

‘Not A Single Drop To Pakistan’

Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil Says Strategy On Anvil To Stop Indus Flow Into Pakistan



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India on Friday formally informed Islamabad of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) suspension, with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil declaring that “not a single drop of water” will be allowed to flow into Pakistan. The statement followed a high-level strategy meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the Centre’s next steps after the April 22 Pahalgam carnage which left 26 innocent people dead. The attack, which the government has linked to Pakistan-backed groups, has triggered one of the strongest Indian responses yet, targeting a key bilateral agreement that has endured through wars and decades of tension. Paatil said the meeting was convened to implement directives issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the aftermath

of the attack. “We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India,” he stated firmly after the meeting, which was attended by senior officials from multiple ministries. He later reiterated the government’s stance on X (formerly Twitter), calling the move “historic, lawful, and in the national interest.” Sources told PTI that a long-term strategy is being developed to effectively implement the suspension of the treaty, which governs the sharing of six rivers between the two countries. Meanwhile chief minister Omar Abdullah weighed in on the development, describing the IWT as “the most unfair document” ever imposed on the people of the region. “As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let’s be honest — we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters | [More on P6](#)

Indus Water Treaty ‘Most Unfair Document’ To People Of J&K: Omar

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday said the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan that has been put in abeyance by the Centre in the wake of the Pahalgam attack was the “most unfair document” to the people of the Union territory and they have | [More on P6](#)

AS FAR AS JAMMU AND KASHMIR is concerned, let’s be honest — we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters Treaty.”

‘Constitutionally Valid’: Centre on Waqf Act In SC

Says Misleading Narrative Built On ‘Waqf By User’

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, respects the essential religious practices of the Muslims by leaving matters of faith and worship “untouched”, the Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court. In a preliminary affidavit filed in the apex court, the government said the reforms introduced serve compelling objectives of transparency, accountability, social welfare and inclusive governance, which

are in harmony with the values of the Constitution and public interest. Seeking dismissal of pleas challenging the validity of the Act, the Centre called the amended law a “constitutionally valid” enactment that “formalised, harmonised and modernised” the pre-existing waqf regime with the fundamental rights to freedom of religion under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution. The 2025 Act, it said, was passed with the objective of modernising the management of waqf properties in India through transparent, efficient and inclusive measures. “Act respects the essential religious practices of the Muslim | [More on P6](#)

Ensure Exit Of Pak Nationals From J&K: LG To Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed officials to take appropriate action and ensure the exit of Pakistani nationals from Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police and passed strict directions in this regard. “Chaired a meeting of DCs and SSPs. Directed them to



take appropriate and necessary action to ensure exit of Pakistani nationals from J&K UT as per the deadline notified by Ministry of Home

Affairs,” Office of LG J&K wrote on X. Pertinently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier directed the states to identify Pakistani nationals and take steps to ensure their prompt return after cancelling their visas. According to the MHA order, all existing valid visas, except medical visas, long-term visas, and diplomatic and official visas, issued by the government of India to Pakistani nationals stand revoked with | [More on P6](#)

LG Summons Special Assembly Session On Apr 28

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has summoned a one-day special session of the assembly on April 28 to discuss the Pahalgam attack, officials said on Friday.

“I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

Chairs Security Review Meeting

Every perpetrator of the Pahalgam terror attack must be hunted and made to pay a heavy price for the dastardly act, Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha said on Friday at a security review meeting with top army officials, including Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi. The meeting chaired by Sinha lasted for nearly an hour. The Lieutenant Governor asked the Army Chief to take effective steps not only to bring those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack to justice but also to intensify efforts to crush infrastructure | [More on P6](#)

PAHALGAM CARNAGE

NIA Speaks To Survivors

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Special teams of the NIA have started reaching out to eyewitnesses including tourists who survived the deadly attack by terrorists of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in south Kashmir’s Pahalgam, officials said on Friday. Armed with the latest gadgets like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and drones, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and paramilitary forces continued their massive operations to hunt down the terrorists in the dense jungles of the Pir Panjal range, overlooking Pahalgam and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. Initial investigations into the audacious terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people on April 22, indicate that the number of terrorists involved could range from five to seven. They were aided by at least two local militants | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Mosques Observe Silence For Pahalgam Victims

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Muslims across Kashmir on Friday observed a minute’s silence in mosques, where they gathered to offer prayers, as a mark of respect to the 26 people killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. During the Friday sermons, Imams and scholars in major mosques of the Valley condemned the April 22 attack and prayed for the injured. Muslims who gathered in the mosques observed a minute’s silence to pay respects to the victims and express solidarity with them. The Imams termed the attack unacceptable and said the people of Kashmir share



the grief of the affected families and stand with them. Such acts are against humanity and Islamic teachings, they said. At many places, people also held protests after the prayers, raised slogans against the attack and

demanding that the perpetrators be punished. Meanwhile, traders in the Lal Chowk city centre here hoisted black flags in front of their establishments as a mark of protest against the attack. In Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta here, | [More on P6](#)

‘No Work No Pay’ Doesn’t Apply To Employer’s Fault: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: An employee cannot be denied salary on the principle of “no work no pay” for any act or omission on the part of the employer, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said. Dismissing an appeal filed by J&K Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, a division bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice M o h a m m a d Yousuf Wani underlined that the principle of “no work no pay” can be put in to operation when the employee remains out of service because of his own act, omission or fault but not when an employee is kept away from the work by any act or omission on the part of the employer. The Corporation had

challenged court’s single bench verdict on the sole ground that as the employees in question have not worked for the period for which they have claimed salary, therefore, the corporation cannot be directed to pay the same to them, contending that it was settled law that no one can claim wages for the period, for which he remained absent without leave or justification. The case pertained to employees who had initially opted for voluntary retirement but resumed service after they were “not paid benefits” under the VRS scheme. On the other hand, counsel representing the employees argued that the Corporation was under an obligation to pay voluntary retirement benefits to | [More on P6](#)



Houses Of 2 LeT Terrorists Destroyed In Blast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The house of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including the prime suspect of the Pahalgam terror attack,

were destroyed when explosives believed to be stored there went off, officials said on Friday. The incidents took place during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, when

the residences of Aadil Hussain Thokar and Asif Sheikh were being searched by security forces at Guree village in Bijbehara and Tral respectively in south Kashmir, | [More on P6](#)

‘Angels Sent By God’: Tourists Saved By Ponywallah, Locals During J&K Terror Attack

Agences

New Delhi: A ponywallah who laid down his life trying to save visitors to his homeland, a guide who rescued a family of 11 and countless locals are among those who added another dimension to Kashmir’s hospitality when terror struck Pahalgam on a calm Tuesday afternoon. In what is the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019, terrorists opened fire in Baisaran, a popular tourist spot in the upper reaches of Pahalgam in Kashmir, killing 26 people, mostly holidaymakers from other states. As tourists and families of victims from across the country reached home from Kashmir



and outrage spread, stories of locals helping those who were stuck in the terrifying ordeal flooded in. When the initial list of victims was made public, Syed Adil Hussain Shah’s was the

only name of a local. The story of his bravery made thousands, including Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, attend his funeral on Wednesday in Pahalgam’s Hapatnard village.

As the families of Kaustubh Ganbote and Santosh Jagdale, two of the victims, stood face to face with the armed terrorists, the 30-year-old ponywallah confronted them asking why they were killing innocent people. In a courageous attempt to protect the tourist, the young man tried to snatch away the weapon. Shah died from three bullets to his chest. Asavari Jagdale, who lost her father Santosh Jagdale and uncle Kaustubh Ganbote, recalled being helped by another pony rider as they escaped the mayhem. “I gathered courage and managed to escape with my mother and aunt. While coming down, my mother suffered leg injuries. A pony rider

offered us support and hope. He gave us a pony ride to our driver,” Asavari, who had travelled from Pune, recounted. She added that her cab driver and pony ride operator were “like angels sent from God who stood by her at the time of the attack”. “The pony ride operator did not leave us behind, he was with us. He rescued my aunt, mother and me from the spot,” she told PTI. The cab driver remained in touch even after she left Srinagar and “offered to help in every possible way”. “He asked us to tell him any help we need, whether it was money. He is a driver who still wants to help us. He was crying on the call, and | [More on P6](#)

JEE Mains 2025 Aspirants To File Petition In Delhi HC Over ‘Score Errors’

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Following widespread allegations of discrepancies in the results of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main 2025 Session 2, a group of affected aspirants and their parents are preparing to file a petition in the Delhi High Court. The petition will highlight inconsistencies found in the final marks list. Concerns arose after the release of response sheets and the provisional answer key on April 12. Candidates claimed inaccuracies in their recorded responses and factual errors in the answer key. While the National Testing Agency (NTA) stated the key was provisional, issues with

the response sheets were reportedly not addressed. Tensions escalated after the April 19 results declaration. Many candidates reported that their Session 1 scores from January appeared to be incorrectly entered in the Session 2 results, showing lower marks and raising suspicions of data alteration or miscalculation. A source connected to the petitioners, speaking anonymously, suggested potential “technical glitches during correction, data entry, and score calculation,” possibly due to the NTA outsourcing these functions. The petition aims to bring these issues to the NTA’s attention, as emails and | [More on P6](#)



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Blood Pressure Treatment Could Lower Risk Of Dementia, Clinical Trial Data Suggests

Press Trust Of India

Addressing high blood pressure could lower one's risk of developing cognitive impairment by 16 per cent and dementia by 15 per cent over the following four years, according to clinical trial results published in the journal Nature Medicine.

All you need to know about: Blood pressure
Cognitive decline usually precedes dementia, an ageing-related condition that steadily impairs one's speech, memory and language.

The phase 3 clinical trial involved nearly 34,000 patients aged over 40 in rural China. People in 163 villages were provided hypertension treatment through medicines and lifestyle changes, while people in other 163 villages continued their usual care.

Researchers, including those at The University of Texas, U.S., found that over a follow-up period of four years, systolic blood pressure fell by 22 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure by 9.3 mm Hg, among the people treated for hypertension.



Further, at the end of the four-year follow-up, "anti-hypertensive treatment was associated with a 15 per cent reduction in dementia events," the authors wrote.

Addressing risk factors could reduce dementia cases by 40%: report
Dementia: prevention and management

Dementia cases around the world are expected to triple over the coming decades, with low- and middle-income countries projected to bear a disproportionate burden.

Blood pressure is known to be a risk factor for developing dementia. A study, published in the journal Neurology in January, showed that an aggressive control of blood pressure for over three years can provide sustained benefits in preventing cognitive decline.

Hypertension a silent killer, majority are still unaware: doctors
Future directions for health research

However, the research team said that few trials have looked at

whether treating blood pressure through medicines could impact one's risk of dementia.

Reacting to the study, Julia Dudley, head of research at Alzheimer's Research U.K., said, "This large trial of over 33,000 people in rural China provides further evidence that addressing high blood pressure could be one way to reduce dementia risk." The study is consistent with a Lancet Commission report, released in August 2024, that newly added 'high cholesterol' to a list of risk factors for dementia, added Ms. Dudley, not involved with the study.

The list now consists of 14 risk factors, all of which together account for nearly half of the world's dementia cases. However, "while the results from this trial are reassuring, further studies are needed to understand how other risk factors like genetics interact with factors like high blood pressure to influence dementia risk," Ms. Dudley said.

The researcher added, "It will also be interesting to see whether interventions trialled in this study can work in other populations across the world."

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Lubna Jan D/o Lateef Ahmad Dar R/o Sheer-pora bangil with verified date of birth 04/09/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth .

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Salih Javid D/o Javi Ahmad Bhat R/o Gund Ibrahim with verified date of birth 29/04/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 3943 48571044 from Benish Shahid (old name) to Bineesh Shahid (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard they may file in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Bineesh Shahid
R/O :- Bagh Mehtab
Srinagar

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 6764 9333 0536 from Farhad Majeed war (old name) to Farhad Majeed (New name).
If anybody has any objection in this regard they may file in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Farhad Majeed
R/O :- Trehgam kupwara

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name Ghulam Mohammad Ganai to new name Ghulam Mohammad Ganie in future I will be known as Ghulam Mohammad Ganie. If anybody has any objection in this regard they may file in the office of the passport officer Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

bmj

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate with the following particulars..

1. Roll No:- 315206
2. Class:- 10th
3. Year & Session :- ANNUAL 2006
4. Registration No:- 05NKF309721
5. Name : TAHIRA FATIMA
6. Fathers Name: BASHIR AHMAD YATOO
7. Mothers Name: ZAMROODA BEGUM
8. Date of Birth: 03-03-1991.
9. Residence:- NOORIPORA SINGHPORA BARAMULLA 193401

Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE, before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

Besides, the above losted QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE be traeted as CANCELLED.

Sd/= info
mcb Assitant Secretary
Certificates - KD

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (old name) Zamir Ahmad to (new name) Zameer Ahmad Alaqband. In future, I will be known as (Zameer Ahmad Alaqband). If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objections will be accepted.

Zamir Ahmad, info
S/O Ghulam Rasool,
R/O Shaheen Mohalla, Bagwanpora, Noor Bagh,
Srinagar – 190002
Contact: 7780829196.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no JK04 20090001584 as Mushtaq Ah Khan While my correct name is Mushtaq Ahmad Khan S/o Late Ab Gani Khan which needs to be rectified. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained
Mushtaq Ahmad Khan
S/o Late Ab Gani Khan
R/o Kandhama Beerwah Budgam

bmj

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides Licence . If any body has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat ahmad mir
S/O. Mohammad yousuf mir. fko
R/o. Ussan khoie
Tehsil. Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mushtaq Ahmad Daikoo want to change my Daughter's name in her aadhar card bearing no 8577 8754 1321 from Ayeda Mushtaq Daikoo (old name) to Ida Mushtaq (new name) .
If anybody has any objection in this regard they may file in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mushtaq Ahmad Daikoo
F/o :- Ida Mushtaq
R/O :- Jogi Lanker Rainawari ,Srinagar

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Seed & Fertilizer Licence . If any body has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat ahmad mir
S/O. Mohammad yousuf mir. fko
R/o. Ussan khoie
Tehsil. Pattan

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System

ENIT NO. 03 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 289-98 of 2025-26 DATED: 25/04/2025

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Repairs/ Renovation of Tourism Hostels at TRC Nowgam Railway Station for Sanly-2025	64.97	1600/-	129940/-	30	5452-Capex Budget	AAY

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/04/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25/04/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	25/04/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	02/05/2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	03/05/2025 at 10.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).
Reference:- Minutes of Meeting with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/63/2025-4184-204 dated 18/04/2025
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

- 2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debaring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities

4. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. The bidders are advised to use legal registration card for e-tendering. If any bidder was found to have fake registration card for his bid, penalty under rules shall be imposed on the bidder for hurdling the tendering process and the fake registration card will be forwarded to concerned authorities for strict action.

7. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

- b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 289-98
DIPK-797/25 Dated: 25/04/2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION GANDERBAL

Email: exengineer12@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC, Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Single Cover System) are hereby invited from Register suppliers/Owners of Pickup vehicles enlisted with Transport Department of UT of J&K, for "Stage contract for Loading, Unloading and Transportation of Power Transformers and other allied material in respect of STD Ganderbal for the Financial Year 2025-26, or till finalization of Next Stage Contract.

Important Dates and Events

e-NIT STD/GBL/04 of 2025-26, Dated: 24-04-2025

No
The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule given below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	24-04-2025: 17:30 Hours
B	Clarifications start date	25/04/2025: 10:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date	30/04/2025: 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	25/04/2025: 10:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	07/05/2025: 14:00 Hours
F	Online Technical/ financial e-Bid opening date & time	08/05/2025: 14:00 Hours
G	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
H	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Challan in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
I	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 10000/-
J	Estimated amount in lacs	Rs 5.0 lacs
K	Status of Funds	Demanded

The tender document can be downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the www.jktenders.gov.in website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

Sd/-
No: STD/GBL/Ts/114-19
DIPK-NB-300/25 Date:- 25-04-2025
Executive Engineer,
STD Ganderbal

Students Body Meets Rahul Gandhi

Agencies

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

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

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

students in distress.

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

He added, "It is deeply unfortunate that some people are attacking my brothers and sisters from Kashmir in different parts of the country. These are fringe elements with no place in our society. Kashmiris are an integral part of India — their rights, dignity, and safety are non-negotiable. This climate of fear must end."

Assuring prompt intervention, Gandhi said he would personally raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "Those who harass or intimidate Kashmiri students without any cause, must face the full force of the law. FIRs must be filed, and the culprits detained. We must set a precedent that this kind of hate will not be tolerated," he emphasized.

Workshop On 'Media & Information Literacy' Held

Observer News Service

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

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

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

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

mation and manipulation."

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

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

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



With tourists leaving at an unprecedented pace, Nishat Garden witnessed a remarkably low footfall on Friday. KO Photo Syed Mohammad Burhan

Tulip Garden Wraps Up Record-Breaking Season With 8.55 Lakh Visitors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asia's largest Tulip Garden, nestled at the foothills of the Zabarwan range in Srinagar, has concluded its 2025 season with an all-time high of 8,55,125 visitors during its 30-day run from March 26 to April 24.

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, known for its vibrant and expansive floral display, attracted tourists from across India and abroad. The bloom of over 1.7 million tulips of varying hues and varieties served as the centerpiece of this year's spectacle, drawing both domestic and international admiration.

The garden recorded its highest single-day footfall on April 6, with 81,352 visitors, followed closely by

The garden recorded its highest single-day footfall on April 6, with 81,352 visitors, followed closely by April 13 with 70,430. The opening week alone saw more than 1.56 lakh tourists, setting the pace for what would become a record-setting season.

April 13 with 70,430. The opening week alone saw more than 1.56 lakh tourists, setting the pace for what would become a record-setting season.

Officials attributed the surge in visitors to enhanced infrastructure, vigorous promotional efforts, and

favorable weather conditions that sustained the tulip bloom throughout the season. Upgraded amenities, including new flower beds, improved pathways, and decorative fountains, further elevated the visitor experience.

Notably, the season also saw a rise in international footfall, with 3,338 foreign tourists making their way to the floral haven, underscoring its growing global appeal.

"This year has been phenomenal. The combination of full bloom, sunny weather, and high tourist inflow created the perfect atmosphere for record footfall," said an official from the Department of Floriculture.

The garden officially closed its gates to the public on April 24, capping off what officials hailed as the most successful season in its history.

Hajj 2025: First Flight With 178 Pilgrims To Depart From Srinagar On May 4

Agencies

Srinagar: The sacred journey of Hajj 2025 is set to begin from Jammu and Kashmir, with the first flight scheduled to depart from Srinagar International Airport on May 4. This inaugural flight, operated by SpiceJet, will carry 178 pilgrims and marks the commencement of this year's Hajj pilgrimage from the Union Territory. The flight is expected to depart from Srinagar at 10:25 AM and arrive at Fujairah International Airport in Saudi Arabia

at 2:55 PM.

After a brief layover, the flight will continue its journey, departing Fujairah at 3:55 PM and landing at Madinah International Airport by 6:55 PM on the same day.

Following the first flight, there will be no departures on May 5, 6, and 13. However, regular flights will resume on May 7, with 321 pilgrims scheduled to depart each day for Madina. On May 9 and May 14, two flights will operate, each carrying 642 pilgrims. The final flight will take place on May 15, carrying

the last group of 321 pilgrims from Srinagar.

A total of 3,388 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to embark on the Hajj pilgrimage this year. SpiceJet has been tasked with managing these flights, ensuring that all arrangements are in place for a smooth and safe journey.

The Hajj Committee has confirmed that necessary steps, including health check-ups, documentation, and logistical support, have been taken to provide a seamless experience for the pilgrims. [KNT]



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUDHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar-Leh- (Open)



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
27 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 19
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5: 15
Magrib	7:14
ISHA	8: 41

This Day In History

- 1514- Copernicus makes his 1st observations of Saturn
- 1755- 1st Russian university opens (Moscow)
- 1803 Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1803- Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1828- Russia declares war on Turkey to support Greece's independence
- 1865 - Battle of Durham Station, NC (Greensboro)
- 1865 - Battle of Ft Tobacco, VA
- 1904 - Bell Telephone Company of Antwerp Belgium forms
- 1915- Italy secretly signs Pact of London with Britain, France & Russia
- 1920 - Harlow Shapley and Heber D. Curtis hold "great debate" on the nature of nebulae, galaxies and size of the universe at US National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- 1926- Germany & Russia sign neutrality/peace treaty
- 1928- Madame Tussaud's waxwork exhibition opens in London
- 1929- 1st non-stop England to India flight lands
- 1942- Coal mine explosion kills 1,549 at Honkeiko Manchuria
- 1944 - Papandreou government in Greece forms
- 1945- World War II: Battle of Bautzen - last successful German tank-offensive of the war and last noteworthy victory of the Wehrmacht.
- 1954 - Nationwide test of Salk anti-polio vaccine begins
- 1956- First modern container ship, the Ideal X, leaves Port Newark, New Jersey for Houston, Texas
- 1959- Cuba invades Panama
- 1961- French paratroopers' revolt suppressed in Algeria
- 1962- Ariel I Launch (1st UK Satellite)
- 1962- US/UK launch Ariel; 1st international payload
- 1964 - Tanganyika & Zanzibar form The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar
- 1966- An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 destroys Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 1967- San Marco 2 Launch (1st Equatorial Launch)
- 1968 - US underground nuclear test, "Boxcar," 1 megaton device
- 1971- Turkey state of siege proclaimed
- 1978 - France sends troops to Chad
- 1978- NASA launches space vehicle S-201
- 1984- President Reagan visits China

From KO Archives

Fire Devastates Dachigam Jungle

Observer News Service


SRINAGAR: A fire that broke-out in Pahlipora jungles of Dachigam this afternoon had spread to a larger area by this evening, devastating flora and fauna, reports said.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained residents told ONS on phone in the evening that they could see flames raging in the jungles


According to the residents of the nearby areas smoke was seen billowing from out of the forest at around 4 pm and officials were immediately informed, who rushed to the spot in about an hour's time. By then the fire had caught speed and it spread in all directions devastating the thick forest cover in the area. Dachigam is known for its thick plant growth, which is home to hundreds of wild animals, including rare species of Hangul.

Residents living in Nishat Shalimar and Harwan areas told Observer News Service this evening that fires raging in the jungles could be seen from a distance. They feared that by morning it could spread to other jungles nearby and devastate entire Dachigam, which is a national wildlife park. It bears mention that Valley witnessed widespread forest fires last year which left vast tracts of forests in ashes.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 April, 1999)



**KIDS CAREER
PUBLIC SCHOOL**
KAPRIN SHOPIAN



**CONGRATULATIONS
MOHAMMAD HARIS LONE**
for clearing
JEE MAINS

Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have paid off. The entire Kids Career Public School family is proud of your incredible achievement. Keep reaching for the stars, Mohammad Haris Lone.

lab

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
JDA COMPLEX JANIPUR, JAMMU/ OLD SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR_

Website: <https://jklsa.gov.in>
Email: jklsal234@gmail.com

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Srinagar: 0194-2460408 (1)2476945

**Interview/Interaction notice for the Post of
Technical Support Personnel**

In continuation to Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2025 dated 09.04.2025 issued by this Authority, it is hereby notified for the information of all the candidates who have applied for the post of **Technical Support Personnel (Application Support Engineers)** that the Interview/Interaction shall be conducted on **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**, as per the following schedule:

- **For candidates from Kashmir Province:**
Venue: Office of Central Project Coordinator (CPC), e- Courts, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Srinagar.
Time: 11:00 AM sharp.
- **For candidates from Jammu Province:**
Venue: Office of the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, JDA Complex, Janipur, Jammu.
Time: 2:00 PM sharp.

All candidates are advised to bring their original documents along with a valid photo ID proof for verification at the time of interview.

No separate call letters shall be issued.

DIPK-810/25
dated: 25-04-2025
No: SLSA/LS/2009/12/II/131-39.

Shazia Tabasum
Member Secretary
Dated: 24.04.2025

Valley's Swiss Dream

Kashmir's beauty falls short of Switzerland's due to poor civic and environmental standards.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

Kashmir is often called the “Switzerland of Asia.” The snow-covered peaks, rolling meadows, and sparkling lakes certainly make it look the part. But beyond the natural beauty, there’s a gap — in civic sense, cleanliness, and environmental responsibility.

I recently traveled through Switzerland while researching for my upcoming book Green Nostalgia. As I admired its spotless streets and well-run cities, I kept thinking of Kashmir — a place just as naturally beautiful, but struggling with basic urban issues. Why is there such a big difference?

In Switzerland, people care deeply about keeping their surroundings clean. Waste is sorted into proper bins. Public transport runs smoothly. Streets are spotless. Even in freezing temperatures, systems work because citizens and governments take their roles seriously. It’s not just money or tech that makes it work — it’s discipline and shared responsibility.

Back home in Kashmir, it’s another story. Garbage piles up on roadsides. The Achan landfill in Srinagar is a health hazard. Waste collection is random and unorganized. People dump trash wherever they can. Women sort plastic by hand without gloves or masks. And when complaints are made? Nothing changes.

This isn’t just about poor planning. It’s a sign of deeper problems — a lack of accountability, weak governance, and a public that hasn’t been encouraged to care. Authorities haven’t introduced proper waste systems or taught people how to use them. Even with funding, the change just isn’t happening.

“It was a place where not a single piece of litter could be seen on the streets. People used public transport efficiently, and waste was meticulously segregated into various bins. Swiss citizens held themselves accountable, and local governments ensured that these practices were backed by well-enforced policies

And yet, we talk about turning Kashmir into a global tourist destination. That won’t happen unless we first fix what’s broken. Even a former Chief Minister known for discipline didn’t bring about the kind of cleanup this place desperately needs.

The truth is, we have the tools to do better. What’s missing is the will — from both leaders and citizens. Cleanliness is a part of our religious teachings, something taught in mosques and schools. But it doesn’t show up in real life. Roads stay broken, air stays dirty, and people keep walking past garbage without thinking twice.

Switzerland succeeds because people there grow up learning these values. Schools teach kids how to care for the environment. Governments set clear rules and make sure people follow them. And when someone messes up, there are consequences.

We need that here too. Start with schools — teach kids how to sort waste, use bins, and take pride in clean surroundings. Back that up with real action from the government: strict rules, clear responsibilities, and penalties when things are ignored. Municipal bodies should have clear targets, and the public needs to stay involved.

Kashmir doesn’t need to stay stuck. It has the beauty. What it needs now is the mindset — from those in charge and from everyday people. This place can still become the clean, healthy, thriving paradise it was meant to be.

But we all need to ask: are we ready to do our part?

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a senior consultant surgeon from Kashmir.

Kashmiris Wronged by Hate and Media

The Pahalgam attack has hurt Kashmiri people, costing them economically and culturally. But despite their heroism in tourist rescue and relief operations, they face hate and misrepresentation.

Muneer Ahmed Gashi

The violence that erupted in Pahalgam, Anantnag, has once again put Kashmir under the microscope of national and international attention. But beyond the headlines and the images of destruction, there is a deeper, silent suffering that affects the lives of ordinary Kashmiris.

Every attack does not just bring bloodshed, it also brings an onslaught of misrepresentation, prejudice, and economic fallout.

As Kashmir remains caught in the grips of security measures and narratives, it is the people who bear the brunt. It is their lives that are disrupted, their future that is jeopardized. In the wake of each attack, the entire region is painted with the same broad brush: a place of violence, unrest, and fear. But this is a skewed narrative. For the people of Kashmir, it is not the violence that defines us, but our resilience, our peace-loving spirit, and our unwavering hospitality.

The attack in Pahalgam was a tragedy, but it was also a reflection of how Kashmir is treated, both within and outside of its borders. While the rest of India watches from a distance, the consequences of such violence are felt more acutely by the common people who have nothing to do with it. It’s not just the bullet wounds we endure, but the damage to our image, our culture, and our livelihood.

The tourism sector, a beacon of hope for many families, has taken a severe hit. Travelers hesitate to visit a region associated with violence, even though Kashmir’s landscapes remain as beautiful as ever. Our meadows, lakes, and snow-capped mountains are no less stunning, but the fear of conflict overshadows their allure. Businesses close, families struggle, and the economy weakens as headlines of violence continue to feed the perception of danger. This isn’t just an inconvenience; it’s a life-altering event for the people who rely on tourism to make ends meet.

This economic impact is compounded by a cultural misrepresentation that further damages Kashmir’s image. For centuries, Kashmir has been a land of peace and beauty, rich in history, art, and tradition. Yet, these aspects are often ignored in favor of narratives of violence and extremism. For us, Kashmir is not just a place, it’s our identity. Every corner of this region tells a story of resilience and strength, from the ancient shrines to the songs sung in the mountains. Our culture is not defined by the acts of a few extremists but by the way of life we hold dear.

Yet, this broader context is often lost in the media coverage of Kashmir. TV channels, particularly those in the right-wing ecosystem, stoke the flames of hate and prejudice, targeting Kashmiris across India. The wave of misinformation fuels distrust and fear, creating a climate where every Kashmiri is seen as a threat. This narrative has real-world consequences for Kashmiris studying and working in other parts of India, who now find themselves the targets of hate attacks



“

The attack in Pahalgam was a tragedy, but it was also a reflection of how Kashmir is treated, both within and outside of its borders. While the rest of India watches from a distance, the consequences of such violence are felt more acutely by the common people who have nothing to do with it. It’s not just the bullet wounds we endure, but the damage to our image, our culture, and our livelihood.

and discrimination. Despite their contributions to society, like the heroic actions of locals during the Pahalgam tragedy, where they risked their lives to rescue tourists, many are still vilified for being Kashmiri.

This is the cruel irony of our situation: despite being the ones to offer help and compassion during times of crisis, it is the people of Kashmir who are blamed and demonized. We are pushed into the shadows of national discourse, reduced to mere symbols of conflict, while our humanity is erased from the conversation.

Take, for example, the fact that many of

the first responders to the recent Pahalgam attack were local Kashmiris. These brave men and women, who risked their lives to save others, have yet to receive the recognition they deserve. Instead, their identities and actions are overshadowed by the broader political narrative that seeks to portray us as the ‘enemy’ rather than the rescuers. While we continue to be painted as part of the problem, we are the ones who are actively working towards solutions, even at great personal risk.

As Kashmiris, we have lived through decades of conflict and violence. Yet, it is the next generation that faces the heaviest burden. Young Kashmiris, full of hope and potential, find themselves trapped in a cycle of instability. Their dreams of education, career, and a better future are constantly undermined by the ongoing conflict and political unrest. The future for these young minds grows ever more uncertain, not because of their abilities, but because of the political landscape that traps them.

The time has come for the world to see Kashmir for what it truly is: a place of resilience, not just a victim of violence. The people of Kashmir are not defined by the attacks that happen here, but by the way we rise above them. We continue to hold on to our culture, our heritage, and our hope for a peaceful future, despite the odds stacked against us.

As we continue to endure the trials of conflict, it is crucial for those in power, both in Kashmir and in the rest of India, to look beyond the headlines and understand the pain we feel. We are not just victims; we are the silent sufferers whose lives are affected by every attack, every piece of misinformation, and every policy decision that is made without regard for our humanity.

The people of Kashmir are waiting for their voices to be heard, for their stories to be told in the light of truth, not in the shadows of violence. It’s time for the world to recognize that we are not the problem, but part of the solution.

Writer hails from Srinagar and can be reached at muneergashi1991@gmail.com

Kashmir’s Principal of Change

As Prof. Ravina Hassan retires from Model Government Degree College, Charar-i-Sharief, she leaves behind not just a well-run institution, but a legacy of quiet grace, kindness, and leadership that changed lives.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

In the shade of Charar-e-Sharief’s pine-covered hills, the Model Government Degree College grew steadily into one of Kashmir’s most quietly admired institutions. But ask anyone on campus where the real growth came from, and they will likely mention a name before they mention a building.

Prof. Ravina Hassan, who retires as Principal on April 30, was not the kind of leader who announced herself with grand speeches or stern rules. She walked softly, spoke with care, and always wore a smile that could make even the most anxious student feel at ease.

Over the years, that smile became something more than just a mannerism. It became a symbol of how things were done at the college. Gently, gracefully, with dignity.

When she took charge, the college was modest, carrying the usual signs of constraint that public institutions often wear. But she didn’t let that limit her vision. She saw a future others hadn’t imagined. Her leadership didn’t rely on noise or slogans. She focused instead on small, purposeful steps: clean halls,



working labs, respectful conversations, a sense of order. People noticed.

Under her guidance, the college underwent its first NAAC assessment. The visiting committee was astonished. “Is this a private college?” they asked. “How come everything is so clean, so in place?”

There was no rush to impress them. Things were simply always that way. And that said more about her than a dozen speeches could.

But it wasn’t only about infrastructure or cleanliness. What set her apart was how she treated people. No hierarchy mattered in her world. Whether someone was a permanent pro-

fessor or part-time staff, she listened with the same attention. She didn’t believe in authority that distanced. Her belief was simple: institutions thrive when everyone feels seen.

Ask any staff member and they’ll recall how she made space for them, how she helped them grow. Under her leadership, non-permanent teaching staff organized the college’s first national-level conference on scientific waste management. It was something unheard of in most government colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. Else-

where, their roles might have been marginal. Here, they were

central. She made it so.

The professor never raised her voice, never belittled anyone. And yet, when she walked into a room, everyone stood straighter. Not out of fear, but out of respect. She led with kindness. She never once harassed an employee, never demanded more than what was possible, never allowed crisis to become an excuse for cruelty. Even in tough times, she radiated calm.

Her power was quiet. It came not from her position, but from how she made others feel: capable, trusted, part of something bigger. She understood the real work of leadership was not to command, but to care.

Now, as she prepares to step away, the college stands taller. Its rooms brighter, its people more confident, its name better known. Yet the real tribute to her work will not be found in files or photos. It will live on in the students who dare to dream because she once believed in them, and in the staff who carry forward her way of doing things, with grace, with sincerity, and, always, with a smile.

Prof. Ravina Hassan leaves no enemies behind, only admirers. That may be the rarest accomplishment of all.

Writer is a Chadoora-based teacher-researcher.

Ode to Old Kashmiri Love

A grandson’s tribute to his grandmother, whose timeless faith and wisdom continue to shape both her family and the Kashmir community.

Syed Majid Gilani

When I reflect on the people who shaped my early life, no one stands out more than my grandmother, Syeda Sakina Gilani. Amma, as we called her, was more than a grandmother. She was the pillar of our family, the embodiment of love, grace, and unwavering faith.

Born in 1930 in Srinagar, Amma came from a distinguished lineage. Her father, Syed Ahmad Gilani, was a successful businessman and political representative in Yarkand, Central Asia. But Amma never met him, as he passed away long before she reached adulthood.

Amma’s life was one of quiet strength. She married Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani, my grandfather, at a young age. Despite coming from a family where education was highly valued, she chose to dedicate herself to her home and family. She was one of the first women in Kashmir to graduate from Punjab University, Lahore.

While she could have pursued a career, Amma’s commitment to her family was unparalleled. She often said, “True fulfillment lies in nurturing those around you.”

Growing up, I often found myself marveling at her balance of discipline, kindness, and spirituality. Amma’s daily routine was rooted in faith. Before dawn, she would pray Tahajjud and Fajr Namaz, followed by hours spent in remembrance of Allah and reading the Qur’an. But her faith wasn’t confined to prayers; it permeated every part of her life. She believed that the teachings of the Qur’an and Hadith weren’t just to be recited, they were to be lived. She helped my mother with household chores, showing us that no task was too small to be done with devotion and care.

Her discipline extended to our education. Amma believed strongly in the power of knowledge. When we were children, she would often visit our study room, checking on our progress with a kind word or gentle reminder. She had a particular love for Urdu, and I remember her teaching me the language with the same elegance she carried in all things. Her lessons weren’t just academic, they were about developing values. She instilled in us a sense of honesty, hard work, and self-discipline, teaching us that success came only through perseverance.

The bond Amma shared with my sisters, Yasmeen and Sabiyah, and me was one of deep love and care. After my father passed away suddenly in 2001, Amma and Abaji (my grandfather) became our anchors. My sisters and I were young, and the grief of losing a parent was overwhelming. Yet, Amma’s unwavering love made sure we never felt abandoned. She not only took care of us, but she also made sure our mother, Shahida Chishti, never felt like a widow. She treated her as a daughter, wrapping her in the same love and care she showed all of us.

Amma’s life was simple, yet profoundly rich. Her joy came not from material wealth but from the strength of the family bond. Whether it was sitting together in the kitchen, sharing a meal, or visiting local shrines for Friday prayers, Amma believed that true happiness lay in the connections we shared with others. She made sure we understood that no matter where we went in life, our family and community would always be our strongest support.

On January 1, 2009, Amma passed away at the age of 78. Though I feel her loss deeply, I also feel immense gratitude for the lessons she taught me. She left behind not just memories, but a legacy of wisdom, love, and discipline. Her influence continues to shape my life and the lives of my sisters. The values she imparted to us are the foundation upon which we stand today.

What I cherish most about Amma was the way she made me feel, every single day. She never made me feel like I was just a child, but like I was someone worthy of attention, guidance, and love. Her presence was steady, comforting, and nurturing. Amma was our greatest teacher, our greatest friend, and the heart of our family. Though she is no longer with us physically, her spirit lives on in everything we do.

I often find myself thinking about the simple, yet profound, moments we shared. The warmth of her kitchen, the soft sound of her voice reciting verses from the Qur’an, and her endless words of encouragement. Amma didn’t just teach us lessons; she lived them. And in doing so, she left a legacy that will continue to guide our family for generations to come.

Author writes about human relations and social realities in Kashmir.

The Tailor Who's 'Sweeping' Change in Kashmir Village

Ghulam Nabi Ganie, a 78-year-old tailor, cleans graveyards and streams with no thought of reward. His simple acts of love for his village inspire a community.



Gowher Bhat

In the early hours of Wahi-
bugh, a small village in
Kashmir's Pulwama district,
everything is still. The sun has
just started to rise, and the air
is cold. But in the quiet of this
dawn, one man gets to work.

Ghulam Nabi Ganie, 78,
steps out into the morn-
ing chill with a broom in his
hand, ready to begin his day.
No one asks him to do this.
No one pays him. But every
day, he walks through his
village, cleaning graveyards,
washing tombstones, and
clearing streams. These small
acts show his love for his
community.

Ghulam Nabi is a tailor,
and his hands are used to
working with fabric, not with
dirt or dust. But for years, he
has been the heart of Wahi-
bugh, quietly doing the work
that most people overlook.
He doesn't seek praise. He
doesn't want money. What
he does is simple, but it has
changed the village in ways
words can't describe.

As an early riser, Ghulam
Nabi is hard at work. He
clears away the dirt that col-
lects around the tombstones.
He scrubs the stone surfaces
gently. He moves to brooks,

which are vital for the vil-
lage, and clears any debris
that might block the flow of
water. His hands, now worn
with age, do more than just
tidy up. He sees his work as
something sacred.

"Cleaning isn't just about
making things neat," Ghulam
Nabi says. "It's a way to show
respect. To honor the land
and the people."

He was raised to believe
that cleanliness is a way of
honoring God and those
around you. His parents
didn't leave him wealth, but
they gave him this lesson: the
world deserves our care.

As a child, Ghulam Nabi
spent time in the graveyards
not just to mourn but to re-
flect. To him, the shrines
should be peaceful, not places
of sorrow. The streams, which
provide water for everyone,
deserve to be treated with
respect.

"The land, the water, ev-
erything we have is a gift,"
he says. "We should protect it
like family."

In Wahi-
bugh, Ghulam Nabi
is more than just a man with
a broom. He's a living legend.
Local shopkeeper Mohamad
Ayoub remembers the first
time he saw Ghulam Nabi
cleaning the graveyard, even

when the weather was bad.
"He never stops," Ayoub says,
shaking his head. "Rain, snow,
sickness—nothing makes him
stop. He's not just cleaning;
he's bringing hope."

Gulzar Sofi, a village elder,
nods in agreement. "Ghulam
Nabi gives without asking for
anything," Gulzar says. "He
shows us that helping others
is the real form of worship.
The young ones see him, and
they learn."

Ghulam Nabi's daily acts
have begun to inspire others.
Today, young people in Wahi-
bugh are picking up brooms,
clearing debris, and helping
out in small ways. "When I
see them, it makes me hap-
py," Ghulam Nabi says with a
smile. "I know that I've done
something good."

He doesn't want praise or
recognition. Whatever little
he has, he shares with others.
"If I can help someone, even
a little bit, that's enough for
me," he says simply.

I ask him, "How long will
you keep doing this?" Gh-
ulam Nabi smiles, his face
full of wrinkles from years of
hard work, but his eyes still
full of purpose. "As long as
my hands can move," he says.
"This is who I am. It's what I
was meant to do."



In Narwara, Kashmir's Soul Still Speaks

In the old city of Srinagar, the neighborhood of Narwara preserves Kashmir's spiritual, poetic, and artistic heritage.

Owais Bhat

Tucked in the old quarters
of Srinagar's Shahr-e-
Khaas, Narwara isn't a
place that announces itself.
It hums quietly with history.
The lanes are narrow. The
houses, weathered. Yet the
past feels close enough to
touch.

Here, stories aren't just
told, they're lived. Especially
the story of Hazrat Sheikh
Baba Masood Narwari [RA], a
name spoken with reverence
by anyone who knows Kash-
mir's spiritual lineage.

A mystic believed to have
come from Central Asia, Baba
Masood settled in Narwara
centuries ago and became one
of the valley's most beloved
Sufi saints. His teachings em-
phasized humility, devotion,
and service. But what sets
him apart is not just what he
said, it's how he lived.

Every evening, Hazrat
Hamza Makhdoom [RA],
the beloved Sufi of Kashmir,
would come to Narwara just
to pray behind Baba Masood.
People say his recitation of
the Quran was so moving, it
made listeners weep. Today,
his resting place sits next to
a mosque and a high school,
quiet but deeply respected.

In a modest shrine nearby,
sacred relics are still pre-



**THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S
TIES TO THE
MIRWAIZ FAMILY
ARE ALSO DEEP.
Through decades
of political and
religious change,
Narwara has stood
by the Mirwaizs,
offering not just
loyalty but shelter
and strength.**

served. Baba Masood was
entrusted with items of pro-
found spiritual significance:
a pair of sandals believed to
belong to the Prophet Mu-
hammad [PBUH], another
worn by Hazrat Fatima Zehra
[RA], and two Alams from
Karbala. These tabrookats, or
relics, are displayed each year
on the 10th of Muharram. It's
not a grand event. It's solemn,
filled with silence, prayer,

and awe.

Narwara has never been
just a neighborhood. It has
been a cradle of mysticism,
poetry, and intellect. The Sufi
poet Samad Mir was born
here. His verses, soaked in
love and longing for the di-
vine, still echo in Kashmiri
households during religious
gatherings. Then there's Ahad
Zargar, another mystic who
lived a simple life but left be-
hind poetry that still stirs the
soul. His words ask eternal
questions about life, God, and
the unseen threads that bind
them.

One lesser-known story
from Narwara is that of M.
Amin Narwari. A humble
man with a strong desire to
perform the Hajj, he wrote a
letter in flawless Persian to
Emperor Aurangzeb, asking
for support. So elegant was
his writing that it reached
the court. When he was sum-
moned and asked who had
written it, he quietly said,
"I did." The emperor, moved
by his talent and sincerity,
appointed him ambassador
to Iran and arranged for his
pilgrimage.

Narwara was also home to
two prominent families of
Kashmir: the Handoos and
the Drabus. While the Dr-
abus moved on, the Handoos
stayed. For generations, they

have overseen the manage-
ment of the local mosque,
even donating large parts of
their land for its upkeep. One
of their ancestors served as a
royal advisor to the Maharaja,
and yet their presence today
is quiet and unassuming.

The neighborhood's ties
to the Mirwaiz family are
also deep. Through decades
of political and religious
change, Narwara has stood
by the Mirwaizs, offering not
just loyalty but shelter and
strength.

But there's another side
to Narwara too: its hands.
This place has been home to
artisans whose skill shaped
the reputation of Kashmiri
craftsmanship. Woodcarv-
ers, weavers, and embroider-
ers have lived here for gen-
erations, passing down their
knowledge in silence, from
parent to child. Their work is
delicate, detailed, and honest.
It doesn't shout for attention,
it invites it.

Walk through Narwara,
and it's all there. The arched
doorways, the scent of wood
shavings, the whisper of a
prayer floating from a shrine.
The present coexists with the
past in a way that feels almost
physical.

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Pages of Hope in Kashmir

In a region of complex literary challenges, libraries are more than book-filled rooms. They're lifelines for learning, unity, and hope.

Aadil Jahangir

In Kashmir, libraries stand as
unassuming heroes. These
aren't just places to borrow
books. They're sanctuaries of
ideas, bridges over divides, and
engines of change in a region
navigating a tricky blend of
tradition and transformation.

For students, dreamers, and
curious minds, libraries offer
something rare: a chance to
grow, connect, and imagine a
bigger world.

Picture a small library in Kup-
wara, where the internet flickers
and phones often fail. Here, a
teenager pores over exam prep
books, her only shot at a com-
petitive university spot. In Kisht-
war, a researcher sifts through
journals, piecing together the
region's rich cultural past.

In conflict-scarred corners,
young people find refuge in
fiction, escaping uncertainty
through stories. Libraries don't
judge or exclude. They open
their doors to everyone, mak-
ing knowledge a right, not a
privilege.

Beyond books, these spaces
pulse with community. Read-
ing clubs spark debates in Sri-
nagar. Workshops in Budgam
teach digital skills. In a region
as diverse as Jammu & Kash-
mir, libraries weave people
together, creating shared mo-
ments of discovery. They're not



**AUTOMATION IS
CREEPING IN, BUT IT'S
SLOW, AND NOT EVERY
LIBRARY WORKER
KNOWS HOW TO USE
IT. Worst of all, too many
people don't even know
what libraries offer today—
e-journals, online tools, and
more stay under the radar
without better outreach.**

just buildings, they're where
ideas breathe and bonds form.

The Jammu & Kashmir gov-

ernment sees the potential.
It's pouring energy into reviv-
ing libraries, from sprucing
up old buildings to stocking
shelves with fresh titles. The
"Reading Culture Promotion
Programme" nudges kids and
adults alike to pick up books.
Mobile libraries roll into re-
mote hamlets, bringing stories
to places where brick-and-
mortar libraries can't yet reach.
Partnerships with the National
Digital Library of India are
opening digital doors, letting
researchers in far-flung areas
tap into vast online archives.

Technology is reshaping the
scene. Libraries like SPS in Sri-
nagar are going digital, using
software to track books and of-
fer online catalogs. Wi-Fi zones
and smart reading rooms are
popping up, blending the

charm of dusty pages with the
speed of modern tech. It's a
nod to a tech-hungry genera-
tion that still craves the quiet
magic of a good book. But the
road isn't smooth.

Many rural libraries limp
along with creaky furniture,
outdated collections, and too
few staff. Some operate out of
cramped, rented spaces, barely
able to serve their commu-
nities. Trained librarians are
scarce, and those on the job
often lack the skills to navigate
new digital systems.

Automation is creeping in,
but it's slow, and not every li-
brary worker knows how to
use it. Worst of all, too many
people don't even know what
libraries offer today—e-jour-
nals, online tools, and more
stay under the radar without
better outreach. Still, some-
thing powerful is stirring.

Libraries in Jammu & Kash-
mir are quietly fueling a revolu-
tion. They're nurturing critical
thinkers, celebrating diversity,
and lighting the way toward a
smarter, kinder future.

As the government invests
and communities wake up to
their value, these humble spac-
es are proving that knowledge
isn't just power, it's hope.

*Author is a research scholar
in Library and Information
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A Lynching, a Law, and the Lives Left Shattered

In Blasphem, Sohail Rauf weaves a story of grief, fear, and moral reckoning in the shadow of a deadly accusation.

Naveed Qazi

Sohail Rauf's novel Blasphem
begins with a chilling scene. A Hin-
du college teacher named Mohan
is lynched by a mob after being falsely
accused of blasphemy. His only crime
was encouraging his students to think
freely and embrace the arts. This vi-
olent act becomes the emotional cen-
ter of a story that looks closely at the
lasting damage caused by fear, silence,
and unchecked power.

From there, Rauf moves into the
lives of three people shaken by Mo-
han's death. Waqas, a weary police
officer, is assigned to investigate the
suicide of a young man connected to
the case. Furqan, a university student,
is haunted by the loss of his friend
Hassan. Lubna, Hassan's sister, search-
es for meaning in the aftermath. Each
of them brings a different lens to the
same tragedy, and their stories unfold
in alternating chapters that give the
book depth and balance.

The novel is a quiet, forceful critique
of Pakistan's blasphemy laws, show-
ing how they can be twisted into tools
of fear and vengeance. The Talaba, a
religious student group, plays a key
role in the violence, and Rauf paints
them not just as villains, but as part
of a system that thrives on silence and
submission.

What makes Blasphem compelling
is how human the characters feel.
Waqas starts off disillusioned with
his job and life, but his sense of justice

slowly reawakens. Furqan, caught be-
tween fear and conscience, struggles
to understand how to live with what
he knows. Lubna, the quietest voice in
the book, may be the strongest, gives
the novel some of its most moving
moments.

Rauf's writing is understated and
sincere. He doesn't overplay dramatic
scenes. Instead, he gives readers space
to feel the weight of what's happen-
ing. Moments of mob violence are
written plainly, while private mo-
ments of reflection are given time to
breathe. It's a smart choice that makes
the story feel more grounded and real.

Throughout, the novel asks difficult
questions about courage and com-
plicity. What does it mean to speak up
when the cost is high? Can justice be
found in a system built on fear? Rauf
doesn't offer simple answers, but
he doesn't leave us without hope ei-
ther. His characters are damaged, but
they're not defeated.

Blasphem is more than a novel
about one man's death. It's a story
about how societies fall apart when
fear replaces empathy. It's also a re-
minder of how art, education, and
truth, no matter how fragile, can chal-
lenge even the most rigid systems of
control.

It's not an easy book, but it's a nec-
essary one.

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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Father Of 2 Ailing Pakistani Children Caught In India-Pak Visa Move

Press Trust Of India

Lahore: A Pakistani man in India for a life-saving medical procedure for his two children has appealed to the two governments to allow their treatment to be completed before they are compelled to return home.

The family from Hyderabad in Sindh province is among the several from India and Pakistan forced to cut short their visits after New Delhi and Islamabad cancelled SAARC visa privileges following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Over 100 Indian citizens in Pakistan left for their homeland on Thursday, officials said

in Lahore, adding, more will be crossing on Friday.

The father of the two Pakistani children told Geo News on telephone that his two children, aged 9 and 7, have had a heart disease since birth. The channel did not identify either the father.

"They have a heart condition and their treatment was possible in New Delhi because of the advanced medical treatment here. But after the Pahalgam incident, we have been told to return to Pakistan immediately," he said, adding, their surgery is scheduled for next week.

The hospital and doctors are cooperating with them but they

were being pressured by the police and foreign office to leave from Delhi immediately.

"I appeal to the governments to allow the medical treatment of my children to be completed as we have spent around Rs 10 million on our travel, stay and their treatment," he said.

Meanwhile, over 100 Indian citizens in Pakistan have left for their homeland on Thursday with more following on Friday, officials said.

"Some 105 Indian nationals left Pakistan for their homeland and 28 Pakistanis in India returned here on Thursday," Express Tribune quoted a

government official as saying.

On Friday, more Indians crossed into their homeland from the Wagah border near Lahore. Some more Pakistanis too returned from India.

The Attari-Wagah border is located near Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan.

A Pakistani Hindu family comprising seven members arrived at Wagah from Balochistan to go to India to attend a wedding ceremony there.

After reaching Wagah, Akshay Kumar said the authorities told him that they couldn't cross into India because the Indian government had cancelled their visas.

"We were unaware of the development because of a journey to Lahore from Balochistan," he said.

The Pakistani Hindu families who previously migrated to India and granted No Objection Return to India (NORI) visas are also facing an uncertain future under the current tension between the two countries.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday afternoon, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack.

In New Delhi, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday decided, among other things, to close the Integrated Check Post at Attari with immediate effect.

Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and any such visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are deemed cancelled, it was announced.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said all existing valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals stand revoked with effect from April 27

and added that the medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals will be valid only till April 29.

Mirroring India's steps, Islamabad on Thursday closed the Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave.

"All cross-border transit from India through this route shall be suspended, without exception. Those who have crossed with valid endorsements may return through that route immediately but not later than April 30," Pakistan said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Not A Single

Treaty," Abdullah said, adding that while the short-term implications are clear, the long-term consequences will need to be watched closely.

The suspension of the treaty, signed under the World Bank's auspices in 1960, marks a dramatic shift in India's water diplomacy and is being interpreted as a direct message to Islamabad: India will no longer compartmentalize terrorism and cooperation.

Indus Water Treaty

never been in favour of it.

"Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest we have never been in favour of the Indus Water Treaty," Abdullah told reporters here after a meeting with various tourism, trade and industry bodies.

In the aftermath of the attack in which 26 people were killed, India on Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures, including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post.

Asked about the Centre's decision on IWT, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir has always believed that the IWT has been the "most unfair document to its people".

"Now what the medium to long-term implications to this are, that is something we have to wait to see," he added.

To a question whether the government would reward the bravery of 'ponywallah' Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who stood up against the armed terrorists before being killed, Abdullah said "absolutely".

"He (Shah) is a symbol not just of Kashmiriyat but of Kashmiri hospitality and it is our responsibility not just to reward him and his family, but to keep that memory alive for times immemorial," he said.

The chief minister said the government will find a suitable mechanism to do that.

He also announced that Maharashtra tour and travel operators have decided to adopt Shah's family to take care of all their education needs from now until they complete their education and also to help the family in the days and years ahead.

Abdullah said Friday's meeting condemned the killings and unitedly raised voice against such attacks.

"I thank all the participants in the meeting. They clearly said the attack was not done in our name and that they were not in favour of it nor will be in future. We regret that it happened.

"Some suggestions have been kept before the government so that such things do not happen in the future. I have assured them that all the suggestions will be implemented," he said.

Asked if there was any discussion on the business losses for the tourism industry, the chief minister said "at this point in time, we are not counting rupees and paisa".

"I think credit to all the participants and stakeholders in this meeting that not one of them lamented the loss of business. Not one of them said what will happen to me as my rooms are empty, or houseboats are empty or taxi is empty.

"They all said business comes and goes, at this point in time that is not our concern. Our concern is to express solidarity and sympathy with the families of those 26 people who were killed in this attack," he said.

There may be a time in the future, Abdullah said, when we will sit down and discuss the financial implications of what is happening to Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

"But, not one of the participants used this meeting today to either talk about the business losses that they are suffering or ask for any sort of compensation from the government. I think that is a credit to our business organisations," he added.

On the condemnations of the attack in mosques around the valley, Abdullah said it was an answer to all those spreading venom and hatred against the people of Kashmir.

Ensure Exit Of

immediate effect from April 27.

Medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals will be valid only till April 29.

The LG asked the officials to implement security measures and procedures as discussed in the previous meeting, the spokesman said.

LG Summons Special

Reorganization Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to meet at Jammu on Monday, the 28th of April, 2025 at 10.30 amoc," the LG said in an order.

The officials said the assembly session has been convened to discuss various issues in the aftermath of the attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

The Jammu and Kashmir cabinet had on Wednesday decided to advise the LG to convene a special session of the assembly.

The Council of Ministers met here on Wednesday evening under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Chairs Security

of terrorism and its ecosystem.

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

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

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

The Army chief arrived in Kashmir earlier in the day to review the situation in the wake of the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead, officials said.

The officials said Army commander, Northern Command, Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, accompanied the Army Chief.

The Chief of Armed Staff (COAS) would carry out a comprehensive review of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, while top Army commanders will brief him about the security situation and steps taken in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack, they said.

The Army chief's visit comes less than 24 hours after Pakistan resorted to small arms firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

NIA Speaks

who received training in Pakistan, the officials said.

Even though the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is yet to take over the case, its teams have started speaking to the survivors in search of clues which could help in pinning down the terrorists whose attack has sparked widespread outrage and spontaneous protests in the Valley -- a never-seen-before development in the over three-decade-long history of terrorism in the region.

Kashmir Mosques

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said the attack has left people's hearts bleeding.

"The manner in which the carnage was carried out -- more than two dozen people killed after ascertaining their identities and in front of their families -- is shocking and chilling beyond belief," he said while addressing the Friday congregation.

By observing a complete shutdown and holding spontaneous protests, the people of Kashmir have sent a strong message of their total disapproval of such actions and their solidarity and sympathy with the bereaved, he added.

Kashmir's chief cleric and the people present in the mosque observed a two-minute silence before the prayers to express solidarity with the affected families.

The Mirwaiz, who heads the moderate Hurriyat Conference, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their religion, strongly condemn the killings.

"Who understands the pain of losing their own better than the people of Kashmir? Who can feel the pain of the loved ones of those killed more than us? The incident has made our hearts bleed," he said.

Mirwaiz said the people of Kashmir share the grief of the affected families and stand with them.

"We pray to God to give them patience. We also pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," he added.

Referring to several viral videos of locals helping tourists in the aftermath of the

attack, the Mirwaiz said Kashmiris have always opened their hearts and doors for their guests.

"Our hospitality is famous the world over and once again, the Kashmiris continued their traditions. A ponywalla, Adil Hussain, sacrificed his life trying to save the lives of others. Kashmiris carried tourists on their shoulders.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir observed a complete shutdown and showed an example of solidarity and unity. They have sent a message that they oppose such cowardly acts and stand with the bereaved families," he added.

Mirwaiz said the killings are not only condemnable but "totally unacceptable".

He appealed to the government to allow him to visit the injured to enquire about their health.

"I should be allowed to visit the hospital to enquire about the injured, talk to them and to take the sentiments of the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir to them. I should also be allowed to visit Adil Hussain's residence for offering condolences," he said.

Mirwaiz said it was unfortunate that a section of the media was spreading hatred by giving a communal colour to the situation, resulting in "targeting of Kashmiris" in many states of the country.

"Hundreds of students and businessmen are leaving those states. We appeal to the governments in other states of India to safeguard Kashmiris," he said.

Earlier, Mirwaiz also condemned his house arrest, saying it was "painful not only for me but for all Muslims".

"It is disappointing on the part of the government and we condemn it," he said.

Among other voices of condemnation was Riyaz-ul-Haq Noorabadi, Imam and Khateeb of the revered, historical Dargah Hazratbal shrine, who denounced the attack and offered prayers for the victims.

Religious clerics from different parts of the valley urged people to reject violence in all forms and to pray for lasting peace in the Valley.

They also appealed to the valley to pray for recovery of the injured persons and condemned the killings in Pahalgam.

Meanwhile, condemnation also poured in from various religious centers and Masjids across Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, and other districts of North and South Kashmir, among others.

In Srinagar city, the condemnation poured from the historical Jama Masjid Srinagar, Gowkadal Masjid, Astan-e-Aliya Masjid at Gupkar Chowk, Sajjadbud Masjid in Chattabal, among other parts of the city.

Riyaz-ul-Haq Noorabadi, the Imam and Khateeb of the revered, historical Dargah Hazratbal said, Kashmir is the land of Sufis and saints, and we have been known for our hospitality and loving culture.

"The Pahalgam incident has made every heart cry, and we are condemning the incident," he said, adding that the killings were deeply painful and stood against the principles of Islam.

Moreover, local residents also echoed the clerics' voices.

A worshipper at Hazratbal Srinagar said, "Our masjid held special prayers. We are all heartbroken and condemn the incidents from the core of our hearts."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah criticised some electronic media houses, saying that they will never show that a two-minute silence was observed at the Jama Masjid to mourn the loss of lives in the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

Opposition Stands

the injured, I could not meet the others because they have gone back. My love and affection to everybody who has lost family members. I want everybody to know that the whole nation stands together as one," he said.

Referring to an all-party meeting that took place in Delhi on Thursday, Gandhi asserted that a united opposition condemned the terror attack and is behind the government.

"The idea behind what has happened is to divide society, is to make brother fight brother and it is very important that every single Indian stands united, stands together so that we can defeat what the terrorists were trying to do," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader also met J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the two briefed him about what happened.

"I assured them both that I and our party are going to support them," he said.

On the alleged harassment of Kashmiris elsewhere in the country, Gandhi said, "It is sad to see that some people are

attacking my brothers and sisters from Kashmir... I think it is very important that all of us stand together, stand united and fight this nasty action that has been taken and defeat terrorism once and for all."

The Congress leader earlier met delegations of traders, students leaders, and those related to tourism.

'No Work No Pay

the employees within sixty days and when the same were not paid, the employees preferred a petition before the court.

With the intervention of the Court, he said, the employees were allowed to resume their duties, which they did and thereafter they sought release of their salary for the intervening period in their favour along with interest.

The counsel further argued that it was only because of the corporation's false promise that the employees accepted the voluntary retirement offer. The counsel further contended that the employees remained out of service only because of the corporation, as such, corporation cannot claim that the employees did not perform any work.

"We have examined the judgment passed by the learned Writ Court (Single Bench) and the learned Writ Court has arrived at the conclusion that the respondents (employees) were kept away from work by the authorities after accepting their offer of voluntary retirement and, as such, they are entitled to salary for the intervening period," the Division Bench said, adding, "There is no illegality in the judgment passed by the learned writ court."

Houses Of 2 Let

the officials said.

Explosives were believed to have been found at the premises during the search operation, prompting the security forces to evacuate the occupants of the houses as well as neighbours to safety, the officials claimed.

Both the houses were damaged in the explosions, leading to their destruction, the officials said.

Thokar, a resident of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, is one of the key accused in Tuesday's Pahalgam massacre, while Sheikh, a resident of Tral in Pulwama district, is suspected to be involved in the conspiracy of the attack.

The family members of both men have claimed that they are not aware of the whereabouts of Thokar and Sheikh.

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

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

Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were killed and several injured when terrorists opened fire at a meadow near the popular tourist town of Pahalgam in Anantnag district on Tuesday afternoon.

'Constitutionally Valid'

community by leaving matters of faith and worship untouched, while legitimately regulating the secular, administrative facets of waqf management as authorised by the Constitution," the affidavit said.

The reforms are directed solely at the secular and administrative aspects of waqf institutions, such as property management, record-keeping, and governance structures, without impinging upon any essential religious practices or tenets of the Islamic faith, it added.

In a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit, the Centre urged the top court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, pointing out a "mischievous false narrative" surrounding certain provisions.

"While this court would examine these challenges when the cases are heard, a blanket stay (or a partial stay) without being aware of the adverse consequences of such an order in a generality of cases (even on members of the Muslim community itself) were the petitions to be unsuccessful, would be uncalled for, especially in the context of the presumption of validity of such laws," it argued.

The Centre, as a result, urged a bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, set to hear pleas for passing interim directions on May 5, not to stay the law's provisions.

The government claimed a "shocking

increase" of 116 per cent in the waqf properties since 2013.

It also opposed the arguments over the necessary registration of "waqf by user" properties till April 8, saying if the provision was interfered with by an interim order, it would amount to "creation of legislative regime by judicial order".

The affidavit rebutted the submissions that Muslims might be in the minority in the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards due to the change in the law.

The law is a "valid and lawful exercise of legislative power", one that strengthens the institution of waqf and aligns it with constitutional principles, and facilitates the wholesome realisation of waqfs in the contemporary era, it argued.

The Centre contended it was a settled position in the law that constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision, either directly or indirectly, and decided the matter finally.

"There is a presumption of constitutionality that applies to laws made by Parliament," it said.

The affidavit added, "Considering the settled constitutional principles of presumption of constitutionality, intrinsic value behind democratic processes and high threshold to be met before passing any interim orders, it would be in the fitness of things to decline any interim orders as was done in the original petitions."

Referring to the "reported misuse" of waqf provisions to encroach private and government properties, the affidavit said right before even Mughal era, pre-independence era and post-independence era, the total of waqfs created was 18,29,163.896 acre of land.

"Shockingly after 2013, the addition of waqf land is 20,92,072.536 acres," it said.

On the amendment relating to "waqf by user", the Centre said it was "too late in the day for anyone to argue" that though it claims to be a "genuine waqf" it still wasn't registered.

"If the effect of the section saving only registered 'waqf by user' is interfered with either directly or indirectly by any interim order, it will not only defeat the object and provision itself, it will result in the following anomalies which the order of any court cannot lead to -- creation of legislative regime by judicial order (and that too an interim order) wherein Parliament has by law, consciously taken it away," it said.

Countering the claims that Muslims would be in minority due to inclusion of non-Muslims in waqf bodies, the Centre said only four non-Muslims of the total 22 could be part of the Central Waqf Council.

"In waqf boards of each state, there is a possibility of maximum three members who can be non-Muslims (if the ex-officio member happens to be a non-Muslim) out of 11 members," it said.

The Centre said when the legislature has enacted a law, presumed to be constitutional, replacing it would be "impermissible".

"Any order in the nature of one sought by the petitioners, would amount to a stay of the amendment act, validly passed by Parliament at an interim state, which is an exercise impermissible within the confines of judicial review envisaged under the Constitution," it said.

By removing major legal issues, the Centre argued, the Act reaffirmed the identification, classification and regulation of waqf property by subjecting it to legal standards and judicial oversight.

The law ensures no person is denied access to courts, and the decisions affecting property rights, religious freedom, and public charity are made within the bounds of fairness and legality, it added.

"Through these changes, the Amendment Act brings judicial accountability, transparency, and fairness," the affidavit said.

The government also denied the argument that the law violated fundamental rights, and said it respected the essential religious practices of the Muslim community by leaving matters of faith and worship untouched, while legitimately regulating the secular, administrative facets of waqf management as authorised by the Constitution.

'Angels Sent By

also when I was leaving from Srinagar. I thanked him, and I told him that because of his presence, I did not feel lonely. He cried, saying that he is sad for my loss. They were like angels sent by God."

Nazakat Ahmed Shah, a cousin of Shah, was also at the venue of the massacre and was instrumental in saving the lives of 11

tourists, including three children.

The 28-year-old had taken four couples and three children to Baisaran on the last leg of their Kashmir trip. Just before the group was about to leave the location, the sound of gunfire alerted Nazakat who fell to the ground with two of the children.

"My first concern was the safety of the tourist families. I took Lucky's kid and another child and lay down on the ground. The area was fenced so it was not easy to escape. I noticed a small opening and asked the families to move out through that opening. They asked me to save the children first. I slipped through it with the two kids, and ran towards Pahalgam town," Nazakat said.

After depositing the children in a safe place, he returned to the spot and escorted the others out safely. "Thanks to Allah, I took all our 11 guests safely to Pahalgam," he said.

The story of Nazakat's selfless act came out when Arvind Agrawal, one of the tourists, posted pictures of him and his daughter with Shah on his social media handle, "You saved our lives by risking your own, we will never be able to repay the debt of Nazakat Bhai," he wrote.

Kuldeep Sthapak, another tourist, wrote on social media: "Nazakat bhai, you not only saved my life that day, you kept humanity alive. I will never forget you for the rest of my life." An indelible face of compassion above all else was tourist guide Sajad Ahmad Bhat. Videos of him scurrying down the mountainside with a child on his back were circulated widely and many wanted to know who this brave, helpful man was.

"Humanity above all... this is the murder of humanity," Bhat told PTI Videos. When he reached the meadow, many were crying for help.

"We carried the injured on our ponies and took them to the Pahalgam hospital. We took at least 18-20 injured on ponies. There were two-three other men who carried people on their back. I carried a child on my back, offered water, took him to the hospital," the shawl vendor and guide said.

Terming the attack a blot on humanity, he said all of Kashmir is in mourning.

"They should have instead killed us, it should not have happened to them (the tourists). We want to tell all Indians that we stand with them... We are all Indians."

Then there were those who were saved by cautious locals.

A five-member family from Buldhana district in Maharashtra vacationing in Pahalgam was about to step out for local sightseeing on the fateful day, unaware of the terror attack, but was stopped by the owner and staff of their hotel from going out in view of the tense situation.

Another couple from Maharashtra was helped by locals in quickly moving away from the site and reaching their hotel safely.

Sakshi and Krishna Lolge, from Nanded in Maharashtra, were at the Baisaran meadow some 15 minutes before the gunmen burst into the meadow.

"We heard the sound of firing after we moved a little away from the place," Sakshi said "If there was no support from local people, who helped us to move away fast, we would have not been able to make this video. The local people helped the tourists a lot," she said in a video shot from her hotel.

Her husband Krishna said their pony ride operators quickly rushed them down the hill.

"Our tour coordinators were in constant touch with us. The local people took us to our hotel immediately. We came to know at the hotel that the terror attack had taken place. We saw a large number of security personnel moving towards the attack location," he added.

Aspirants To File

social media complaints have allegedly gone unanswered.

The source emphasized the distress faced by many repeaters who had their final JEE attempt this year impacted by these alleged errors. The petition will seek a recalculation of the JEE Main 2025 scores.

Drawing parallels with a past revision of Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) scores following a Delhi High Court order due to identified discrepancies, the petitioners are hopeful for a similar outcome in their case.

JEE Main 2025 Session 2 for engineering aspirants was held on April 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8, while the architecture and planning papers were conducted on April 9. Session 1 took place from January 22 to 30, 2025.

Meet The Braveheart Who Rescued Tourists In Pahalgam On His ATV

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amidst chaos and panic after the tragic Pahalgam attack, Aadil Ahmad, a local youth, emerged as a hero by rescuing stranded tourists using his All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV).

When gunfire erupted and tourists began fleeing in panic, conventional vehicles couldn't reach the hilly area. Aadil immediately sprang into action, navigating the treacherous terrain on his ATV to rescue families, especially women and children.

"He didn't wait for anyone to tell him what to do. He just saw people in need and took charge," an eyewitness said.

Aadil said he acted on instinct. "These tourists come here to enjoy the beauty of

Kashmir. It is our duty as locals to protect them and show them that this land is not for innocent killings but for love and humanity."

He transported people to nearby motorable roads, where ambulances could pick them up. Despite the cost of his ATV—Rs 8 lakh—he prioritized saving lives over any loss.

"The people of Pahalgam are grieving. There are families who haven't eaten for two days. This is not just the killing of one person; it is the killing of humanity," Aadil said, describing the incident as "a murder of Kashmir and humanity."

He urged the government to take measures that reassure both tourists and locals, and to work toward reviving tourism in the region.

How Ponywalas Association President Led Rescue Mission Amid Pahalgam Horror

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Waheed Ahmad, President of the Ponywalas Association in Pahalgam, played a critical role in the emergency response during the recent Baisran tragedy.

Receiving a police call at 2:35 pm, Waheed took a shortcut and arrived at the scene ahead of security forces. "I was the first to enter Baisran Park, coming from Pahalgam to rescue people, and there was chaos everywhere," he recalled.

Waheed immediately mobilized fellow pony handlers, calling them to action. Within minutes, dozens of ponywalas arrived with their ponies, navigating the tough terrain to reach the injured.

"There were dozens of women screaming and pleading for help to save their husbands, and as I started reaching them one by one, I found that many had already died," he said.

Despite the emotional toll, Waheed and his team provided water and comfort to the injured until further help arrived. Together, they transported at least 13 critically injured tourists to medical facilities.

With nearly 300 tourists in the area at the time, the ponywalas also guided many to safety. Locals and officials alike praised their courage and swift response.

"In such moments, we cannot wait for instructions—we must act. I'm proud of my fellow ponywalas who didn't hesitate to help," Waheed said.

Pahalgam Residents Protest Innocent Killings, Vow to Protect Tourists

Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: After Friday prayers, residents of Pahalgam staged a peaceful protest condemning the recent killings in the region. Starting from Jamia Masjid Pahalgam, the demonstrators marched through the streets, demanding justice and an end to the bloodshed.

Holding placards and chanting slogans, they expressed their collective grief and anger. "Everyone in Pahalgam is grieving; we witnessed the sight of dead bodies lying on the ground while the injured cried out for help," one protester said.

The protesters condemned the perpetrators as "beasts," citing Islamic teachings that

equate the murder of one innocent person to the murder of all humanity.

They extended a heartfelt invitation to tourists from across the globe. "Come to Pahalgam without fear—we will take fire on our own chests to protect you," a protester declared.

Residents also highlighted the economic blow caused by the violence. Many were relying on the tourist season to provide for their families and ensure education for their children.

They demanded a thorough probe into the attack and urged the authorities to bring the culprits to justice. "We stand united in the face of terror and will continue to welcome our guests with open hearts," said another resident.

GMC Jammu Withdraws Circular On Cross-Border Tension Alert

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Hours after instructing staff to remain alert and prepared due to "cross-border tension," authorities at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu withdrew the directive on Friday.

"The circular issued by Medical Superintendent GMCH Jammu vide endorsement number GMCH/2025/812-17 dated 25-04-2025 is withdrawn ab initio with immediate effect," reads the order issued by Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean, GMC Jammu.

Earlier, the Medical Superintendent of GMCH Jammu had issued a circular: "In view of the prevailing cross-border tension in the UT of J&K, all staff members

are hereby directed to remain alert and ensure complete preparedness to meet any exigencies that may arise at any time."

The circular further directed the Store Officer and Store Keepers of GMCH to keep all essential supplies, emergency medicines, and critical equipment ready for immediate use.

"All hospital staff are advised to restrict unnecessary leave and are directed to ensure their presence within the hospital premises during duty hours to maintain uninterrupted and effective patient care," it stated, adding, "A 24x7 Control Room has been established to coordinate all emergency responses. The control room will function round the clock." (GNS)

RTI Movement Holds Candlelight Vigil For Pahalgam Victims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Activists of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement held a candlelight vigil in Chadoora town on Friday evening in memory of the victims of Pahalgam massacre. The protest led by RTI Movement Chairman Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat were raising slogans demanding justice for the families of Pahalgam massacre by conducting a high level inquiry. The activists also demanded that safety and security of Kashmiri people liv-

ing outside Kashmir, especially students, should be ensured.

"We are neither tour operators nor are we associated with any tourism trade but as common Kashmiri our heart bleeds for the Pahalgam victims but at the same time we feel very sorry that our students are thrashed and attacked in my places. An open threat call was given to throw Kashmiri students out of Dehradun by Hindu Raksha Dal. This is unacceptable and such people should be taken to task" said Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

J&K A Place Filled With Peace & Love: Deputy CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, accompanied by Cabinet Minister Javid Dar and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, met with tourists in the Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Friday, days after the tragic Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 dead and several injured on April 22.

During the interaction, the Deputy CM referred to tourists as "ambassadors of Kashmir," expressing hope that they would carry back stories of warmth and hospitality despite the tragedy. "Tourists are the ambassadors of Kashmir. They will share how they were treated and supported by the people in Kashmir after the tragic events in Pahalgam. While the killings are painful,



J&K is a place filled with peace and love," Choudhary stated.

He said their visit was directed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and that the government was determined to ensure the safety and security of all visitors. "Although maintaining law and order is a challenge, the government and the people of Kashmir are

committed to ensuring your safety," he assured.

The Deputy CM further remarked that while every society has some disruptive elements, such incidents must not define the entire community. "At this moment, we need to strengthen our nation and preserve the brotherhood for which J&K is renowned," he urged.

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

Meanwhile, tourists present appreciated the love and support shown by locals. "We have felt like home here," one of them said.

TOURISTS ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF KASHMIR. They will share how they were treated and supported by the people in Kashmir after the tragic events in Pahalgam. While the killings are painful, J&K is a place filled with peace and love,"

Tourists Praise Hospitality, Urge Others To Experience Kashmir's Beauty

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A tourist group travelling through Srinagar's Boulevard Road, primarily from Maharashtra and Mumbai, expressed deep admiration for Kashmir, calling it "heaven on earth" despite initial fears following the deadly Pahalgam attack.

Speaking to reporters, members of the group maintained that Kashmir remains the safest destination. "Kashmir is the safest place in the world," one female tourist said. Despite their alarm over the attack, their firsthand experiences of Kashmiri hospitality had calmed their fears.

"We feel safe here, and the people have been incredibly warm and welcoming. It is the safest place on earth, and we encourage everyone to visit," she asserted.

Jayesh, a tourist from Mumbai, recalled being in Gulmarg when the incident occurred. Though initially anxious, he said normalcy resumed quickly thanks to locals. "Their hospitality touched our hearts," he said.



The group praised their driver and guide, who not only navigated them safely but also enriched their understanding of the Valley's culture. "Our driver has been more than just a driver. His knowledge and warmth made our journey comfortable and worry-free," another tourist added.

Planning to stay for a week, the group intended to explore Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and other iconic destinations. They en-

couraged others not to be deterred by the recent attack.

Another woman in the group said the Pahalgam killings were tragic but insisted Kashmir remains safe. "The locals are kind and peaceful, and they are eager to share their beautiful homeland with visitors," she noted.

"The warmth and hospitality of the people far exceed the narratives portrayed in the media," she concluded.

NIA Searches Multiple Locations Across 6 States

Observer News Service

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

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

According to the spokesman, the NIA teams are examining the seized items to unravel the entire conspiracy behind the smuggling and the radicalization of individuals in Punjab,

Jammu & Kashmir, and other parts of India.

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

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



FCIK Calls for United Action to Uphold Peace, Seeks Protection for Kashmiris Nationwide

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a strong and impassioned response to the recent barbaric attack on tourists in Pahalgam, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has called for united efforts to uphold peace and safeguard Kashmir's centuries-old ethos of harmony and hospitality.

The condemnation came during a high-level interactive meeting convened by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, which brought together business leaders, civil society representatives, and top administrative and police officials. The meeting was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner Secretary I&C Vikramjit Singh, Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob, Director I&C Khalid Majeed, and other senior officials.

FCIK leaders, led by former President Shakeel Qalander, termed the Pahalgam attack a direct assault on Kashmir's identity and collective conscience. "Violence against civilians has no place in a civilized society and cannot be justified under any faith or ideology," said Qalander, expressing grief and solidarity with the families of the victims.

To counter hate and reaffirm Kashmir's commitment to peace, FCIK proposed the launch of a civil society-led "Not In Our Name" campaign, urging citizens to vocally denounce terrorism and reject the distortion of Kashmir's values.

The federation also emphasized the need for stronger security measures at tourist destinations. It recommended the deployment of permanent and mobile Quick Response Teams (QRTs) in popular areas like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg, along with high-grade CCTV surveillance at key transit points and sites.

FCIK also urged strengthening of the Tourist Protection Force and the development of a real-time tourist tracking app and a 24x7 helpline to ensure visitor safety and swift emergency response.

In a gesture aimed at healing and outreach, FCIK proposed that tourism stakeholders consider offering subsidized or complimentary travel packages to the families of the attack victims, inviting them back to Kashmir as honored guests to experience the region's enduring hospitality.

The organization further called for the launch of a "Safe Kashmir for Tourists" campaign, to be led by civil society groups, youth organizations, and local influencers, showcasing stories of harmony and human connection between Kashmiris and visitors.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KULGAM.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.No 02/2025-26/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/106-16 Dtd08-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage basis in Two Cover System from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt.CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion (Months)	Class of Contractor
1.	Development of Sheikh-ul-Alam Shrine at Qaimoh Kulgam on Heritage pattern	Adv. Cost =312.031Lacs Amount without GST=264.434 Lacs GST amount=47.597 Lacs	5500	6,24,062	18 months	A

Project Authority:- Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museum
Accord of Administrative Approval: DAMA-286 of 2024 dated 23-11-2024
Technical Sanction:- CE/R&B/SK/TS/02 of 2025-26 dated 03-04-2025
Position of Funds:-
1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-04-2025
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-04-2025 from 10.00AM
3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	15-04-2025 at 02.00 P.M in the Office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Kulgam
4. Bid submission Start Date	10-04-2025 From 02.00P.M
5. Bid Submission End Date	01-05-2025 upto 4.00P.M
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-05-2025 at 11.00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Kulgam
8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt(UnderMH-0059 PWD) in favour of (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. , Name of Division (Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam) by whom the tender advertised to be mentioned on the Treasury Receipt)(Tender inviting Authority)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall befor aperiodof 45daysbeyondbidvalidityof 120days)
3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Kulgam.(Tender receiving authority) within 21 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of Intent. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR and same shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work
7. The rates quoted in the BOQ are exclusive of GST. GST@18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
8. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same WebSite in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Kulgam.
9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
10. Decision for selection of brand by the Executive Engineer will be binding on the contractor and no cost adjustment shall be allowed in any account and no claim on this account shall be entertained
11. Any corrigendum/addendum/errata in respect of the above tender shall be made available only at our official website www.jktenders.gov.in No further press advertisement will be given. Hence, prospective bidders are advised to visit above website regularly for above purpose
12. All participation bidders must have to follow the conditions of SBD already uploaded if missed in the NIT conditions.
13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division Kulgam

DIPK-795-25
DT: 25/04/2025

Shreyas Iyer Returns To Eden To Lead Punjab's Charge Against KKR

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: The man who led them to glory just a season ago could now stand in the way of Kolkata Knight Riders' playoff qualification when the side hosts the Shreyas Iyer-led re-vamped Punjab Kings in a high-stakes IPL clash here at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

Twelve months ago, Iyer had led KKR to their first IPL title in a decade. On Saturday, he returns in opposition colours, at the helm of a rejuvenated Punjab side chasing a playoff spot.

Let go by KKR in one of the most surprising off-season moves, Iyer has found both comfort and purpose in Punjab Kings.

Reuniting with his old Delhi Capitals mentor Ricky Ponting, the duo has steadied PBKS into the top five of the table with



five wins from eight games.

The partnership has given Iyer the space to lead confidently and he has tallied 263 runs with three half-centuries

so far. However, he comes into the weekend game, carrying three single digit scores.

Saturday offers him the perfect chance to make a statement

-- much like KL Rahul did the other against his former franchise Lucknow Super Giants with a composed 57 not out.

Iyer too could have a Rahul-like moment under the Eden lights. KKR, on the other hand, are in desperate need of momentum.

With five defeats in eight matches, another stumble could tighten their already narrow path to the playoffs.

Their top-order remains unsettled, the middle-order erratic, and the spin attack ineffective on a surface they once called their fortress.

KKR's middle-order trio of Russell, Rinku and Ramandeep has failed to deliver the finishing punch this season, prompting calls for a shake-up.

The team may be forced to bring in Caribbean all-rounder Rovman Powell, whose power-

hitting and handy pace can add much-needed spark and balance.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi, one of the few bright spots in KKR's batting, might once again look to negotiate the tricky phase when the likes of Arshdeep Singh (Punjab's leading wicket-taker with 11 scalps) and Yuzvendra Chahal operate.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane too will be under the scanner, having anchored the innings well at times but struggled to shift gears and finish games.

He will be wary of Yuzvendra Chahal, who dismantled KKR in their demoralising 95 all-out collapse only last week by claiming the wickets of Rahane, Raghuvanshi, Rinku Singh, and Ramandeep Singh in a devastating spell.

Match starts: 7.30pm.

Short TAKES

Mother, Family Targeted Over Arshad Nadeem Invite: Neeraj Chopra

India's javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra said he has been bombarded with "hate and abuse" for inviting Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem to next month's NC Classic in Bengaluru, clarifying that the Olympic champion's presence was "completely out of question" in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Tokyo Olympics gold-medallist and Paris Games silver-winning star from Haryana said he was deeply hurt to see his and his family's integrity being questioned in abusive social media posts.

Chopra invited Nadeem, who defeated the Indian in Paris last year to win gold, for the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic to be held in Bengaluru on May 24.

"The invitation I extended to Arshad was from one athlete to another -- nothing more, nothing less. The aim of NC Classic was to bring the best athletes to India and for our country to be the home of world-class sporting events.

"Invites had gone out to all athletes on Monday, two days (sic) before the terrorist attacks at Pahalgam," he added.

Esports: BGMI Rising Stars To Feature Saumya Raj & Samihan Kulkarni

The BGMI Rising Stars 2025, an initiative aimed at identifying and nurturing the next generation of gaming icons in the country will feature Saumya Raj and Samihan Kulkarni among eight selected for the programme.

The announcement was made during the opening day of the BGIS Grand LAN Finals 2025 in the city, one of the grandest stages in Indian competitive gaming, where 16 of the country's best teams are battling it out for a staggering prize pool of Rs 3.2 crore. Raj and Kulkarni have also qualified for the BGIS Grand Finals.

The BGMI Rising Stars programme is more than just a talent showcase. It's a comprehensive development platform, designed for young esports athletes to grow, evolve, and establish themselves as mainstream gaming personalities.

The eight selected athletes represent not only gaming excellence but also the potential to inspire a new wave of aspiring gamers across India.

Tanush Kotian Joins PBKS As Net Bowler Ahead Of KKR Clash

Mumbai all-rounder Tanush Kotian, who went unsold in the IPL auction earlier this year, on Friday joined Punjab Kings as net bowler midway through the ongoing season.

The 26-year-old was seen bowling to PBKS batters at the nets and spending considerable time in conversation with spin-bowling coach Sunil Joshi during the team's training session on the eve of their match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

While Punjab Kings have Yuzvendra Chahal as their premier spin weapon, they also have good option in Harpreet Brar and Praveen Dubey -- both leg-spinners with similar styles.

To add variety to their preparation, especially with opponents like Kolkata Knight Riders fielding mystery spinners such as Sunil Narine and an in-form Varun Chakravathy, the addition of Kotian's orthodox off-spin brings a different dimension to their net sessions.

Kotian, who played a vital role in Mumbai's Syed Mushtaq Ali triumph this season, has been a consistent performer on the domestic circuit.

Kotian joined the team at their hotel on Thursday and wasted no time getting into the mix, providing PBKS batters with some challenging overs in the nets.

Winning FA Cup Not Enough To Restore Man City's Aura: Guardiola

Winning the FA Cup would not be enough to put Manchester City back on their pedestal after the Premier League champions fell by the wayside this season but it would be a nice way to wrap up their domestic campaign, manager Pep Guardiola said on Friday.

City fell behind title rivals Liverpool and Arsenal earlier this season having suffered nine defeats -- more losses than in their previous two campaigns combined -- while they were knocked out of the Champions League in the knockout phase playoffs.

A six-times league winner as City boss, Guardiola has not had a trophyless campaign since his first year at the club and he expects the team will get back to their best next season.

"The FA Cup win does not give you the certainty to come back to what we were. That is a title, it's a number. Obviously it would be nice to finish in that way, to take a little break before we go to the (Club) World Cup," Guardiola told reporters.

Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions Continue In Budgam Zones



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions are being conducted in full swing across Budgam, organised under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam G.H. Hassan Lone. The events, held across various zones, have witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, highlighting the district's

commitment to promoting physical education and sports among youth.

In Zone Beerwah, the Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) successfully organized a thrilling Cycling Competition from Check Post Sonapah to Hayatpora. The event was flagged off by Mohd Yaseen Jan, Incharge Activity ZPEO Beerwah, in the presence of field officials, represen-

tatives from Police Station Beerwah, and officials from the health department.

Meanwhile, Zone Budgam conducted a Cycle Race for both boys and girls in Under-14 and Under-17 categories at SIDCO Housing Colony, Ompora. The event was inaugurated by Senior PEM Shabir Ahmad and saw wide participation from schools across the zone.

Additionally, Zone B.K. Pora hosted an Inter-School Table Tennis Competition at International Delhi Public School, Gowharpora. The matches began in the Under-14 and Under-17 Girls' categories with strong participation from several schools. The event was graced by Abdul Hameed Dar, Zonal Physical Education Officer B.K. Pora, and Irfan Nazir, Activity Incharge Zone B.K. Pora, as Chief Guests. Dr. Khalid Abrar, Principal of International Delhi Public School, welcomed the participants and lauded the initiative.

YSS Ganderbal Organises Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Events



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal organised multiple Inter School Zonal Level competitions in Football, Handball and Table Tennis under its ongoing initiative.

In Zone Ganderbal, Inter School Zonal Level Football

competitions for both Boys and Girls were held in the U-17 age group.

The boys' matches were held at the Government College of Physical Education Gadoora, where 64 student players from the zone showcased their talent and determination.

Meanwhile, the girls' competition took place at BHS Shallabugh. On the second day of the tournament, the final match witnessed an exciting face-off between BHS Shallabugh and GHS Shallabugh. With sheer determination and skill, the girls of BHS Shallabugh triumphed over their counterparts with a 3-1 victory.

DYSSO Ganderbal Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal visited the girls' venue, interacted with the young athletes, and emphasized the importance of physical fitness as a core component of competitive sports. His words of encouragement served as great motivation for the participants.

Senior officials also felicitated the winners and runners-up with mementos in recognition of their outstanding performances.

Chess, Badminton, Table Tennis Tourneys Begin Across Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Anantnag witnessed a grand celebration of youth talent and sportsmanship as various zones under the Department of Youth Services and Sports conducted Inter-School Zonal Level tournaments across multiple venues.

Among all, Zone Anantnag emerged as a key hub of vibrant participation and impactful messaging through the successful conduct of Chess, Badminton, and Table Tennis tournaments for U/17 boys and girls at SRJ Khanabal.

The event began with a two-minute silence in solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam attack, followed by an Anti-Drug Pledge taken by all players and officials. Over 245 students from various schools of Zone Anantnag showcased remarkable zeal and competitive spirit,

making the tournament a grand success. Zone Shangus hosted Chess and Badminton competitions for U-14 Girls at HSS Utersoo, with 67 participants from various schools.

Zone Srigufwara conducted Chess and Badminton events for U-17 Boys and Girls at MS Vidday, where 43 students participated. Zone Achabal held a grand Inter-School Netball Tournament at HSS Dialgam for U-14 and U-17 Boys, witnessing an impressive 252 participants with GMS Tailwani as winner in 14 years Age Group and HSS Dialgam in 17 Years Age Group.

Zone Bijbehara, in collaboration with the Excise and Taxation Department South Range Anantnag, concluded a dynamic U-17 Football Tournament at DPS Anantnag in which DPS Sangam defeated BMHSS Bijbehara 3-0 in the final.

Martial Arts Inter-School Zonal Competitions Held In Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Baramulla conducted a series of Inter-School Zonal Level sports events across multiple zones of the district.

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

Zone Wagoora organised its zonal level Wushu and Taekwondo competitions for the Under-14 and Under-17 boys at HSS Kreeri, where 53 students from different schools competing.

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



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

The event was graced by the Zonal Education Officer Dangiawacha as the Chief Guest.

Apart from martial arts, focus was also laid on indoor and wellness sports. In Zone Chandanwari, an Inter-School Chess Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls was held at HSS Bijhama. Similarly, Zone Tangmarg hosted its Inter-School Chess Championship for girls at GGS Chandilora.

Barcelona & Real Madrid Meet In Copa del Rey Final With More Than A Trophy On The Line

Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona and Real Madrid meet in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday with more than just the trophy on the line for the fierce Spanish rivals.

Barcelona wants to grab the first piece of a potential treble of major titles in coach Hansi Flick's debut season. The team is on pace to conquer La Liga, and three days after the cup final it will start its two-legged Champions League semifinal against Inter Milan.

It could also be the last trophy for Carlo Ancelotti, who many Madrid watchers speculate could leave the powerhouse this summer, possibly to take over the Brazil national team.

Madrid arguably has more at stake. Out of the Champions League, the cup is its best chance to salvage the campaign with some silverware. It is also alive in La Liga, but it needs to overhaul a four-point deficit to

Barcelona with five games left -- a home stretch that includes yet another clasico.

For Barcelona, a title won at the expense of Madrid would give it a huge momentum boost for Inter's visit on Wednesday as the Catalan club pursues its first European Cup in a decade.

Barcelona dominated their other two meetings this season, beating Madrid 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final in January after winning 4-0 at Madrid in the league in October.

The third clasico of the season will be played before 70,000 fans in Seville's La Cartuja Stadium, where King Felipe VI will award the trophy to the winners.

This is the first Copa del Rey final between Spain's biggest clubs since 2014. Barcelona holds a record 31 Spanish cups. Madrid has 20, third place all time.

FILLING IN FOR LEWANDOWSKI Flick's biggest task will be



filling in for the injured Robert



Lewandowski, who picked up a

left-thigh injury last weekend.

The Poland striker is producing another stellar season with a team-high 40 goals across all competitions.

Ferran Torres is likely to start in his place. The versatile forward has emerged as Barcelona's super sub in this campaign. He has netted 17 goals overall in limited minutes, including five in the cup. Another option, however, could be playing attacking midfielder Dani Olmo as a "false nine" flanked by Lamine Yamal and Raphinha.

Barcelona will also be without starting left back Alejandro Balde. Youth player Gerard Martin is likely to take his place unless Flick wants to slot a more experienced player into that position.

MBAPPÉ'S MOMENT?

Finishing the season without a trophy would be a major disappointment after Madrid brought in superstar Kylian Mbappé last

summer.

The France striker has scored goals galore but has failed to produce big in the biggest games of the season. He was jeered when substituted late in the second of two losses to Arsenal in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Vinicius Júnior has seen his productivity in attack fade ever since he felt overlooked in the Ballon d'Or award selection earlier this season. But the Brazil forward has previously risen to the occasion in finals.

Midfielder Eduardo Camavinga injured a tendon this week and will miss the rest of the season, joining Madrid's long-term casualty list that includes defenders Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao.

Madrid's main task in defense will be keeping Yamal and Raphinha in check after both ran rampant in the previous clasicos this campaign. (AP)