role in bridging the gap between laboratories and society, ensuring that innovations are effectively communicated, understood and adopted at the grassroots level.

Satish Sharma observed

that Jammu & Kashmir is steadily progressing towards becoming a knowledge-driven and innovation-oriented Union Territory, where scientific awareness and technological interventions are increasingly integrated into governance and development frameworks. He appreciated the department's efforts in making science accessible, relevant and people-centric and stressed the need to further expand outreach in rural and remote areas, particularly among youth, students and marginalized communities.

Underscoring the importance of strategic communication, the Minister noted that the annual IEC Calendar would serve as an effective tool for planning, coordination and implementation of outreach initiatives. He expressed confidence that such structured efforts would contribute significantly towards foster-

ing innovation, enhancing awareness of government programmes and promoting sustainable practices in areas such as renewable energy, digital technologies and scientific research.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Babila Rakwal, stated that the Coffee Table Book reflects the Department's evolving approach towards inclusive and impact-driven science communication. She highlighted that IEC activities have emerged as a core pillar of the Department's mandate, enabling the translation of scientific knowledge into tangible societal benefits.

She further elaborated that through key institutions such as JKSTIC and JAKEDA, the Department has successfully implemented outreach programmes addressing real-world challenges while building awareness and capacity among citizens. She reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening institutional linkages, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and aligning scientific advancements with developmental priorities.

# SSP G'bal inspects Baltal base camp, reviews preparations

RAJA SYED RATHER

**GANDERBAL:** Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama, on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Baltal Base Camp to review preparations for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra 2026.

According to the details available, during the visit, the SSP assessed the pace and quality of arrangements,

including accommodation facilities, traffic management, security deployment, emergency response mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination.

He stressed the need for foolproof security, effective crowd management, and seamless facilitation for yatrias.

The officer also inspected the Domail Yatra track, taking stock of on-ground arrangements and identifying areas requiring further strengthening.

He directed officials to ensure timely completion of all necessary measures to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims.

Senior police officers and officials from allied departments accompanied the SSP and briefed him on the status of ongoing works. He emphasized maintaining close coordination among all stakeholders and adopting a proactive approach to tackle emerging challenges.

Reaffirming the commitment of Ganderbal Police, Dhama assured that all efforts are being made to ensure a safe, secure, and hassle-free pilgrimage. He also urged officers to remain vigilant and dedicated in upholding the highest standards of service during the holy yatra--(KNO)

**GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PROGRAMME OFFICER MISSION POSHAN BANDIPORA**  
 2ND FLOOR, BLOCK-A, MINI SEC. COMPLEX BANDIPORA;

**Subject: Inviting consent for adoption of Anganwadi Centers under Community Participation Initiative NOTIFICATION**

Pursuant to the approval accorded by the District Development Commissioner Bandipora, It is hereby notified for the information of all stakeholders, Self Help Groups, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Corporates under CSR, PRIs, the general public, and Officers/Officials of District Bandipora that consent is invited for adoption of Anganwadi Centers functioning in the district Bandipora. Interested stakeholders may submit their written consent in the prescribed format (Attached at Annexure-A) The form can be downloaded from website: - <https://Bandipore.nic.in>

Duly filled consent forms along with a brief action plan must reach DPO ICDS office Mini secretariat Bandipora or mail on [dpoicdsbandipora04@gmail.com](mailto:dpoicdsbandipora04@gmail.com) by or before 30.04.2026. Any clarification may be sought from 9149880818.

No.: DPO/ICDS/Bpr/2026/ Dated: 18.04.2026

DIPK-632-26 DT: 21/04/2026 District Programme Officer Mission Poshan Bandipora

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Once Fresh Water Lakes, Now Residential Colonies

**K**ashmir's lakes are dying in silence. If this continues, the region will not just lose its natural heritage but also face an irreversible environmental catastrophe. The question is no longer whether the damage is visible—it is whether the will to act still exists.

There's an old saying—when everyone is responsible, no one really is. That is exactly what seems to have happened to Jammu and Kashmir's lakes. Once the pride of the region, these water bodies are now quietly fading away, victims of years of neglect, poor coordination, and a system where accountability is missing.

A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India paints a deeply worrying picture. Out of 697 lakes recorded in 1967, as many as 315 have completely disappeared. Another 203 have shrunk significantly, losing around 1,500 hectares of area. In total, 518 lakes have seen their water spread reduced, and 63 have shrunk to less than half their original size. Nearly 45 percent of the region's lakes are now untraceable.

This isn't just about losing water bodies—it's about losing an entire ecosystem. Lakes play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting migratory birds, sustaining aquatic life, and recharging groundwater. Their decline directly affects livelihoods too, from fishing communities to tourism-dependent families. What is at stake is not just the environment, but the long-term well-being of people.

So, how did it come to this? The problem lies largely in the way these lakes are managed. Responsibility is divided among multiple departments—Revenue, Agriculture, Irrigation, Fisheries, and Forest—along with agencies like the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority and the Lakes Conservation Authority. While this may sound comprehensive on paper, in reality it has led to confusion, overlap, and a lack of clear direction.

Coordination between these bodies has remained weak for years. As a result, critical issues like pollution, encroachments, and unchecked urban expansion have gone largely unaddressed. Basic restoration efforts—such as dewatering, desilting, and proper sewage management—have either been poorly executed or ignored altogether.

The result is visible today: shrinking lakes, polluted waters, and ecosystems under stress. What makes this situation even more concerning is the absence of a unified strategy. Without a central authority to oversee and coordinate efforts, initiatives remain scattered and often ineffective. Experts have long argued for the creation of a single, empowered regulatory body that can bring all stakeholders under one umbrella, ensure accountability, and drive a focused, long-term restoration plan.

The need for such a step is no longer optional—it is urgent. Kashmir's lakes are more than just scenic spots; they are essential to the region's ecological balance and cultural identity. If the current trend continues, the damage could become irreversible. The warning signs are already there. What remains to be seen is whether those in charge are willing to act before it is too late.

### One Year After Pahalgam

# Terror, Complicity And Delhi's Dangerous Dance With Separatism



ARSHIA MALIK

**T**he first anniversary of the Pahalgam massacre, the date April 22, 2025, burns like an open wound. Twenty-six innocents—mostly Hindu tourists, 25 Indians and one Nepali—gunned down in cold blood in the Baisaran meadow by Lashkar-e-Taiba killers who singled out men by their religion, their identity, their very presence in what should have been a place of peace. The meadows that once echoed with the laughter of families now echo with the ghosts of those who came trusting India's promise of normalcy. And as a Kashmiri Muslim who has spent decades on X calling out the poison that festers in my own community, I refuse to offer platitudes or false equivalences. This was not "resistance." This was jihadist barbarism, enabled by the very ecosystem we have let rot for decades.

I have watched this horror unfold before. In the 1990s, I saw the ethnic cleansing of my Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters—their homes burned, their temples desecrated, their women threatened with rape, their men slaughtered under the slogan "Raliiv, Galiv ya Chaliv" (convert, leave or die). I spoke against it then, as I do now, against the communal hatred that turned the Valley into a laboratory for Pakistan's proxy war. I have never shied away from naming the Islamist radicalisation that drove moderate Sufi Kashmir into the arms of the Jamaat-e-Islami and its terror tanzems. The forced exodus of Pandits was not "migration" or "political fallout." It was jihad. And the same ideology that justified it in the '90s is what justified Pahalgam in 2025—targeted killings dressed up as "freedom struggle" by overground workers who provide safe houses, logistics, and moral cover.

The only way to combat this external terrorism—Pakistan's state-sponsored machinery of death—is with an unrelenting war on the internal one. That means deradicalising the local population that sustains it: the overground workers who ferry arms and information, the women who carry water and



food to hideouts while their husbands and sons preach from mosques that terror is "jihad fi sabilillah." It means confronting the intellectuals, the academics, the social media warriors in our community who intellectualise and justify every attack as "blowback" or "occupation resistance." I have seen this whitewashing of terror evolve over the years—the false equivalences, the whataboutery, the Red-Green alliance that excuses Islamist violence while screaming "Islamophobia" at any pushback. Enough. Deradicalisation is not a seminar topic. It is the non-negotiable prerequisite for peace. Without it, every Operation Sindoor, every surgical strike, every diplomatic exhibition in Washington is just theatre. The terrorists will regroup because the soil here remains fertile.

And this is where the Government of India has failed us—repeatedly, cynically, and dangerously. Delhi's approach to separatist elements within the Indian Muslim community, particularly in Kashmir, has been a shameful on-again, off-again waltz. One day, abrogation of Article 370 and house arrests for dynasts; the next, premature elections that hand power back to the very ecosystem that spawned Pahalgam. One day, crackdowns on OGWs and

terror funding; the next, photo-ops with "moderate" faces who quietly wink at the stone-pelters and the mosque loud-speakers. I have called this out often on social media after Pahalgam: the folly of rushing into polls when lives were at stake, the "selection" of the CM, the whispers of Kashmir— "advisers" who still believe in managing separatism rather than eradicating it.

This flip-flop is not governance; it is complicity by hesitation. It signals to the radical fringe that the Centre lacks the spine to finish the job. It tells the silent majority of Kashmiri Muslims—who want tourism, jobs, and normalcy—that their voices will always be drowned out by the gun and the fatwa. I have written and spoken for years that Kashmir's salvation lies not in more autonomy or more appeasement, but in ruthless accountability for the ecosystem that turned my homeland into a killing field. The Pahalgam killers did not descend from the skies. They were radicalised across the border and sheltered here, justified here—by the very networks Delhi sometimes pretends do not exist when electoral arithmetic demands it.

As a Kashmiri Muslim whose family has paid the price of standing against this madness—exile in my own country, threats, ostracism—I demand better.

No more half-measures. No more "dialogue" with those who glorify terrorists as martyrs. Deradicalise the classrooms, the mosques, the drawing rooms where "azaadi" is code for Nizam-e-Mustafa. Rehabilitate the Pandits not as tokens but as rightful sons of the soil. And hold the separatist ecosystem accountable without the seasonal toggling of the switch.

The blood of Pahalgam cries out from Baisaran. One year on, if Delhi continues its sometimes-on-sometimes-off charade with the very forces that murdered those tourists, then the next anniversary will be bloodier still. The choice is not between "Kashmiriyat" and "national security." It is between civilisation and barbarism. I have chosen the former, as have countless silent Kashmiri Muslims. It is time the Government of India chose it too—with steel, consistency, and without apology. (The Daily Milap)

*Arshia Malik is an influential writer, blogger, and social commentator. She hails from Srinagar and is currently based in Delhi. Her areas of expertise and focus include Muslim women's issues and conflict zones in India, with a particular emphasis on the complex dynamics in Kashmir.*

### STUDENT SUICIDES

# Burden Of Dreams Or Failure Of The Education System?

LALIT GARGG

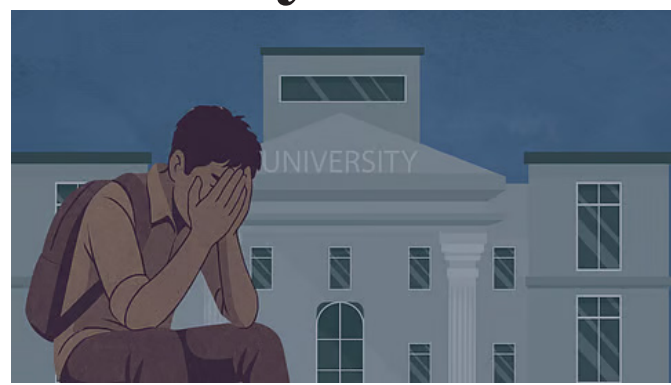
**T**he recent incidents at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra—where four students died by suicide within just two months—are not merely a tragedy of a single institution. They represent a profound indictment of Indian society as a whole, of our education system, and of our collective insensitivity. These events compel us to ask: what circumstances push some of the nation's brightest young minds to give up on life? No student who has endured intense competition to reach such prestigious institutions chooses death lightly. Such a decision emerges only when darkness seems to surround them from every direction. This darkness is not merely personal—it is the cumulative outcome of social, familial, and institutional failures. The pressing question remains: are these suicides the result of the unbearable burden of dreams, or the failure of the system?

Today's youth, often described as the future of India, are under unprecedented psychological pressure—crushed beneath competition and expectations. In education hubs like Kota, dozens of students die by suicide every year. These tragedies are often reduced to statistics, yet behind every number lies a living dream, a struggling family, and shattered hopes. Rising cases in cities such as Kota, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Chennai clearly signal deep-rooted flaws within our education system. This is not merely academic pressure—it is a crisis of mindset, where success is equated with life itself, and

failure with its end. According to data presented by the Ministry of Education in Parliament, 98 students died by suicide in higher educational institutions between 2018 and 2023. The highest number of cases occurred in premier institutions such as the IITs, followed by NITs and central universities. These figures challenge the myth that only academically weak students suffer from mental stress. In reality, it is often the most talented and sensitive students who experience the greatest pressure—driven by high self-expectations and an inability to accept failure.

The problem is not limited to institutions alone. It also lies in a social mindset that defines success in narrow terms. From an early age, children are conditioned to believe that life's sole purpose is to succeed in competitive examinations. Parents invest beyond their means—sending children to coaching centers, taking loans, and projecting their unfulfilled aspirations onto them. Under this immense burden, children begin to see themselves not as individuals, but as "projects." When that project fails, they feel their very existence has lost meaning. The structure of our education system also contributes significantly to this crisis. It imparts knowledge, but fails to teach the art of living. Students are taught how to solve mathematical equations, but not how to cope with life's challenges. They memorize laws of physics, but are not guided on maintaining emotional balance. Consequently, when confronted with real-life difficulties, they often break down.

Equally concerning is the changing nature of the teacher-



student relationship. Earlier, teachers were not just educators but mentors and guardians. Today, this relationship has become largely formal. Many educators confine their role to completing the syllabus, rarely engaging with students' emotional struggles or mental health concerns. This growing distance deepens students' sense of isolation. It is paradoxical that a country known globally for its philosophy of balanced living and non-violence is witnessing a rise in such self-destructive tendencies within its educational institutions. These disturbing incidents have raised serious concerns among policymakers and society alike. While there is growing awareness, the question remains: will there be meaningful action?

There is an urgent need for structural reforms in higher educational institutions to reduce student stress. Institutions must establish systems that actively engage with distressed students—offering continuous support, fostering hope, and promoting positivity. Permanent counseling frameworks, involving trained psychologists and

mental health experts, should be an integral part of campus life. The demand for Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas for government intervention is a welcome step. However, forming committees alone cannot resolve the crisis. Committees may submit reports, but they cannot bring back lost lives. What is required is a deeper engagement with the root causes and the implementation of long-term, sustainable solutions.

It would also be inadequate to view rising student suicides solely as a mental health issue. This is a broader societal crisis involving education systems, family structures, social expectations, and individual psychology. We must acknowledge that we live in a society where the blind race for success has overshadowed human sensitivity. Everyone aspires to move ahead, but few pause to consider those left behind. The solution cannot be limited to policy changes; it requires a social movement. First and foremost, we must redefine the purpose of education. It should not merely aim at employment, but at building balanced and resilient individu-

als. Mental health education must become an essential part of academic curricula. Students must be taught that failure is not the end of life, but the beginning of a new journey.

Secondly, parents must transform their approach. They must realize that their children are more important than their achievements. Instead of burdening them with expectations, they should encourage them to discover and pursue their own aspirations.

Thirdly, educational institutions must take greater responsibility. They should focus not only on academic excellence but also on students' emotional and psychological well-being. Every institution must have a robust counseling system where students can freely share their concerns. Teachers, too, should be trained to identify behavioral changes and intervene at the right time. Finally, society as a whole must rediscover its sensitivity. We must understand that every life is invaluable—far more precious than any measure of success. We need to create an environment where young people can pursue their dreams without fear, and where even failure is met with dignity.

If we fail to act decisively, this crisis will only deepen. Every suicide is not just the loss of an individual, but a reflection of societal failure. The time has come to acknowledge this failure and work collectively to address it. Only then can we steer our youth away from this tragic path and guide them toward a brighter, more hopeful future.

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Good Morning Kashmir

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Office Address:  
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at:  
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar  
Published From:  
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023  
Layout Designer  
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

# When Talent Turns To Tragedy

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

**P**restigious Indian technical education institutions, once known as “dream factories,” are now becoming factories of mental stress for many young people. The suicides of four students within just two months at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, Haryana, have shocked the entire nation. This is not just the end of four lives, but the failure of a system that is destroying talent instead of nurturing it. These incidents, which occurred between February and April 2026, are not isolated incidents but indicate a dangerous chain—one incident follows another, as despair spreads from one person to the next. Diksha Dubey’s suicide note—“I could not achieve anything”—is not just the anguish of one student, but a reflection of a mindset in which achieving something has become the ultimate goal of life.

In India, exams like JEE Mains and JEE Advanced have long been considered the key to success. Millions of students work tirelessly for years to crack these exams and gain admission to institutions like the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra.

But ironically, admission to an institution, considered a life’s greatest achievement, becomes a battleground for many students. Once there, students must not only excel academically but also face the pressure of proving themselves on every front. The 75% attendance rule, constant assignments and projects, the stress of semester exams, and the uncertainty of placements—all of these add up to an invisible but heavy burden on students’ minds.

This pressure isn’t just academic, but also psychological and social. When a student who has been at the top of their school or coaching class suddenly finds themselves among hundreds of talented students, their self-image is affected.

Where they once considered themselves “the best,” they now feel “average” or, at times, “weak.” This change is mentally very difficult for many students. They are unable to accept their failures and gradually become victims of self-doubt and inferiority complex.

The role of the family is also crucial in this entire crisis. In Indian society, education is linked to social prestige. Parents have high expectations for their children, and this expectation often inadvertently turns into pressure. National Crime Records Bureau data shows that family pressure is a major factor in suicides among youth.

This pressure is especially acute for students from economically



disadvantaged backgrounds. Their parents spend a significant portion of their limited income on their education and expect success in return. Therefore, if a student fails to perform as expected for any reason, they feel they have let down not only themselves but their entire family.

Social media has further complicated this situation. Today’s youth are constantly surrounded by glimpses of others’ “success” and “happy lives.” The glitz and glamour displayed on Instagram, YouTube, and other platforms creates a world far removed from reality. However, students begin to compare themselves to others, believing it to be real. When they feel they fall short of this “ideal life,” dissatisfaction and frustration grow within them.

French sociologist Emile Durkheim viewed suicide not just as an individual problem, but as a social one. His theory of “anomic suicide” suggests that when societal norms and expectations become unclear or unbalanced, individuals begin to feel isolated. This same situation is evident in many technical institutions today. Students are placed in an environment where high expectations are placed on them, but they lack adequate emotional or social

support. As a result, they begin to break down internally.

This problem is even more acute for students from rural backgrounds. They are suddenly thrust into an environment where the language, lifestyle, and social behavior are all different. They find it difficult to connect with those around them. This isolation gradually turns into isolation, and loneliness can become a major threat to mental health. Many students are unable to share their problems with anyone because they feel that doing so is a sign of weakness.

For female students, this struggle occurs on many levels. They have to balance academics with safety, social expectations, and self-reliance. Often, they are made to feel like they have to “prove” themselves, not only as students but also as women. This dual pressure further impacts their mental health.

Many shortcomings also emerge at the institutional level. Mental health services are inadequate in most technical institutions. One or two counselors are not enough to handle the problems of hundreds of students. Students are often hesitant to seek counseling because they fear it will affect their image.

Furthermore, mentorship systems are often ineffective. In some cases, instead of being helpful, they cause additional stress for students.

The steps taken by the administration following the four suicides—such as forming an inquiry committee, improving counseling services, and declaring holidays—are important, but not sufficient. This problem will not be solved by immediate measures alone. It requires long-term and comprehensive change. The education system must recognize that students are not just marks and ranks, but human beings with emotional and social needs.

The solution must prioritize mental health. Every institution should have adequate numbers of trained counselors, and students should be encouraged to use their services without fear or embarrassment. Furthermore, flexibility in academic regulations is essential. Not every student is the same, and it is unfair to expect everyone to perform equally.

Families also need to shift their mindset. They must understand that success isn’t just about a high salary or a prestigious job. Prioritizing children’s mental health and well-being is just as important. Parents should communicate openly with their chil-

dren and reassure them that they are there for them no matter what.

A positive and supportive environment needs to be created at the campus level as well. Students should be encouraged to help each other and share their problems. Initiatives such as peer support groups, cultural activities, and sports can help improve students’ mental health.

These events at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, are not just a problem for one institution, but a warning to the entire Indian education system. If timely attention is not addressed, this crisis could deepen. It is essential that we take this issue seriously and work together to find solutions that not only ensure students’ academic development but also protect their mental and emotional health.

Students are the future of the country, and if that future crumbles under the weight of frustration and pressure, it’s not just a personal tragedy, but a national crisis. It’s time to redefine success and build an education system that empowers students to be not only successful but also balanced and happy human beings.

*The author is a PhD in Political Science.*

## From Binge To Books: On World Book Day 2026

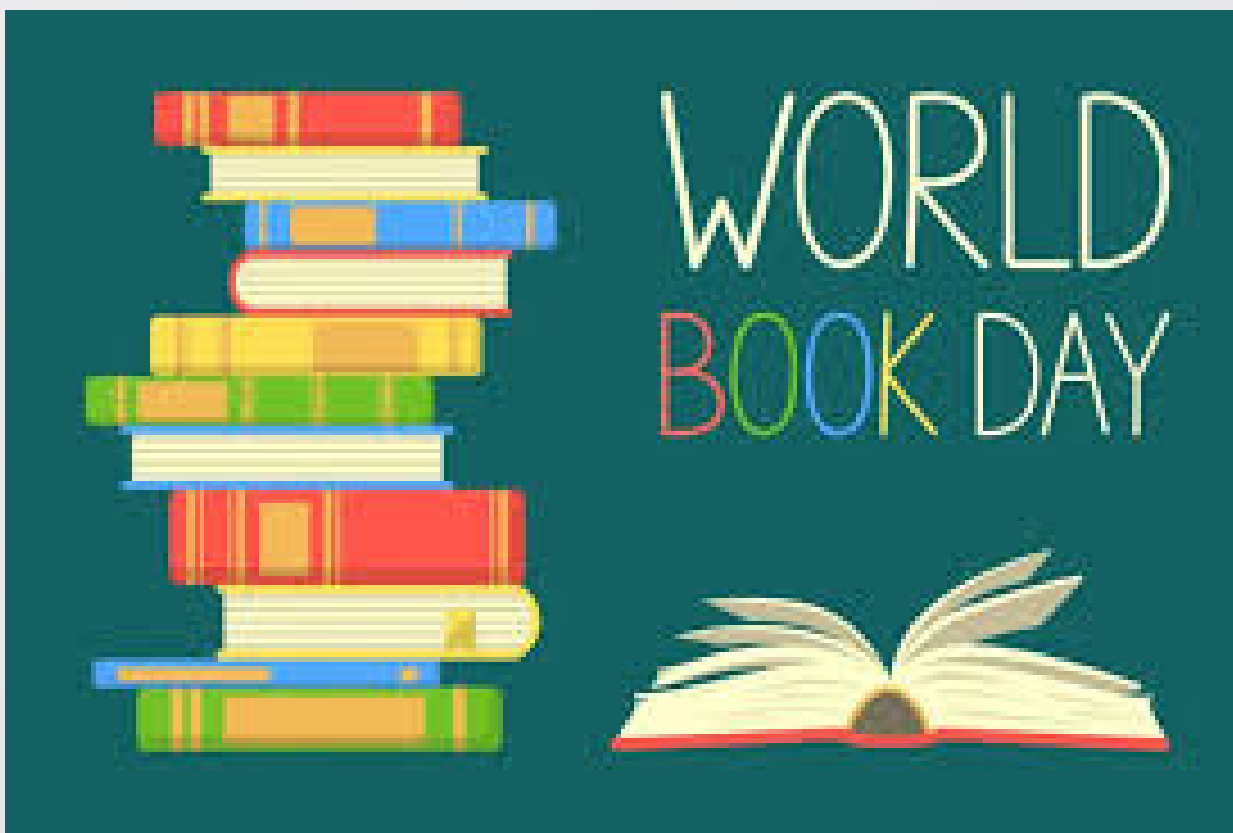
ARJUMAND QADIR

**W**orld Book Day is a day to celebrate the joy of reading and the lasting impact books have on human beings. World book and copyright day is celebrated every year on April 23. Books don’t just narrate stories; they bridge the gaps across time, cultures and perspectives. But in today’s fast-paced digital world, this celebration has a quiet sense of urgency. Books used to be a big part of everyday life, but now they have to compete with screens that are easier to use but don’t go leave a powerful impact.

You can’t miss the change. People are reading fewer classic books, which are the ones that are deep, rich, and full of real human feelings. Instead, a lot of people like to watch movies or web series that are based on those stories. Visual storytelling is nice, but it often makes things that books talk about so well seem less important.

When you read a book, you can stop, think, and really feel every moment. It lets you think. A screen, on the other hand, moves quickly. You watch, but you don’t always feel what you’re watching. If we choose convenience over reading, we miss out on something special: the slow build-up of feelings, the connection with characters, and the quiet change that a good book can make in us.

Books have been a way to get away from it all for a long time, but not in a way that makes you forget everything. Reading is a more mindful way to get away from things than scrolling



through social media or binge-watching shows on Netflix. It doesn’t take us away from life; it helps us understand it better. When you’re stressed or emotionally drained, books can be a quiet way to heal. They help people deal with their feelings, see things from a different point of view, and often

come back with a clearer mind. On the other hand, modern ways of escaping can make people feel more restless, disconnected, and less grounded.

Reading a powerful book isn’t something you do passively; it’s an experience. It takes you to other worlds where we live many lives, feel a wide range

of emotions, and face truths that we might not want to face. And when we turn the last page, something inside of us often changes. We come back a little different—more understanding, more thoughtful, and sometimes more at peace.

There are signs of a comeback,

which is good news. Reading books is slowly coming back in many places. People are starting to form book clubs where they read together in quiet, beautiful places and then talk about what they read. These places are not just for reading; they are also for connecting with others, thinking, and having deep conversations. We should support and encourage these kinds of projects, especially in places where people are becoming more and more dependent on technology.

It’s just as important to start the habit early. Reading helps kids develop their imagination, their ability to understand emotions, and their ability to think clearly. Instead of scrolling through your phone before bed, try reading a few pages of a book. This can make a huge difference in your mental health and even the quality of your sleep. Studies have shown that reading before bed can help you relax and sleep better than looking at screens.

The message for this World Book Day is simple but strong: go back to reading. Not because they miss it, but because they need it. In a world full of noise, books give you depth. They teach patience in a world that values speed. And when things are unclear, they help you see things from a different angle.

Reading isn’t just a way to pass the time; it’s a way to grow. And maybe when we turn a page, we also start to turn something inside of us.

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## Javed Rana listens to public delegations at Civil Secretariat Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday met several delegations at Civil Secretariat, here, and listened to their grievances.

A delegation from Sidhra called on the Minister and apprised him of the difficulties being faced by residents due to irregular water supply and inadequate tanker services in the area. The Minister took immediate note of



the concerns and directed the concerned officers of the Jal Shakti Department to ensure improved water supply and streamline tanker services on priority. Another delegation comprising casual labour-

ers of the Wildlife Department projected their long-pending service issues and honorarium-related concerns.

A separate delegation from the Bagh-e-Bahu area also met the Minister and

sought installation of a tube well to ensure adequate and safe drinking water supply for local residents.

The Minister assured the delegation of immediate action and directed the concerned authorities to examine the feasibility and take necessary steps at the earliest.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to responsive governance, the Minister emphasized that public grievances will continue to be addressed on priority to ensure improved service delivery and public welfare.

## Jal Shakti Minister Reviews Desiltation Of Kuls In Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the status of desiltation and cleaning of kuls (minor irrigation canals) in Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Jammu, Director Rural Development Jammu and other concerned officers. Former Minister Sukh-nandan Choudhary, who had recently highlighted the issue

of cleaning and maintenance of minor canals, also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed discussions on the present status of desiltation works and the measures required to ensure timely cleaning of all kuls to facilitate smooth irrigation for farmers. He stressed that proper maintenance of irrigation channels is essential for safeguarding agricultural productivity and supporting rural livelihoods.

Javed Rana assured that the Government is committed to addressing the issue on prior-

ity and directed the concerned departments to accelerate desiltation works and prepare a comprehensive plan to ensure regular maintenance of irrigation canals across the region.

The Minister further instructed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that farmers receive uninterrupted irrigation facilities during the ongoing agricultural season.

He reiterated that the Government remains dedicated to strengthening irrigation infrastructure and addressing the concerns of the farming community in a time-bound manner.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Year After

tourist arrivals over the last few weeks. After what we went through last year, even this modest rise feels significant. We are hopeful that the coming months, especially the peak summer season, will be much better," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, pony operator Aadil Ahmad, whose earnings depend entirely on tourist activity, said the return of visitors has brought much-needed relief. "Last year was extremely difficult for us. There was hardly any work, and many of us struggled to make ends meet. Now we are seeing more tourists coming in, and we hope this trend continues so that we can recover our losses," he said.

Handicraft dealer Ghulam Rasool Malik also expressed optimism, noting that business has started picking up after months of stagnation. "Tourism is the backbone of our economy. When tourists come, everyone benefits—from shopkeepers to transporters. We are hopeful that this year will bring stability and growth after the setbacks we faced," he said.

Officials and stakeholders alike believe that sustained peace and positive word-of-mouth from tourists will play a crucial role in restoring Kashmir's image as a safe and welcoming destination.

Data from last year highlights the severe impact of the April 2025 attack. While the first four months of 2025 saw strong tourist inflows—April alone recording over 2 lakh visitors—the numbers plummeted drastically in the months immediately following the attack, particularly in May and June, reflecting the sudden loss of confidence among travellers.

Over the course of 2025, Pahalgam recorded a total footfall of over 10 lakh visitors, including domestic and foreign tourists as well as locals.

However, stakeholders point out that the distribution was uneven, with peak months disrupted and the overall season falling short of expectations.

With early signs of recovery visible, the local economy—deeply intertwined with tourism—is pinning both financial and emotional hopes on a sustained revival.

"We just want people to come and see for themselves that Kashmir is safe and welcoming," said a local stakeholder. "Tourism is not just our livelihood, it is our identity. We believe better days are ahead."

As summer approaches, all eyes are on whether this gradual recovery will gather momentum, offering much-needed relief to thousands dependent on the Valley's tourism industry—(KNO)

### PM Modi Led

which can change society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke about service, sacrifice and nation building.

He highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has taken development beyond mere statistics and carried it to every doorstep.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Crores of families who once had no roof over their heads now have their own homes, and this has brought them dignity and security in society.

"In far flung regions of the country, new schools, new universities and a new education policy together have begun to build an India in which the hands of the youth hold the reins of the future. The facilities now available particularly for girls are unprecedented in our history, and the purpose of education through innovation and research is no longer merely to pass exams but to create an aware and responsible citizen," he further said.

### J&K Braces For 7 GW

already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs.

The official however had clarified that the power import includes all the sources including the power allocated from the center and other Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Earlier the news agency reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

The official documents in this regard reveal that it has considered electrical energy requirement projections as per J&K State Load Dispatch Center (SLDC).

The documents further reveal that the SLDC has projected that the annual electrical energy requirement of the UT is likely to grow at a CAGR of 4 percent while the peak electricity demand for the utility is likely to grow at a CAGR of 6 percent for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36—(KNO)

### Army Recalls Op Sindoor

Prasanta Kumar Satapathy. He passed away in the Pahalgam attack on April 22, 2025, because of the terrorists. It's been almost a year. As they say, life goes on. But, not a single day has passed that I haven't remembered him. When he was here, life was different. The temporary job I had then, now it's become a necessity for me to survive and manage the household."

She asked the government to provide the job promised to the families of the victims of the terror attack.

"With the temporary job I have, it's managing. Because at that time, the government said they would give me a government job, they would bear the expenses of my child's education, and they would provide financial assistance. We received the financial assistance, but the government job they promised hasn't been provided yet. In other states, they have provided jobs based on qualifications. I just want the government to fulfil the promises they made as soon as possible," she added.

As India mourned the loss, what followed was decisive action by the Indian armed forces in the form of Operation Sindoor. Indian armed forces struck terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

In Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, India successfully destroyed nine major terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), targeting Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen facilities. Indian armed forces killed over 100 terrorists in action.

What followed were drone attacks and shelling by Pakistan, which led to a four-day conflict between the two neighbouring countries. India showed formidable defence and conducted retaliatory strikes, destroying Radar installations in Lahore and Radar facilities near Gurdjanwala.

Inflicted by heavy damage, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO and a ceasefire was agreed on May 10.

Operation Mahadev was another big joint success of the Army and security forces last year, as they tracked down and eliminated three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Among non-military actions, India terminated the Indus Waters Treaty and all bilateral trade with Pakistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear, "if there is a terrorist attack on India, a fitting reply will be given," and India "will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism." Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has maintained that "Operation Sindoor is still going on."

Chief of Army Staff General Upen-dra Dwivedi hailed Operation Sindoor as the best example of "tri-service synergy under clear-cut political directive". In a press conference, he said, "Operation Sindoor was the best example of tri-service synergy under clear-cut political directive and full freedom to act or respond." Politics

Indian Air Force too played a decisive role in the operation and on the eve of

the 93rd Air Force Day, Chief of Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said Operation Sindoor was a defining moment that demonstrated the Indian Air Force's (IAF) precision, strength, and unity of purpose in responding to Pakistan's "Napak" (cowardly) act.

While the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, highlighted that the deployment of a carrier battle group in the northern Arabian Sea influenced Pakistan's naval movements, keeping them close to their ports.

In his address to the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on Independence Day 2025, PM Modi also announced Mission Sudarshan Chakra, aimed at neutralising enemy defence infiltrations and enhancing India's offensive capabilities. (The Daily Milap)

### Awaiting Terror-Free

stands united with the victims' families and called for stronger measures to prevent such attacks in future. "The government understood the pain of the people and responded firmly. We hope such incidents never happen again," she said.

She added that justice for the victims would be realised when the country becomes free from terrorism.

Several tourists urged the authorities to maintain a strong security grid across the Valley, especially at major tourist destinations.

"The attack last year was shocking, but the response since then has been reassuring. Security forces must remain vigilant so that such incidents are not repeated," said Amit Verma, a visitor from Haryana.

Another group of tourists said their presence in Kashmir was also a gesture of solidarity with the people of the region.

"We are here not just as tourists, but also to stand with Kashmiris and the families affected by the attack. Peace must prevail," said Neha Singh, a visitor from Uttar Pradesh.

Tourists also praised the hospitality of locals and said they felt safe while travelling across different parts of the Valley.

Officials have stepped up security across key tourist hubs ahead of the anniversary, with intensified patrols and surveillance measures in place to ensure safety of visitors—(KNO)

### Kashmir Rises Against

respected community figures. Their voices are adding weight to the campaign, helping break stigma and encouraging people to talk openly about the issue without fear or shame.

Officials say this united response is essential. Fighting drug abuse, they stress, cannot be done by the administration alone—it needs the support and participation of the entire nation.

With continued awareness drives and stronger community engagement, there is hope that this collective effort will make a lasting difference and steer Kashmir towards a drug-free future.

### Kashmir Trips Will

paradise in India," said Abisheikh. Describing the Pahalgam attack as an unfortunate incident, he said it would not deter tourist footfall in Kashmir and that visitors would continue to arrive.

Another group of tourists from Haryana said they would continue to explore the Valley, describing Kashmiris as peace-loving and asserting that Pakistan would not be able to harm the region or carry out attacks like Pahalgam.

"Kashmir is like a mini Switzerland and its beauty is unmatched anywhere else in the country," they said, urging tourists to continue visiting and exploring the Valley.

Tourists said they love Kashmir's hospitality and prayed for peace to prevail in the Valley.

Ganesh Kumar, a tourist from Chhatisgarh who recently visited Pahalgam, said he felt encouraged by the security arrangements in place. He added that visitors should make the most of their trip and explore the region, describing it as a part of India worth experiencing.

Meanwhile, authorities introduced a QR code-based identification system for all tourism service providers and intensified patrols across the valley to restore tourist confidence.

Abdul Waheed, president of the Ponywalla Association in Pahalgam, said all service providers have been verified by the police and registered with the authorities, with each issued a unique QR code carrying personal details such as Aadhaar and driving licence information.

He added that the code can be scanned on a mobile phone by tourists or security personnel to access complete identification details of the individual.

Security has been tightened across major hubs, with intensified patrols and drone surveillance marking the anniversary of the attack.

Seventeen major destinations that were closed after the attack, including parts of Betaab Valley, have been reopened to restore normalcy—(KNO)

### Farooq Abdullah On

it was passed with a majority—(KNO)

### Record 15 Lakh Birds

proposals for Hygam have already been submitted, including desiltation and water diversion plans to improve the wetland's health.

"The department is also working on a proposal to promote eco-tourism at the site. The aim is to enhance its aesthetic value and restore its past glory. Once funding is approved, the projects will be taken up," Deva said—(KNO)

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Who is LeT Terrorist Khargosh?

Fake Nikah And A Possible Pahalgam Anniversary Conspiracy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: LeT terrorist Khargosh has slipped out of India using a fake identity, exposing serious security gaps. Jammu and Kashmir Police say top Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Umar Harris, known as "Khar-gosh", travelled to Saudi Arabia on an Indian passport. Agencies link this escape to a wider LeT network active across several Indian states. Geographic Reference

Investigators find that LeT terrorist Khargosh posed as "Sajjad", claimed to be from Rajasthan, and obtained documents from the Jaipur passport office. Central agencies now suspect the module may have been planning activity around the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack on 22 April 2026, and have tightened security across Kashmir.

According to the probe, LeT terrorist Khargosh and associate Kamran stayed undercover in Jaipur between 2023 and 2024. Both allegedly used an Aadhaar card linked to Nuh-Mewat, then secured voter IDs and passports. The pair reportedly blended into the city, using local support to build convincing cover stories as residents.

Police sources state that LeT terrorist Khargosh rented a room in Jaipur's old walled city area and worked at an electronics shop in the C-Scheme locality. During this period, Khargosh visited tourist spots

and temples, and even travelled to Nepal, which investigators now see as part of a deeper concealment strategy.

Questioning in Jaipur has focused on 10 to 15 people, most originally from Nuh-Mewat, who allegedly helped LeT terrorist Khargosh settle and find work. Some are suspected of arranging accommodation and paperwork. Rajasthan ATS remains on alert, while the role of Nuh-Mewat networks in creating fake identities is under detailed review.

Another sensitive angle in the Jaipur phase involves a reported nikah between LeT terrorist Khargosh, using the name "Sajjad", and the daughter of an overground worker from Srinagar. Officials say the woman is from Srinagar, but there is no final confirmation yet about a formal nikah ceremony or cohabitation in Jaipur.

Investigators highlight how LeT terrorist Khargosh apparently exploited weaknesses in passport verification. Police checks, which should be strict, often become routine. Overground workers, forged Aadhaar and voter IDs, rental agreements and local references allegedly helped Khargosh secure documents from the Jaipur passport office without triggering suspicion.

Officials say marriage papers linked to the supposed nikah gave LeT terrorist Khargosh the appearance of a regular Indian citizen. This, combined



with the Nuh-Mewat Aadhaar and voter ID, seems to have satisfied formal verification steps. Central agencies are now reviewing passport procedures across India to identify similar vulnerabilities.

During the 2024 phase of the investigation, LeT terrorist Khargosh allegedly used the forged passport to travel abroad. Officials say Khargosh first flew to Indonesia and then went on to Saudi Arabia. Current assessments suggest Khargosh remains hidden in Saudi Arabia, though some unconfirmed reports earlier claimed an arrest.

Senior sources maintain that LeT terrorist Khargosh

has been traced but is still underground. Indian agencies are working with Interpol and Saudi authorities to locate and detain Khargosh. The escape route, officials argue, reveals a pattern: fake passports, a foreign transit country and then remote coordination of operations from abroad.

Jammu and Kashmir Police describe the network around LeT terrorist Khargosh as a deep-rooted inter-state module. Investigators have identified bases in the Valley, including areas in Bandipora and Srinagar, with support systems extending into Rajasthan, Delhi and Nuh-Mewat. This structure allegedly handled recruitment,

funding and logistics for Lashkar-e-Taiba.

During the Srinagar crackdown, police arrested five people linked to this module. Among them was Pakistani terrorist Abdullah, alias Abu Hura-ira, who had reportedly been hiding in India for 16 years. Evidence from this operation pointed directly to LeT terrorist Khargosh and confirmed long-term use of fake identities by Umar and Kamran since 2012.

Probe details show that the real home of LeT terrorist Khargosh, or Umar Harris, is Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. Earlier, some records described Umar as from Karachi. Investigators later clarified

that Karachi Police actually listed Umar as wanted in several arson cases before Umar joined Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2012.

Security forces say Umar gained the nickname "Khar-gosh" because of agility and cunning. Officials recall how LeT terrorist Khargosh could slip through security cordons quickly and disappear, like a rabbit darting into cover. In Kashmir, Khargosh remained active around Bandipora and Srinagar, managing recruitment, money flow and safe houses for Lashkar-e-Taiba.

On 22 April 2025, LeT and TRF gunmen killed 26 people at Pahalgam's Baisaran valley. The dead included 25 tourists and one local pony handler, making it Kashmir's deadliest attack on visitors in 25 years. The latest information about LeT terrorist Khargosh emerges two days before the first anniversary of that attack.

Agencies now fear that the module linked to LeT terrorist Khargosh may have been preparing activity around the Pahalgam anniversary. Possibilities include a new attack or a focused recruitment drive. Security has been tightened across Kashmir, with forces alert to the chance that support and instructions could come remotely from Saudi Arabia.

Lashkar-e-Taiba has operated in Kashmir since 1989, but the case of LeT terrorist Khargosh suggests a broader strategy. Instead of remaining

limited to the Valley, modules now appear in Rajasthan, Delhi and the Nuh-Mewat belt. Fake passports, sham marriages and overground worker networks function as important tools in this approach.

Experts warn that LeT terrorist Khargosh represents only the visible part of a much larger structure. If one Lashkar operative can exit India on forged documents, others might be hiding under similar covers. Terrorists can then live as workers in big cities, travel abroad and direct funding, recruitment and plots from foreign locations.

Security specialists see the escape of LeT terrorist Khargosh as a sharp warning for national security. The breach at the Jaipur passport office, combined with the Nuh-Mewat Aadhaar link, alleged fake nikah and Nepal trip, demonstrates how paperwork can become as dangerous as weapons when used by skilled terror operatives.

Officials say the Pahalgam anniversary threat appears contained for now, after the Srinagar module bust. Yet they stress that unless verification systems strengthen, more figures like LeT terrorist Khargosh may slip out and plan new conspiracies from abroad. Srinagar Police, NIA, Rajasthan ATS and central agencies continue to treat this case with complete seriousness. (The Daily Milap)

Pahalgam terror attack anniversary

Activist Tasleema Akhter calls tragedy an 'unhealed wound'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir marks the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, prominent Kashmiri human rights activist and Chairperson of the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir (ATVK), Tasleema Akhter, described the tragedy as not just a memory but an "unhealed wound" that continues to haunt the region.

On the first anniversary of the Pahalgam carnage, Akhter described the attack as more than an act of violence. "Bullets did not merely attack Pahalgam; it was attacked by hatred," she said, stressing that such incidents strike at the core of humanity, peace, and the future of Kashmir's younger generations.

She added that the victims were individuals with families, dreams, and identities, not just statistics. The attack on 22 April 2025 at the Baisaran Valley

in Pahalgam was carried out by armed terrorists, in which 26 civilians were killed. The attackers, armed with M4 carbines and AK-47s, targeted Hindu tourists, though a Christian tourist and a local Muslim pony ride operator were also killed. The incident is considered the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Akhter strongly condemned what she termed Pakistan-backed terrorism, stating that such attacks have damaged Kashmir's global image and caused long-term suffering to its people.

According to her, repeated attempts to destabilise the region reflect a pattern aimed at disrupting peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir. "We will not allow Kashmir to be held hostage by fear," she asserted, adding that justice for victims remains non-negotiable. Having represented victims' voices at

international platforms, including the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Akhter called for stronger global action. She urged the international community to move beyond rhetoric and hold Pakistan accountable for supporting terror networks in the region.

"The world needs to see the reality behind the propaganda," she stated. On preventing future attacks, she called for a multi-pronged strategy, including sustained diplomatic pressure, stronger international cooperation against terrorism, and continued vigilance within India. Recalling incidents such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the recent Delhi blast, she said the threat is neither new nor isolated.

Akhter concluded with a message of resilience, stating that Kashmir stands for peace but will continue to fight for justice for the Pahalgam victim families.

NIA's Pahalgam chargesheet traces pattern of proxy war

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency's chargesheet filed on December 15, 2025, in the Pahalgam terror attack case reads less like a one-off case file and more like a chapter in a decades-long dossier. Seven accused, including Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba/The Resistance Front operatives, stand charged with religion-based targeted killings that left 25 tourists and one local dead.

The 1,597-page document names Pakistani handler Sajid Jatt and three terrorists — Faisal Jatt alias Suleman Shah, Habeeb Tahir alias Jibrin, and Hamza Afghani — who were killed in Operation Mahadev in Dachigam in July 2025. Two locals, Parvaiz Ahmad and Bashir Ahmad Jothad, were arrested for harbouring them.

The NIA's probe under RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU traces the conspiracy directly to Pakistan, invoking charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita, 2023, the Arms Act, and the UAPA, including "waging war against India." The agency states that Pakistan "has been unabatedly sponsoring terrorism against India."

The Pahalgam chargesheet highlights an evolution. The attack relied on local harbourers and targeted killings based on religious identity, aiming to create communal fissures and damage Kashmir's tourism revival.

TRF, widely seen as an LeT front, has increasingly adopted this 'hybrid' model: Pakistani handlers, foreign terrorists, and local logistical support.

Operation Mahadev, which neutralised three Pakistani terrorists in Dachigam in July 2025, underscores that the kinetic track remains active. Yet the NIA's emphasis on "waging war" signals New Delhi's view: this is not merely terrorism, but state-entailed proxy warfare.

The cumulative effect extends beyond casualties.

As CDS General Anil Chauhan noted at 'Ran Samwad', the objective of modern conflict is "paralysis" — deception, confusion, and systemic disruption.

Attacks on institutions such as Parliament, financial hubs like Mumbai, military installations like Pathankot, and tourist centres like Pahalgam are designed to freeze decision-making, deter investment, and push India into a reactive posture.

With the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor approaching on May 7, 2026, and the Joint Commanders' Conference in Jaipur scheduled for May 6-8, India's military is formalising multidomain responses that integrate kinetic and non-kinetic tools.

The Pahalgam chargesheet provides the evidentiary backbone for India's diplomatic and legal push — from FATF mechanisms to UN forums — aimed at sustaining pressure on Pakistan and constraining terror financing.

A year after Pahalgam, Lt Narwal's family battles loss, vows social initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: A year after the terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, including that of Lt Vinay Narwal, his family in Karnal continues to grapple with an irreparable loss, drawing strength from each other while resolving to carry forward his legacy.

For the Narwal family, every day since April 22, 2025, has been a struggle to cope.

Vinay's father, Rajesh Narwal, a superintendent in the GST Department in Panipat, has emerged as the pillar of support for the family. Holding back his emotions, he continues to stand strong for his wife, children and aged parents. "Neither time can heal it nor can anybody forget it forever," he says in a heavy voice.

His mother Asha Narwal has faced declining health since her son's death. The family believes Vinay's martyrdom is not just a personal loss but a tragedy for the nation.

Rajesh Narwal acknowledges the government's response, including Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, but maintains that real justice lies in eliminating terrorism altogether. "A tribute and justice to us and humanity will only

be after terrorism is finished from the world," he says.

Recalling Vinay's birth on May 1, 1998, when he was posted in Diu, Rajesh adds, "We cannot forget him. He is in our breath. He started walking while holding my finger. It is painful for a father that his son died before him. His death is not only painful for us but also a loss to the nation. This pain will remain with us till our lives."

The tragedy has deeply altered the family's life. Rajesh admits he lost confidence after losing his son. "I had made a list of over 30 works before Vinay's marriage, but after his death I am yet to do them. I cannot cope with the incident. We try to keep ourselves busy. His daughter Shrishti has begun preparing for the UPSC and pursuing a PhD," he says.

Vinay's wife Himanshi now lives with her parents in Gurugram and has resumed work.

Even amid grief, the family is determined to honour Vinay's memory in meaningful ways. Rajesh reiterates his commitment to donate the government compensation and Vinay's share in family property if used for public welfare projects in his name. "I promised it earlier and I stand by my words."

Pakistan's Support for Terrorism Ensues: One Year After Pahalgam Attack

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: One year ago, on 22 April, four armed men emerged from the pine forests flanking the Baisaran meadow near Pahalgam and, after instructing the tourists before them to recite the kalma, proceeded to execute 26 tourists. The choreography of the killings, the equipment recovered from the scene, the identity of the handlers traced to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and the claim of responsibility twice issued on Telegram by The Resistance Front (TRF), together formed a familiar signature. What Pahalgam revealed was not a lapse in some moribund terror ecosystem but the continued industrial capacity of a state-sponsored franchise operating from Pakistani soil.

Twelve months on, the question is no longer whether Pakistan hosts the machinery of transnational terrorism. The documentary record, the indictments in US courts, the arrests of Pakistanis on Korean soil, and the formal designations issued by Washington itself settle that argument. The real question is why the terror infrastructure continues to expand

despite operational setbacks, diplomatic exposure, and the kinetic response delivered by India through Operation Sindoor in early May 2025.

TRF was established in 2019 as a proxy of Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to conduct attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. On 17 July 2025, the US Department of State formally listed TRF as a 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation' and Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity, describing it explicitly as an LeT "front and proxy" responsible for the deadliest civilian attack on Indian soil since 26/11. The designation was not a diplomatic courtesy. It aligned US sanctions instruments with the operational reality that Indian intelligence had documented for more than half a decade. Geographic Reference

Rather than forcing a retreat, the designation has coincided with a more assertive mainstreaming of Pakistan's jihadist network. On 8 October 2025, at the Markaz Usman-o-Ali compound in Bahawalpur, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) announced the formation of its first women's wing, "Jamaat-ul-Mominat", under Sadia Azhar, sister of

Masood Azhar and widow of Yusuf Azhar (killed at Markaz Subhanallah during Operation Sindoor). Within weeks, over 5,000 women had reportedly been enrolled through a 40-minute online curriculum titled Daura-e-Taskiya, with plans for district-level units across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

LeT has moved in parallel. A 135-member maritime unit, styled the "Water Force", now trains at dispersed sites across Islamabad, Muridke, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Karachi, Kasur, Alipur, the Suran River in Poonch, Mangla Dam and Muzaffarabad. Senior commanders have been filmed personally supervising scuba, underwater manoeuvre and high-speed boat drills modelled on the 26/11 Mumbai attacks template. The political front of LeT, the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), held its Takbeer Conference in Lahore on 28 May 2025 under hoardings alongside Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir with designated terrorist Saifullah Kasuri. Rallies through 2025 and into 2026, including those led by Hafiz Talha Saeed, have proceeded under visible police protec-

tion. Politics

Following Operation Sindoor, JeM launched an online campaign to raise roughly PKR 3.91 billion to build 313 mosques, copying LeT's dispersed markaz model. The collection routes through Easypaisa, Sadapay and JazzCash accounts held by members of Masood Azhar's family, including his brother Talha al-Saif. Beneath this operational shift lies a structural one. Investigators tracking LeT and JeM flows during the 2025 crisis observed a shift from bank accounts and bulk cash to fragmented micro-donations via digital wallets and, increasingly, to Tether (USDT) and Bitcoin transfers executed on peer-to-peer exchanges. Pakistan's creation of the Pakistan Crypto Council in March 2025, followed by an agreement with World Liberty Financial, has added a further layer of deniability.

The consequences are now documented well beyond South Asia. The Global Terrorism Index 2026 ranks Pakistan as the world's most terrorism-affected country for the first time, with a score of 8.574 and 1,139 terrorism-

related fatalities recorded in 2025. The Congressional Research Service brief updated on 25 March by K. Alan Kronstadt identifies Pakistan as both a base and a target for at least fifteen active terrorist outfits, twelve of them US-designated FTOs, almost all of which have survived every cycle of Pakistani counter-terrorism policy since the 2014 National Action Plan. Their transnational reach is a reality now and can have serious consequences for world peace.

On 6 March, a federal jury in Brooklyn convicted forty-seven-year-old Asif Merchant, a Pakistani national, of terrorism and murder-for-hire charges linked to an IIRC-directed plot to assassinate senior US political figures during the 2024 campaign. The Iranian direction does not cover the Pakistani terror connection that recruited and prepared him. It underscores connections of that infrastructure across clients. On 8 April, Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, a twenty-one-year-old Pakistani citizen, pleaded guilty before a federal court in Manhattan to conduct a mass shooting at a prominent Jewish centre in

Brooklyn, timed to the first anniversary of the 7 October 2023 Hamas terror attack. Eight months earlier, on 2 August 2025, South Korean police arrested a Pakistani national working as a market clerk in Seoul's Itaewon district. He had been formally inducted into LeT in 2020 following weapons and infiltration training, marking the first detention of a UN-designated terrorist organisation member on Korean soil.

Taken together, these data points expose the Pakistani state's fake narrative that it is a victim of terrorism rather than its incubator. Pakistan is simultaneously both, and the two conditions sustain one another. The terror proxies cultivated for strategic depth against India do not remain confined to just one territory. They recruit women in Bahawalpur, train divers at Mangla Dam, route funds through mobile wallets in Karachi, surface as shopkeepers in Itaewon, and emerge as defendants in Brooklyn. One year after Pahalgam, the policy question for Western capitals is not whether Pakistan can be pressured to dismantle the terror networks it has built.

Terrorism remains Pakistani establishment's "bread and butter", says Senge Sering

GMK NEWS NETWORK

WASHINGTON: Ahead of the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, a sharp critique of Pakistan's military and foreign policy has been voiced by Senge Sering, President of the Institute for Gilgit-Baltistan Studies, who argued that terrorism remains deeply embedded in Pakistan's state functioning.

Referring to lessons from the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, Sering claimed that terrorism serves as a sustaining force for Pakistan's military establishment. According to him, the use of religion is leveraged as a unifying and recruitment tool by Pakistan, keeping the military cohesive. He described terrorism as the "bread and butter" of the Pakistani establishment, asserting that it helps them to disrupt peace and maintain strategic dominance over neighbouring countries, including India and Afghanistan.

The terror attack on April 22 in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam targeted tourists, killing 26 people, including one Nepalese national.

The victims were gunned down near Baisaran Meadow, a popular tourist destination in the region. This attack marks one of the deadliest in the region since the 2019 Pulwama attack, which resulted in the killing of 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans.

The international community condemned the terrorist attack, and the United Nations highlighted "the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice".

India struck terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir under Operation Sindoor on May 7 and effectively repelled Islamabad's subsequent escalation, pounding Pakistan airbases.

Experts said Operation Sindoor showed the world that India will take terror head-on, as also countries that are known for being fountainheads of terrorism and that India has now graduated from a posture of surgical retaliation to one of doctrinal deterrence, assuring retaliation to every proven act of cross-border terror.

CONNECT WITH NATURE

# DYSS Revives Traditional Art Forms, Sports at Maiden Spring Festival

GMK SPORTS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In a vibrant effort to reconnect young minds with nature while reviving fading art forms and lost traditional sports, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K organised a colourful Spring Art Festival titled Connect with Nature at the Botanical Garden here.

The maiden spring festival of the DYSS turned into a joyful playground where traditional sports and fun games were not just played but revived, bringing back community spirit, physical energy and cultural pride among school children from multiple districts of the Kashmir division.

The festival was organised under the supervision of the Director General of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta. She believes that while considering

the word services in the name of the organisation, the Department is indeed supposed to promote sports, but youth related services cannot be ignored, as is clearly evident from the name of the department.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Director Floriculture Matahura Masooma as the Chief Guest, with Senior Floriculture Officer Javid Ahmed attending as the Guest of Honour. The closing ceremony was presided over by Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani as the Chief Guest. Both dignitaries unanimously praised the DYSS for creating an effective platform where young talent could showcase both artistic and sports abilities in a natural eco-friendly setting.

The glittering festival also witnessed the gracious presence of several key officers from the Youth Services and



Sports department including Assistant Director DYSS Kashmir Balbir Singh, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Srinagar Ghulam Hassan Lone, DYSSO Ganderbal Shafkat Iqbal, and DYSSO Bandipora Nazir Ahmad. The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation in Sack Race, Matka Race, Spoon with Lemon Race, Three Leg Race, Tug of War, Yoga and Martial Arts.

These traditional games, once a staple of village fairs and school playgrounds, were revived with a modern touch, drawing cheers, laughter and competitive spirit from children and onlookers alike. The art segment was equally rich, featuring Dambali, Kashmiri Rouf, the fading art forms of Kashmir's rich culture, Punjabi Dance, Painting Competition, Band Pather which is the Traditional Folk Theatre of Kashmir, Chakri, Gojri Dance and Dogri Dance. Mohammad Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Kashmir of the DYSS, presented a thoughtful welcome address.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, it is heartening to see our young generation embrace traditional sports with such enthusiasm. These activities

not only build physical fitness but also reconnect our children with their cultural roots. The proceedings were professionally conducted by Azhar Hajini, who in his concluding remarks shared that another such type of event is being organised by the Directorate of YSS at Jammu namely Back to Bachpan in the coming days. He thanked all stakeholders including the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens for making the maiden spring festival a grand success.

Meanwhile, as the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan is ongoing, a pledge was administered upon all the participants regarding the ill effects of drug abuse, and a promise was made to remain away from drug abuse. The festival was designed not only to celebrate the arrival of spring but also to promote awareness towards a sustainable ecosystem in the valley.

## IPL 2026: Abhishek's century powers SRH to third spot with 47-run win over DC

SIANS

**HYDERABAD:** Opener Abhishek Sharma scored an impressive unbeaten 135 from 68 balls as Sunrisers Hyderabad reached 242 for 2 and secured a 47-run victory over Delhi Capitals in Match 31 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Monday.

The left-hander's innings was a lesson in controlled aggression. He reached his fifty in just 25 balls and got his ninth T20 hundred in 47 balls, pacing the innings well before launching a fierce attack. By the 15-over mark, he moved ahead of Heinrich Klaasen in the Orange Cap race, highlighting his dominance this season.

SRH started their innings steadily but quickly gained momentum. Delhi briefly regained some control with Nitish Rana's offspin during the Power-play, allowing just



six runs while SRH scored 15 for no loss after two overs. However, the strategy backfired once the batters found their rhythm. When Rana returned after SRH reached 36 for no loss in four overs, he was taken apart in a 20-run over with three sixes, pushing the score to 56 without loss.

Abhishek led the way, scoring 21 off 12 and dominating the attack along

with Travis Head. The two put together another smooth partnership in the Power-play, taking SRH to 67 for no loss. The final ball of this phase marked the team's 70th six of the season, surpassing Royal Challengers Bengaluru's total of 69.

Head, who began cautiously, accelerated to 37 off 26 before getting out at 97 for 1 in 8.5 overs. He

missed a long hop from Axar Patel to deep mid-wicket after hitting two sixes in the over. However, this breakthrough did not slow SRH.

Ishan Kishan added a quick 25 off 13 before being run out at the non-striker's end, bringing SRH to the crease at a key moment. The South African finished the innings with a powerful 37 off just 13 balls, helping SRH easily exceed the 240-mark.

In the middle overs, Kuldeep Yadav struggled as SRH raced to 126 for 1 in 11 overs, with Abhishek and Kishan attacking aggressively. Even though conditions looked perfect for reverse swing on a dry pitch, Delhi's seamers, including Mukesh Kumar, could not find any movement, allowing SRH to take control.

Delhi's chase, though spirited, faced the challenge of a huge target. They fought hard and had moments of resistance, but early mis-

takes in the field—dropped catches, a missed run-out, and poor bowling changes—proved costly. With spinners Axar and Kuldeep bowling only two overs each and Rana conceding 55 runs in his four overs, DC struggled to take control. Nitish Rana, brought into the playing XI for this match, top-scored with 57 while Sameer Rizvi contributed 41 runs but in the end that proved insufficient.

The defeat leaves Delhi regretting missed chances, while SRH, fueled by Abhishek's outstanding century, celebrated their third straight win and climbed to third on the points table, overtaking the Rajasthan Royals.

**Brief scores:**  
Sunrisers Hyderabad 242/2 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 135, Travis Head 37; Axar Patel 1-23) beat Delhi Capitals 195/9 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 57, Sameer Rizvi 41; Eshan Malinga 4-32, Harsh Dube 3-12) by 47 runs

## ISL 2026: Chennaiyin FC held to a draw by Mohammedan SC at home

SIANS

**CHENNAI:** Chennaiyin FC were forced to settle for a goalless draw against Mohammedan SC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Tuesday, despite controlling large spells of the contest and creating the better chances. The Marina Machans showed attacking intent throughout but were unable to find the decisive breakthrough in front of home support.

Head coach Clifford Rayes Miranda handed Klusner Pereira his first start of the Indian Super League (ISL). Further ahead, Maheson Singh and Imran Khan returned to the starting eleven, while Irfan Yadwad joined Daniel Chima Chukwu in attack.

Chennaiyin began on the front foot, looking to build on their previous victory with early attacking intent. Klusner delivered a dangerous cross in the opening minutes, forcing a corner, while Eduardo Kau came close midway through the half, his header from a set-piece

drifting narrowly wide.

At the other end, Mohammad Nawaz was called into action and produced a moment of brilliance in the 29th minute, tipping Hira Mondal's effort away with an instinctive fingertip save to keep the scores level. The goalkeeper followed it up with assured handling and sharp anticipation, dealing comfortably with a series of crosses as Chennaiyin looked to transition quickly, with Chima going close to meeting an inviting delivery from Imran Khan.

Chennaiyin were forced into a change late in the half as Klusner departed through injury, with Mandar Rao Dessai coming on. PC Laldinpuia failed to convert from a corner, while moments later, a clever backheel from Imran released Laldinliana Renthlei, whose dangerous cross was just taken away from Irfan as he prepared to shoot, rounding off an engaging first half.

The Marina Machans carried their attacking intent into the second half,

continuing to probe down the flanks with purpose. Laldinliana was lively early on, breaking forward and delivering a dangerous cross, while a well-worked move soon after saw Imran pick out Chima, whose acrobatic effort drifted off target. Substitute SPrakadeswaran showed confidence upon his introduction, the 19-year-old cutting inside and attempting to curl one into the far corner.

At the other end, Laldinliana Hnamte produced a crucial intervention to snuff out a promising Mohammedan attack, before Chennaiyin surged forward again, with Irfan at the heart of the action. The forward was brought down inside the box after beating his marker, but appeals for a penalty were waved away. Irfan continued to create, delivering a superb outside-of-the-foot cross that found Chima in space, only for the striker to fire over, while Mohammed Ali Bemammer and Prakadeswaran both went close as the pressure mounted late on.

## Football: Home comfort for Barcelona and big changes for Atletico in La Liga

SIANS

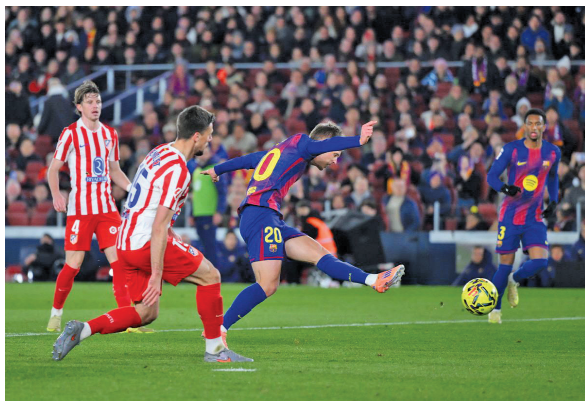
**MADRID:** League leaders Barcelona return to Camp Nou on Wednesday night, aiming to take another step toward this season's La Liga title against a Celta Vigo side seeking to halt a recent slide in form.

This will be Barcelona's first game since their Champions League quarterfinal defeat to Atletico Madrid, and their nine-point lead at the top of the table could be cut to six before kickoff if Real Madrid beat Alaves at home on Tuesday night.

Barcelona have been flawless in La Liga since returning to Camp Nou at the end of 2025, winning all 11 of their league games at the stadium and scoring 35 goals. But they face one of the league's strongest away sides, with Celta having suffered only two defeats on the road.

However, Claudio Giraldez's side has endured a recent dip in form, with a painful Europa League exit to Freiburg and only one win from its last five league matches.

Raphinha remains sidelined with a hamstring injury, while Marc Bernal's twisted ankle appears to be taking longer to heal than expected. Players such as Pedri and Lamine Yamal, however, will have benefited from not having a



weekend game.

Fermin Lopez will play wearing a face mask to protect the broken nose he suffered last week against Atletico Madrid at the Metropolitan Stadium.

While Barcelona were able to enjoy a weekend off, Atletico Madrid lost the Copa del Rey final to Real Sociedad on Saturday night after 120 minutes of intense football and a penalty shootout, reports Xinhua.

Both sides return to action on Wednesday, with Atletico travelling to third-from-bottom Elche, which would almost certainly move out of the relegation zone with a third successive home win.

Atletico have to rest Ademola Lookman and Alexander Sorloth, who both picked up muscle problems at the weekend, and they are not the only players likely to miss the

trip to Elche.

Saturday's effort and next week's Champions League semifinal against Arsenal mean Atletico coach Diego Simeone is very likely to make sweeping changes to his starting lineup, knowing his side has a nine-point cushion over Betis in the table.

Real Sociedad's Copa del Rey win means the club from San Sebastian has already secured a place in next season's Europa League, and the players celebrated with an open-top parade through the city on Monday.

The extent of those celebrations, along with the desire to finish fifth, which could bring a Champions League place at the end of the season, could influence how Real Sociedad performs at Anoeta against a combative Getafe side that would leapfrog it in the table with an away win.

**INOX SRINAGAR MOVIES SCHEDULE TUESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

LEE (RONIN'S) **THE MUMMY (A)**  
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
11:30 AM, 07:00 PM

**BIGOTHI BANGLA (U/A16+)**

**DHURANDHAR: THE REVENGE (A)**

HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:30 PM  
HINDI - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM

HINDI - 02:30 PM, 05:00 PM