





# India, France Sign Deal For 26 Rafale-Marine Jets

Press Trust Of India

India and France on Monday inked an intergovernmental agreement to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 64,000 crore for the Indian Navy. The pact provides for setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul

facilities for aircraft engines, sensors and weapons in India, according to the defence ministry. The agreement will also facilitate the transfer of technology for the integration of indigenous weapons in India, it said without elaborating. The ministry said the delivery of the aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France

and India. India is procuring the jets for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. Manufactured by French defence major Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in the maritime environment. The sealing of the mega deal

came three weeks after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement. Under the terms of reference, the delivery of the jets will have to start around five years after the signing of the contract. In July 2023, the defence ministry accorded the initial approval for the mega acquisition

following a series of deliberations and evaluation tests of the platform. Under the deal, the Indian Navy will also get associated ancillary equipment including weapon systems and spares from Dassault Aviation. The defence ministry said that the Rafale-Marine has commonality with the Rafale being operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"Its procurement will substantially enhance joint operational capability, besides optimising training and logistics for the aircraft for both Indian Navy and IAF," it said in a statement. "The induction would lead to the addition of a potent force multiplier to the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, substantially boosting the nation's air power

at sea," it said. The intergovernmental pact has been signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and France's Minister of Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu. The signed copies of the agreement, aircraft package supply protocol and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indian and French officials, the defence ministry said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K On Edge

the residences of terrorists with alleged links to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The chill of fear has extended beyond the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, gripping the livelihoods of countless individuals across Kashmir. In Srinagar, the usually bustling Dal Lake now sees fewer shikaras ferrying tourists, and the vibrant handicraft emporiums along its banks wear a deserted look. "This is our season," said a houseboat owner on Dal Lake. "These cancellations are a disaster for families like mine who depend entirely on the summer months to earn a living. How will we sustain ourselves now?" Similar sentiments echo through the deserted streets of Pahalgam and the silent hotels of other tourist spots, painting a grim picture of the economic repercussions. Tourist destinations along Kashmir's border regions, including Keran, Gurez, and Uri, have also seen a significant decline in visitor numbers. The ongoing security concerns and heightened tensions along the LoC have deterred many tourists from visiting these once-popular areas. An estimated 80-90% of hotel and travel bookings for Kashmir in the upcoming months (April-August) have been cancelled following the attack. Thousands of bookings scheduled for August alone have been called off across the valley. Major tourist destinations across Kashmir are experiencing empty taxi stands, vacant hotel rooms, and deserted restaurants. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged the fear among tourists but urged them not to leave, stating that doing so would allow the "enemies" to win. Tourism industry leaders are appealing for calm and urging tourists not to let fear overshadow the safety of key destinations. Actor Atul Kulkarni visited Kashmir and appealed to people to visit the state in large numbers as an act of defiance against terrorism.

**Security Not** no value for the 26 lives lost and go to the Centre demanding statehood now?" he asked. Some legislators had earlier urged that statehood be restored as a means to strengthen the fight against terrorism. Responding to them, Abdullah said the National Conference (NC) had raised the demand for statehood restoration earlier and would continue to do so through appropriate channels, but not by exploiting a tragedy. "This time there will be no politics on anything, including statehood and business rules, except the condemnation of terror and solidarity with the families," he said. "Curse be on me if I go to the Centre and push for statehood at this moment." Abdullah also announced a dedicated helpline for students and other residents of Jammu and Kashmir studying or working outside the Union Territory. "The students faced some problems outside the UT after the terror attack. Nobody can deny that. I am thankful to the state governments which acted promptly to normalize the situation," he said. He praised his cabinet colleagues—Surinder Choudhary, Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Satish Sharma, and Javed Ahmad Dar—for rushing to different states on short notice to meet officials and ensure the safety of students and businessmen. The chief minister said the helpline would allow students and businessmen to register concerns for timely government intervention, although he hoped such situations would not arise again. Abdullah also issued a stern warning against the spread of misinformation on social media in the aftermath of the attack. "While 90 percent of people are upholding the truth, there are 10 percent trying to spread falsehood. I warn them to desist immediately as we will not tolerate the spread of falsehood," he said. Earlier, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami and independent legislators Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Sheikh Khurshid, and Shabir Ahmad Kullay had called for the immediate restoration of statehood. Tarigami stressed that empowering the people through statehood was critical to fighting terrorism effectively. He also criticized the demolition of houses linked to suspected

militants, citing Supreme Court judgments against collective punishment. Khurshid, representing Kupwara district, demanded an inquiry into the killing of a social activist by terrorists and called for adequate compensation to his family. He also raised concerns over a recent encounter in Bandipora, where family members alleged a "fake encounter." Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party legislator Mehraj Malik called for decisive action against Pakistan, even advocating for war to permanently end cross-border terrorism. Malik also criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for campaigning in Bihar instead of visiting Pahalgam to express solidarity with the victims' families. **J&K Assembly** silence to pay homage to the 26 people killed in the attack last week. "The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development, and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens, and to resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir," the resolution stated. Concluding a discussion on the resolution, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the tourism portfolio, condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and admitted that he failed in his responsibility of ensuring a safe return for tourists. "As the chief minister and tourism minister of Jammu and Kashmir, I had invited these people here. It was my responsibility to ensure they were sent back safely to their homes. I could not send them back," he said. Abdullah further said he had no words to apologise to them. "What could I have told a child whose father was stained with blood wounds, or to the woman who was just married? They were seeking answers as to what their mistake was, as they had come for the first time to enjoy holidays in Kashmir," he said. Underlining the impact of the ghastly attack on the entire country, he said, "From north to south and from east to west... from Arunachal to Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala... the entire country has been affected by this attack." Abdullah said the attack on civilians in Pahalgam took place after a gap of 21 years. "We thought such attacks were a story of the past. Unfortunately, this (Pahalgam) attack has recreated a situation we hoped had been left behind. We never know when another such attack might take place. I do not have the words to seek forgiveness from the families who lost their dear ones," he said. The chief minister, however, noted that even in the face of this inhuman and dastardly attack, a new ray of hope has emerged from Kashmir. "For the first time in many years, I witnessed protests that were truly unified. No political party or leader orchestrated them, and no organised banners or candlelight marches were planned. The outrage and grief were spontaneous, coming straight from the hearts of the people. Every mosque observed silence," he said. Abdullah also emphasised that this change must be encouraged and strengthened. "We must boost and nurture this spirit of unity, compassion, and resilience that has emerged from among the people themselves," he added. Addressing the Assembly earlier while moving the resolution, Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary said, "This House expresses its profound shock and anguish at the barbaric and inhuman attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025." He reiterated the House's unequivocal condemnation of the heinous and cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. Quoting the resolution, Choudhary said, "Such acts of terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values enshrined in our Constitution, and the spirit of unity, peace, and harmony that have long characterized Jammu and Kashmir and our nation." This House stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families, the document stated. "We extend our deepest condolences to those who have suffered irreparable loss and affirm our collective resolve to share their grief and support them in their hour of need." It mentioned the supreme

sacrifice of pony ride operator Syed Adil Hussain Shah who laid down his life while trying to save the tourists from the terrorist attack. "His courage and selflessness embody the true spirit of Kashmir and shall serve as an enduring inspiration for future generations." "This House commends the people of Kashmir and Jammu for their extraordinary display of unity, compassion, and resilience in the aftermath of the attack. "The peaceful demonstrations across towns and villages, and the spontaneous outpouring of moral and material support towards tourists, reaffirm people's steadfast commitment to peace, communal harmony, and the rule of law," the resolution stated. It also mentioned the Assembly's endorsement of diplomatic measures announced by the Centre following a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security a day after the tragedy. "This House is mindful of the sinister design behind the selective targeting of the victims of this attack. It appeals to all sections of society, and in particular the media, to not fall victim to this sinister plot by irresponsibly inflaming passions. The need to remain united in the face of this attempted division cannot be overemphasised," the resolution said. It appealed to all states and Union territories to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of Kashmiri students and citizens residing or travelling there, and to take all necessary measures to prevent their harassment, discrimination or intimidation. "This House calls upon all political parties, religious and community leaders, youth organizations, civil society groups, and media houses across the nation to maintain calm, reject violence and divisive rhetoric, and work collectively to uphold peace, unity, and constitutional values," the resolution stated. Speaking on the issue, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather emphasized the urgent need for all members of the House to collaborate in creating a safe and conducive atmosphere for tourists. He called upon everyone to unite in honouring the families who have lost their loved ones, ensuring their sacrifices are not in vain. He stressed the importance of unity in emerging stronger together. "I urge all members of this esteemed House to rise and observe two minutes of silence as a mark of respect for the victims and to show solidarity with the affected families," he said. Speaker Rather vehemently condemned this act and expressed deep condolences to the victims' families, pledging commitment to fostering communal harmony. "We urge the government to take immediate measures to enhance the safety and security of tourists, residents, and students from outside the region. All members should collaborate diligently towards achieving this goal," Rather said. Speaking in the House, leader of the Congress Legislative Party, G A Mir, also condemned the attack in the strongest terms, denouncing it as inhumane and barbaric. He highlighted nationwide protests against this cowardly act, emphasizing Congress's unwavering support for government efforts to restore peace and ensure the safety of the nation. "Congress stands united in supporting the government's initiatives aimed at safeguarding the country and restoring peace and normalcy. We have passed a resolution reaffirming our full backing for any necessary security measures," he said. Later, Speaker Rather adjourned the House sine die.

**‘Indian Attack** the government on the possibility of an Indian attack. He did not go into further details on his reasons for thinking an incursion was imminent. He said Pakistan was on high alert and that it would only use its arsenal of nuclear weapons if "there is a direct threat to our existence". The attack sparked a huge manhunt for the terrorists and India has identified two of them as Pakistani. Islamabad has denied any role and called for a neutral investigation. Since the attack, India has downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, announced the closure of the mainland border crossing and withdrawn visas for Pakistan nationals.

Mirroring New Delhi's steps, Islamabad ordered the expulsion of Indian diplomats and military advisers, cancelled visas for Indian nationals and barred its airspace to Indian airplanes. Earlier today, the Indian government banned more than a dozen Pakistani YouTube channels over their "provocative" content. The banned platforms include the YouTube channels of Pakistani news outlets Dawn, Samaa TV, ARY News, Bol News, Raftar, Geo News and Suno News. **Pakistani Wives** youngest daughter here. She is little, how can I leave her here!" Rafiq told PTI. "How can I leave my husband here. I have built a house here. We came here because of the government's policy ... What have we done? What is our fault in this? We have election card, Aadhar card. I have voted in elections," she said. With tears rolling down her cheeks, Rafiq appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to let them live in Kashmir -- her home for the last 12 years. "I appeal to the Governor sahib, please do not be cruel to us. We have not committed any sin. Please let us live here. If not, then kill us and send our bodies across the border," she said. Zahida Begum, another such Pakistani woman, said she wants to live in peace, in Kashmir. "Police have asked me to leave. I do not want to go back. I have two daughters, Maryam and Aamna. My son, Faizan, is 10 and they are telling me to keep him here. I do not want to go back, please forgive me. I want to live here," she said. Begum showed up her domicile certificate, Aadhar, election card, and ration card, which she said were issued by the government. "It will ruin the lives of my children. I have been living here for 15 years, I have lived a good life and I want to live in peace. Even my children do not want to go back," she said. Most of these women had married former Kashmiri militants who had crossed over to Pakistan or Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) for arms training during the height of militancy in the 1990s and early 2000s. Over the years, many militants grew disillusioned with violence and sought to return home under a 2010 rehabilitation policy announced by the Omar Abdullah-led government. The policy aimed to offer a peaceful reintegration to militants who had renounced militancy and wanted to live a normal life. However, it did not officially include a provision for the Pakistani wives they brought back with them. Despite this gap, hundreds of families -- mostly through the Nepal route -- returned, believing they would be allowed to stay and rebuild their lives in Kashmir. Initially, these women faced social and bureaucratic challenges but gradually integrated into local communities. They raised families, sent their children to schools, and contributed quietly to local economies. Some even acquired basic documentation like Aadhar cards, voter IDs, and ration cards, further strengthening their ties to the region. However, legal ambiguities about their citizenship status remained unresolved for years. Now, facing the threat of deportation, the women say they feel trapped between two worlds -- rejected by the country of their origin and denied acceptance in the place they now call home. Several of them emphasize they have no future or social support back in Pakistan, where returning families are often viewed with suspicion or hostility. "We have no home there anymore," one woman said. "Our home is here -- in Kashmir."

**The Silent Chase** out. Then nothing but silence. Again near the Tral ridge. Again around Kokernag. And the chase kept turning cold. Part of the problem, sources said, is how careful the terrorists have been. Normally, men on the run need supplies -- food, water, help -- and that's when they get spotted in villages. But this group is different. One night, they raided a house for food and slipped away before anyone could even react. By the time word got to the patrol teams, the Pahalgam

attackers were already gone. No trail. No witnesses. The geography isn't helping either. Kishtwar range, which should have been buried under snow, is open this year. Without the snow, it's just another way out -- a hidden route south toward the thicker jungles of Jammu. It's a harder place to track and a softer target for infiltrators. "There's a front door to Kashmir, and there's a back door through Jammu," another officer said. "And that back door isn't locked as tight." For now, the forces are betting that pressure will break the attackers. That one mistake -- one call, one careless move -- will give them away. Two stolen mobile phones from the tourists they killed might be the key. Intelligence agencies are watching closely for any signal, any cross-border message. But until that slip happens, the forests of South Kashmir are still hiding the men who tore apart a peaceful meadow just days ago. And the hunt goes on. **India Blocks** "On the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of India has banned Pakistani YouTube channels for disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies in the backdrop of the tragic Pahalgam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir," officials said. In a missive to BBC India head Jackie Martin, the MEA conveyed the country's strong sentiments over the reporting on the Pahalgam terror attack. It objected to the description of terrorists as "militants" in its reporting on the Pahalgam tragedy. In one news flash, the BBC said, "Pakistan suspends visas for Indians after deadly Kashmir attack on tourists". This was flagged by the government as objectionable. "A formal letter has been sent to the BBC on terming terrorists as militants. The External Publicity Division of the MEA will be monitoring the reporting of the BBC," an official added. The government has also blocked a message doing the rounds on WhatsApp terming it as "misleading". The message talked about the contribution of one rupee every day for "modernisation of the Indian Army and for soldiers who are injured or martyred in the war zone".

**What's The Use** in the scheme. The secretary on Monday said a draft scheme was prepared but a roadblock was hit as the General Insurance Council (GIC) raised objections. "The GIC has not been cooperative. It has contended that it should be permitted to check the status of insurance policy of motor vehicle involved in an accident," the secretary said. The top court also recorded the submission that the scheme for golden hour will be brought into force within a week from Monday. The bench then directed for the notified scheme to be placed on record by May 9 and posted the matter on May 13. On January 8, the top court directed the Centre to formulate the scheme for the cashless medical treatment of motor accident victims in the golden hour period mandated under the law. The bench referred to Section 162(2) of the Act, and ordered the government to provide by March 14 the scheme which could save numerous lives with prompt medical care to accident victims. It underscored the importance of providing immediate medical care during the critical period and said delays caused by financial concerns or procedural hurdles often cost lives. The top court also underlined the statutory obligation on the Centre to frame the scheme as it "sought to uphold and protect the right to life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution". The law, therefore, provides the insurance companies carrying on general insurance business in India to provide for the treatment of road accident victims, including during golden hour in accordance with the scheme made under the MV Act, it said. Despite the provision being in force since April 1, 2022, the government was yet to implement the scheme, prompting the court's intervention. The Centre had submitted a draft

concept note outlining the proposed scheme, which included a maximum treatment cost of Rs 1.5 lakh and coverage for seven days. However, these limitations were criticised by the petitioner's counsel who argued they fell short of addressing the need for comprehensive care. It also came on record that the GIC was tasked with administering hit-and-run compensation claims and developing a portal to streamline the process. The portal is meant for uploading the required documents, inform states of deficiencies, and reduce delays in processing claims. The top court had noted 921 claims under the hit-and-run compensation scheme remained pending as of July 31, 2024, due to document deficiencies, and asked the GIC to coordinate with claimants and address the issue. **Rajnath Singh Briefs** and justice will be done," Modi said in his 'Mann ki Baat' address. "The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response," he said. Pakistan has put its military on high alert following India's assertion that it will hunt down the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam strike. The Pakistani military has resorted to unprovoked firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in the last four days and Indian troops responded to them effectively. After the terror attack, India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan on Wednesday, including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties. In response, Pakistan on Thursday shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water would be seen as an "act of war".

**Up To 7 Yrs Jail** details refer to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. General public may contact Range Officer Lakes,Wetlands Division, Kashmir Hokersar, Zainakote, Srinagar, 190012 on Mobile No. 9906614750, 9906565121.

<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>It is informed to general public that my name is wrongly entered in my Domicile Certificate from Mohd AAlim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy instead of Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy. Now, I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody has any objection may contact concerned authorities within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.</p> <p>Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy R/o Kadalabal Pampore</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>It is hereby informed to the general public that my name has been incorrectly entered in my Passport No. S1173828 as Mohd Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy instead of the correct name Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy. I am now applying for its correction. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, they may contact the concerned authorities within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained thereafter.</p> <p>Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy R/o Kadalabal Pampore</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>It is informed to general public that my name is wrongly entered in my DOB from Mohd Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy instead of Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy. Now, I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody has any objection may contact concerned authorities within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.</p> <p>Mohammad Aalim Bandy S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Bandy R/o Kadalabal Pampore</p>



# IPL 2025: DC Eye Improved Batting Show Against Struggling KKR

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Capitals would aim for an improved batting effort in the middle overs when they face a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders in their Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

DC have suffered two defeats in their last four matches, including a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, and will look to avoid any hiccups at the business end of the tournament.

Abhishek Porel has batted with plenty of aggressive intent at the top of the order but veteran Faf du Plessis will quickly need to get used to the slow nature of surface at Kotla after struggling in his comeback game.

KL Rahul has been DC's leading run-getter this season but



could not accelerate against the spinners on Sunday night. He would back himself to take on the likes of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy.

With quality spinners in

their ranks, KKR could pose a stiff challenge for the home. The Ajinkya Rahane led-side is slightly low on confidence after a tough outing against Punjab Kings in a rain-hit match.

A solid innings is expected from Karun Nair to ensure Rahul isn't left to shoulder the burden alone in the middle-order.

In the bowling department, DC skipper Axar Patel led from the front with two wickets but found little support from others. Star pacer Mitchell Starc, who went wicketless against RCB, will look to exploit the weaknesses in his former team, while Kuldeep Yadav, with his deceptive googlies, remains a threat in the middle overs.

DC's fielding has also left much to be desired against RCB, with Porel dropping a crucial catch of Krunal Pandya on Sunday night.

KKR, meanwhile, have managed just seven points so far and are placed seventh in the standings, having failed to collect any points from their last

three matches, including two losses and a no-result.

Rahane will be desperate to arrest the slide and keep their playoff hopes alive, with another defeat making the task tougher.

Issues have cropped up across departments for KKR.

Their batting lacks a settled look, with Quinton de Kock and Rahmanullah Gurbaz being rotated in the opening slot alongside Narine, while the side has relied heavily on Rahane and youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi to score runs.

Bowling has been another area of concern, with KKR failing to break opening stands, allowing teams to post big totals — as seen in the last game where PBKS added 120 for the opening wicket.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

## Short TAKES

### Vaibhav Suryavanshi, 14, Smashes 35-Ball Hundred, Breaks World Record

Vaibhav Suryavanshi, 14 scripted history on Monday, by hitting the second-fastest century in the history of the IPL.

The Rajasthan Royals batter from Bihar reached his hundred in just 35 balls, leading Rajasthan's chase of 210 against Gujarat Titans at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Vaibhav also set a world record for being the youngest male cricketer to score a century in T20 cricket (as per available data). He broke the record previously held by former Maharashtra batter Vijay Hari Zol, who had become the youngest to score a T20 hundred in 2013 at the age of 18.

After getting to his fifty in 17 balls, Vaibhav needed another 18 balls to complete a historic hundred.

The fastest IPL hundred came in 30 balls, when Chris Gayle (RCB) scored against PWI in 2013.

### Shoaib Akhtar, Basit Ali's YouTube Channels Banned In India

Former Pakistan cricketers Shoaib Akhtar and Basit Ali's YouTube channels have been blocked in India following "an order from the government related to national security or public order" in the wake of Pahal-gam terror attack.

The Indian government has withheld several Pakistani channels after the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

The move follows recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs in which it said that the Pakistani YouTube channels were "disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies".

Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shirazi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News and Razi Naama are the other Pakistani channels banned in India.

Following the order, the channels have been withheld by YouTube.

### AIFF Want Churchill Brothers To Return I-League Trophy

After disobeying the order of the Court of Arbitration and handing out the I-League trophy to Churchill Brothers FC at a private function in Goa, on Sunday, the AIFF now want to do a U-Turn.

Hours after CAS stayed AIFF's decision to declare Churchill Brothers as I-League champions and barred the Indian football federation from conducting any formal felicitation ceremony, the national federation awarded the winners trophy to the Goan club, a development which may invite action from the international body.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan presented the trophy to Churchill Brothers and claimed that they learnt about the CAS order only after the ceremony was conducted.

CAS order came on an application filed by Inter Kashi. Elizabeth Steiner, the Deputy President of the Appeals Arbitration Division of the CAS, had barred AIFF from conducting any medal ceremony till the case is decided.

### IPL Hoping To Expand To 94-Game Season, Says Chairman

There were plans to expand to 84 matches by 2025 in the Indian Premier League, but they were delayed because of a tight schedule and broadcasters not wanting too many double-headers. However, expansion is still being considered for the future.

The IPL has a fixed slot in the Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the next two years, running from mid-March to the end of May. IPL chairman Arun Dharmal said that the BCCI will seriously think about expanding the tournament to a full home-and-away format with 94 matches for the next media-rights cycle, which starts in 2028.

"Definitely, that might be an opportunity," Dharmal told ESPNcricinfo.

"We've been discussing in ICC, we've been discussing in-house in BCCI. Given how the interest of the fan is changing with regard to bilateral and ICC events, in regard to franchise cricket and T20 cricket, we'll have to talk more seriously about it and see how we can create maximum value for the stakeholders of the game," he added.

## Inter-School Zonal Sports Events Continue Across Budgam



**BUDGAM:** Inter-School Zonal Level competitions are in full swing across Budgam district, under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam G.H. Hassan Lone.

At Hardpanzoo, an Inter-School Zonal Level Volley-

ball Tournament for Boys Under-14 kicked off on Monday. The opening ceremony, hosted at Higher Secondary School Hardpanzoo, Principal of HSS Hardpanzoo presided over the event. In his address, he encouraged the young athletes to participate with enthusiasm, sportsman-

ship, and dedication.

Meanwhile, Youth Services and Sports, Zone Magam, organised a cycling competition for boys and girls across all age groups. The event commenced from BMS Magam and concluded at the scenic Abshar Spot, Badran.

Under the supervision and guidance of ZPEO Magam G.N. Lone, the event was flagged off by the Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee Magam, accompanied by police officials from Police Station Magam.

Cyclists from various schools within Zone Magam participated. The event concluded with an award ceremony where medals and certificates were distributed among the top three position holders in each age category.

## Wushu, Taekwondo, Yoga Competitions Organised In Baramulla

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Department of Youth Services and Sports Baramulla organised Inter-School Wushu, Taekwondo and Yoga competitions across various zones including Sopore, Dangiwaicha, Singpora Kalan, and Chandoosa.

In Zone Sopore, a two-day Wushu and Taekwondo competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls commenced at Subhana Stadium Sopore. On Monday, the competitions for boys were held, with 60 students participating.

Meanwhile, Zone Dangiwaicha organized Inter-School Wushu and Taekwondo competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at the Community Hall



Dangiwaicha. Around 30 girls participated, and the position holders were felicitated with appreciation certificates.

Zone Singpora Kalan hosted Yoga competitions for both boys and girls at High School Singpora Kalan, where the participation of 150 students was recorded. The students

demonstrated various Yoga postures and techniques.

Similarly, Zone Chandoosa conducted an inter-zonal Yoga competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls, in which 97 students participated. The competition served as a platform to promote physical well-being among the young students.

## YSS Anantnag Holds Volleyball, Kabaddi & Kho-Kho Tournaments



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag, Zone Mattan, conducted Zonal Level competitions in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho for Under-17 girls at Sports Stadium Mattan on Monday.

The event began with an Anti-Drug pledge

to promote a healthy and disciplined lifestyle among students. Around 130 participants from various schools competed in these events.

Meanwhile, Zone Vailoo hosted the Under-14 and Under-17 Girls Badminton Championship at MS Bidhard, featuring 98 participants across singles and dou-

bles matches. The event concluded with trophies and certificates.

In Zone Srigufwara, the Inter-School Table Tennis Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys was organized at HSS Srigufwara, where 22 students participated. Students were encouraged to embrace sports and a drug-free lifestyle.

## Inter-School Zonal Level Football Tourney Ends In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** As part of its ongoing calendar of activities, Zone Kangan of District Ganderbal today organized an exciting Inter-School Zonal Level Football competition for Boys Under-17 years at the Zonal Office Ground, Kijpara Kangan.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 60 student players representing various schools across the zone.

After a series of thrilling matches, IRIS Kangan and SAPS Kangan advanced to the final.

In a closely contested encounter, SAPS Kangan emerged victorious, defeating IRIS Kangan. Both finalist teams were felicitated with trophies by senior officials, acknowledging their



outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

A selection panel also shortlisted the best probable players during the competition, who

will now represent Zone Kangan in the upcoming Inter-Zone District Level Football event scheduled to be held at GCOPE Gadoora.

## Champions League Semifinals: Barcelona Take On Inter, Arsenal Host PSG

Agencies

**LONDON:** The free-flowing attack of Barcelona comes up against the rugged, smothering defense of Inter Milan in the Champions League semifinals.

Ring any bells?

Go back to 2010 — when Lamine Yamal was not even 3 years old and Lionel Messi was close to his prime — and Camp Nou was the scene of one of the most memorable matches in Champions League history, between the same teams going head-to-head there again on Wednesday.

Protecting a 3-1 lead from the first leg, Inter — coached at the time by Jose Mourinho — delivered a defensive masterclass against Pep Guardiola's Barcelona to survive with 10 men for more than an hour and lose just 1-0 to progress to the title match.

Memories will come flooding back ahead of the rematch this week, especially with the two protagonists owning the same traits



as 15 years ago.

Barcelona is back in the Champions League semifinals for the first time since the 2018-19 season, on the back of by far the best attack in the new-look, 36-team league stage. With Yamal, Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski up front, Barca scored 28 goals in eight games — and has netted nine more goals in eliminating Benfica and Borussia Dortmund in the knockouts.

Then there's Inter, the Italian

champion, which conceded just once in eight games in the first stage and held on grimly to oust Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals.

Inter won the 2010 final, against Bayern, for a third European Cup title so its run toward the final this season has echoes of that title-winning campaign.

**ARSENAL VS. PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN**

While the Barcelona-Inter Milan

semifinal is awash with history, this one seems relatively fresh.

Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain have met just three times in the Champions League and never in the knockout stage. One of those occasions was this season, when Arsenal won 2-0 at Emirates Stadium.

And it's at home that the Gunners play on Tuesday in the first leg, hoping to reproduce the exploits that saw them beat defending champion Real Madrid in both legs in the quarterfinals.

Their opponents, however, are aiming to eliminate an English opponent for the third straight round, after seeing off Liverpool and — less impressively — Aston Villa.

With its "galacticos" — Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Messi — long gone, PSG is bidding to win a first Champions League title by going with talented up-and-coming players instead.

Arsenal is also striving to become European champion for the first time, having not reached the semis since 2009.

## Liverpool Fans Can Finally Celebrate League Title With Parade



Agencies

Liverpool will host a victory parade on the May 26 Bank Holiday after clinching their 20th top-flight title with victory over Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, the club have announced.

Fans were deprived of a public celebration the last time the Merseyside club won the Premier League in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. That success was Liverpool's first top-flight

triumph in 30 years.

Arne Slot's side secured the title on Sunday with a 5-1 thrashing of Spurs in a party atmosphere at Anfield that gave them a 15-point lead over second-placed Arsenal with four games remaining.

The 15-km parade will begin at 14:30 local time (1330 GMT) and is expected to last three to five hours.

"A Liverpool victory parade is more than football — it's a celebration of our city's

pride, passion and community spirit," Leader of Liverpool City Council, Liam Robinson, said in a statement.

"A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes in preparation for an event of this size and scale, and there has already been months of careful planning taking place as the Team Liverpool approach — which we saw work so well throughout Eurovision — comes to the fore again."

Liverpool hosted the Eurovision Song Contest in 2023.



## Pahalgam Attack Turning Point In Kashmir's Stance On Violence: Lone

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone described the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack as a historic turning point, saying it marked the beginning of the end of the "social sanctity" of violence in Kashmir.

Speaking during the Assembly's special session, Lone said never in the last 78 years had the Valley witnessed such a collective outcry against violence. Praising the families of the vic-

tics for maintaining dignity and preventing an eruption of hatred, he urged that victims' names be recorded to honor their sacrifices.

He cautioned that while this was a promising beginning, consistent efforts were needed to prevent a relapse into acceptance of violence. Lone also called for responsible media reporting to safeguard Kashmiri students and demanded that the government take guardianship of the victims' families rather than merely offering ex gratia relief.

## Kashmir Is Safe, Rebook Your Trips: Atul Kulkarni



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Bollywood actor Atul Kulkarni on Monday called on tourists across India to rebook their Kashmir trips, assuring that

the Valley remains safe and welcoming despite recent events.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Kulkarni stressed that he had come without any security entourage, simply to spread a message of hope and trust. He said that while many bookings had been cancelled, those who remained were enjoying their visits without fear.

"Kashmir is our own land, and it is absolutely safe," he affirmed, encouraging people to overcome fear and continue supporting Kashmir's tourism sector, which remains vital to the region's economy.

## Tourists Return As Pahalgam Gradually Recovers From Tragedy



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Life in Pahalgam is slowly returning to normal about a week after the devastating terror attack that claimed 26 lives. Local hoteliers and residents expressed cautious optimism as tourist activity resumed, albeit at lower volumes. Hoteliers reported fresh book-

ings and a steady trickle of visitors after several days of near-deserted streets. They emphasized that while grief lingers, the return of tourists signals resilience and defiance against forces trying to destabilize the region.

Locals urged tourists not to be deterred and reaffirmed Kashmir's enduring spirit of hospitality.

## Terrorists Who Killed Kupwara Civilian Will Face Justice: Raina

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina condemned the killing of Ghulam Rasool Magray, a civilian shot dead by gunmen in Kupwara's Kandi Khass area, describing the act as a "grave sin" against humanity.

Visiting the bereaved family, Raina assured that the perpetrators would not escape justice either in this world or the hereafter. He blamed "Pakistani terrorists" for continuing to spread bloodshed and urged the government to provide full



support to the victim's family. Raina also reiterated that Kashmir's peace must not be sabotaged by those intent on reviving violence, stating that every household in the Valley has borne the brunt of terror over the past 35 years.

## Don't Subject People To Collective Punishment: MLA Langate

Agencies

**JAMMU:** Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) legislator Sheikh Khurshed on Monday raised serious concerns over the recent civilian killing in Kupwara and the Bandipora operation, urging the government to initiate thorough investigations to uphold public trust.

Speaking during a special session of the Assembly, AIP MLA said that following the Pahalgam terror attack, a civilian, Ghulam Rasool Magray, was killed during a late-night incident in Kupwara.

He appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to order an inquiry and ensure that compensation is provided to the victim's family.

Sheikh, an MLA of Langate constituency also questioned the recent security operation in Bandipora, noting that serious concerns have been raised across social media platforms. "For the larger cause of restor-

ing faith among people, it is imperative that an impartial inquiry is conducted," he said.

He also expressed sorrow over the prevailing situation in Kashmir, noting that while the valley had united in grief after the Pahalgam attack, civilians must not be subjected to collective punishment. "This needs to be taken up seriously with the Union Government. Terrorism must be tackled firmly, but the common people should not suffer," he added.

Expressing apprehension that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood might face delays, he urged the Government of India to expedite the process. "It is high time statehood is restored. Empowering the people will reduce alienation and prevent such incidents in the future," he said, emphasizing that statehood would serve a larger purpose and bring long-term stability—(KNO)



KO IMPACT

## Police Book Two In Charar Sharief Illegal Mining Case



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Police in Budgam have filed a First Information Report (FIR) against two men for illegally mining sand in a protected forest area of Charar Sharief.

The action came after a formal complaint was lodged by the Doodh Ganga Forest Range Chadoora, alleging that Mush-taq Ahmad Bhat of Chera Khal Wataloo and Bashir Ahmad Wagay of Chowdhary Gund were involved in the illegal extraction of sand and clay in the Darwan and Chalyan areas of the Doodh Ganga Forest Range.

The accused have been reportedly using heavy machinery, including a JCB machine, to excavate the forest land for

an extended period. However, their activities intensified during the recent Pahalgam killings when law enforcement was preoccupied with maintaining public order, according to local sources.

The FIR, registered under number 26/2025 on April 28, 2025, charges the accused with theft and damage to forest property under Section 303(2) BNS and Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act of 1926.

Environmental activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who had raised concerns about this illegal activity on social media earlier, expressed gratitude for the FIR being filed. He also lauded the efforts of local forest officials, including the DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam, the Range Officer, and

the SHO of Charar Sharief.

"I am thankful to the concerned authorities for taking action. It is shameful that criminals took advantage of the national focus on the Pahalgam tragedy to loot the forest," said Dr. Bhat. "The accused must be held accountable, and their machinery—like the JCB and tipper—should be confiscated. Furthermore, the Geology and Mining Department officials involved should face penalties, and environmental compensation should be sought from them."

Dr. Bhat had highlighted this issue through social media posts and a detailed article, bringing it to the attention of higher authorities including the Chief Conservator of Forests and DFO Budgam.

**I AM THANKFUL TO THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES FOR TAKING ACTION.** It is shameful that criminals took advantage of the national focus on the Pahalgam tragedy to loot the forest,"

## PM Modi Will Respond To Pahalgam Attack: LoP Sunil Sharma

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not remain silent following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. Addressing a special session of the Assembly, Sharma emphasized that every word spoken was being closely scrutinized by the entire nation.

He accused Pakistan of at-



tempting to sustain its narrative through miscreants but lauded the people of J&K for demonstrating unity after decades, sending a strong mes-

sage that no divisive ploys would succeed. Expressing sorrow over the victims' loss, Sharma said the incident had deeply shaken humanity, particularly in a land known as "heaven on earth."

He urged legislators to safeguard this newfound unity, noting that the Centre had already initiated measures in response to the attack. Sharma suggested donating legislators' salaries to the victims' families and warned against allowing an "evil eye" to disrupt the state's cohesion.

## Declare Pahalgam Victims As Martyrs Officially: Parra to Govt

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and MLA Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rahman Parra Monday pitched for the Pahalgam victims to be accorded the status of martyrs.

Parra described the attack as not just an act of terrorism but a "communal act" specifically targeting a particular community. "This was not just a terrorist act but a communal act — a particular community was targeted. I urge the government to officially recognize the victims as martyrs," Parra said in his address.

"The 'Resolution of the People of Kashmir' — from every corner of Kashmir, the voice that perhaps for the first time in six months we are hearing in this House whenever we have convened — we fought. One thing that has united us today is, somewhere, the sacrifices of Pahalgam or the martyrdoms of Pahalgam," Parra said while speaking during the special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly convened to condemn the Pahalgam killings that claimed 26 civilian lives on April 22.

The PDP leader stressed that Kashmir was, for the first time in decades, mourning alongside the rest of India. "Whether it was Pulwama, the Mumbai attack, or Kargil — never during the 30 years of violence did Kashmiris and the rest of the country mourn together. But



today, for the first time, Kashmir is mourning alongside the entire nation," Parra said.

Citing instances of solidarity across Kashmir, he said, "Whether you heard the voice of the Mirwaiz at the Jama Masjid — he supports this resolution; whether in Lal Chowk, where Mehbooba Mufti held the first protest — she supports this resolution. Omar Sahib [Abdullah] held an all-party meeting — the aim of that was to show that we stand with the nation."

Parra also acknowledged the remarks made by BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma. "Sunil Sharma Sahib said that the response of Kashmiris is being acknowledged across the country. Every nation faces trials. A nation's mettle is not tested in victory or joy. Every nation's testing times come during crises, and perhaps for this country, Pahalgam was a great test. Today, the entire country — India — was being tested, and the patience shown by Hindus across India needs to be acknowledged," Parra said.

He praised the restraint shown by communities across the country in the face of provo-

cation. "The response of Kashmiri Muslims — they said, and because there were civilian casualties and the attack was not on armed forces but on ordinary bathing people — I would say, Sir, that perhaps a nation's real test is how it deals with a crisis. And during this crisis, the entire country behaved in a way that made us feel we were acting as a nation, trying to behave with patience so that those who carried out this attack — whose aim was to provoke riots, Hindu-Muslim tensions — could not succeed."

Parra reiterated his demand that those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack be recognized as martyrs and urged authorities to address the hardships faced by the local population. "I again request all honorable members that those who died in Pahalgam should be given the status of martyrs, and also, with regard to the hardships faced in Kashmir — as many people's homes were destroyed — that should also be acknowledged that alienation increases due to such actions. When you talk about ending terrorism, you have killed terrorists for 30 years, but every time, every year, you still have to do it again. You kill a terrorist, you do not end terrorism. The only time when there is action against terrorism is this moment when people of Kashmir have rejected terrorism," Parra said—(KNO)

## Not Balakote, Nation Wants Beyond: Dr Farooq

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday said that they are never going to accept the two-nation theory and that the nation wants an action beyond Balakot that will end Pahalgam like incidents forever.

Talking to the reporters here, Abdullah said that they regret that the neighbour doesn't understand that it has murdered humanity.

"We will never go with Pakistan in 1947. If they think that we will go with them by doing such actions then they have misunderstood. We didn't go with Pakistan by throwing the two-nation theory into the wa-



ter. We are not going to accept the two-nation theory," he said, adding that the Hindu, Muslim, Sikhs are one and will give them a befitting reply.

Also, he rejected the dialogue with Pakistan, saying that how will we reply to those who lost their family members in the attack.

The NC President further added that not Balakote as the nation this time wants a reply, which will put an end to these attacks—(KNO)

## Congress Backs Anti-Terror Measures

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Monday said they were fully supportive of the central government's anti-terror efforts in the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed over two dozen lives last week.

Mir, while addressing the special session of the Legislative Assembly called in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, condemned the attack in the strongest words and called for unity across political, regional and religious lines to defeat the divisive agenda of terrorism.

Stressing that the tragedy must not be politicised, Mir said, "Today, there is no election. We have to respond in one voice, beyond any party interest."

The Congress leader lauded the government's initial steps taken after the attack, including the convening of an all-party meeting.

He said that the Congress Party was committed to supporting all efforts aimed at restoring peace and ensuring security for citizens. "The entire country stands united with the government. There is no place for politics in this moment of grief and determination," Mir said.

However, Mir also flagged concerns regarding security lapses.

Mir also criticised the aftermath of the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, questioning the effectiveness of the steps taken post-reorganisation in curbing militancy. "Seven years have passed, but incidents continue," he said.

Mir, in his address, also appealed for the protection of Jammu and Kashmir residents

## Terrorism Has No Religion: Tarigami

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kulgam, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, on Monday said that terrorism has no religion and that Muslims in Kashmir have suffered deeply due to its violence. Speaking during a special session of the Assembly, Tarigami also criticized the government's practice of demolishing the houses of individuals whose family members have joined militant ranks.

Expressing sorrow over the recent tragic killings in Pahalgam, Tarigami said it was painful to have to reconvene the House so soon to mourn the loss of innocent lives. Describing the attack as brutal and unfortunate, the CPI(M) leader asserted that terrorists were attempting to divide people through such acts of violence.

"Many massacres have taken place, hundreds have been killed. Let me ask, which religion or sect did they belong to? A majority of them were Muslims," Tarigami said. He cited the killings of former Speaker Wali Muhammad Yatoo, political leaders, and even his own father-in-law as examples of the widespread suffering inflicted on Kashmiri Muslims.

Tarigami stressed that terrorism has no religious affiliation, pointing out that prominent Muslim clerics like Mirwaiz Farooq and Qazi Nisar were also among those killed. "The terrorists have only one aim — to spread terror. They have nothing to do with any religion," he said.



He also took a swipe at sections of the media for attempting to portray the violence through a Hindu-Muslim lens. "We need to introspect deeply to understand the gaps that led to incidents like Pahalgam," he said.

Calling for a more inclusive approach, Tarigami emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should not be alienated but rather involved in efforts to combat terrorism. He lamented that while the Assembly was discussing the issue, those directly responsible for security management were not present to answer questions.

The Kulgam MLA also highlighted the urgent need to ensure the safety of students from Jammu and Kashmir studying outside the Union Territory. "If we fail to do so, we risk allowing the terrorists to succeed in their mission," he warned.

Reacting to the recent demolition drive in Kashmir, Tarigami questioned the government's approach. "If the terror ecosystem has been dismantled, as some claim, how has it revived? There must be accountability," he said. He added that the right to shelter is a fundamental right and that families should not be punished for the actions of individual members.



# Gen Z's Trading Trap

With smartphones and social media dreams, Gen Z is rushing into the stock market, and learning painful lessons about risk, addiction, and the cost of easy money.

Samreen Hamdani

When Faizan Mir made his first trade, he felt like he had found a secret door. It was 2020, deep into the pandemic lockdown. The world outside his home in Anantnag, Kashmir, had fallen still, but inside his small room, life seemed to speed up.

On his phone screen, a few clicks sent numbers jumping, turning green. His heart raced. His mind raced faster.

He made ₹600 that day. More than what his father earned in a full shift at the orchard. It felt magical.

He didn't know it then, but that day would change everything.

Across India, Faizan was part of a quiet revolution that was only just beginning. In those lockdown months, millions of young Indians, some still teenagers, discovered trading. With free apps, viral Instagram reels, and Telegram groups promising riches, the stock market no longer looked like an old man's game.

By 2024, nearly half of all stock investors in India were under the age of 30. It's a staggering jump from just a few years ago. What was once a slow climb toward wealth had turned into a race. A race most young traders did not understand they were running uphill.

At first, the trading apps felt like video games. Bright charts. Leaderboards. Notifications that buzzed like rewards. Every small win felt like leveling up. Every loss, like a challenge to try again.

Psychiatrists now warn that



the brain does not know the difference. Dr. Parth Soni, based in Vadodara, says the highs and lows of trading trigger the same parts of the brain as gambling. "It's addictive," he says. "It makes you believe the next win is just around the corner."

But the next win rarely comes. Seven out of ten day traders lose money, according to SEBI. Nine out of ten futures and op-

tions traders lose even more. Over three years, retail traders in India lost ₹1.8 lakh crore.

You wouldn't know it by scrolling through Instagram or YouTube. Influencers flood young people's feeds with videos about escaping the 9-to-5, driving luxury cars, living in beach houses. Most make more money selling courses and memberships than they ever did trading.

It's a dream built on false hope.

Nobel laureate Robert Shiller once warned that bubbles form when people feed each other stories of easy wealth. Today, that bubble grows through hashtags and viral clips. The old scams have new packaging. "Pump and dump" schemes, where influencers hype up cheap stocks only to dump them later, cheated dozens last year alone. SEBI fined 55

groups for market manipulation in 2023.

In the background, the education gap yawns wider. Only 27 percent of adults and just 16.7 percent of teenagers in India are considered financially literate. Without knowing the basics of money—risk, patience, planning—many young people mistake gambling for strategy.

Some pay with lost savings.

Others pay with something even more precious.

In Chennai, a 21-year-old student ended his life last year after falling into debt from trading losses: ₹22 lakh borrowed from friends, apps, anyone who would lend.

In Kashmir, Faizan's story did not end so tragically, but it did leave scars.

After a few small wins, his bets grew bigger. He borrowed from cousins and friends. He joined premium Telegram groups that promised secret tips. Sometimes he would wake up in the middle of the night just to check his trades. Slowly, his balance slipped into red.

When the calls from lenders started coming, Faizan stopped answering. He pulled away from friends. He stopped showing up to classes. For a while, he barely left his room.

Today, Faizan says he is done with trading. His phone is quieter now. No notifications. No charts. No leaderboards. He is working toward his degree again, thinking about a steady job. Something real. Something that doesn't vanish with a single swipe.

"I wanted a shortcut," he says, looking down at his hands. "But there are no shortcuts. Only lessons."

Faizan learned that in trading, easy wins come with hard falls.

- Samreen Hamdani is a student of the Economics Department at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

## Hate in Hard Times

Sections of the media are deepening mistrust rather than demanding accountability after the tragic attack on tourists in Kashmir.



Musaddiq Majid Khan

The recent attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, was a moment that demanded serious questions and responsible journalism. Instead, much of the Indian media chose to spread anger and suspicion, especially against ordinary Kashmiris who had nothing to do with the violence.

The attack, which took place in what should have been one of the most secure areas, should have led to tough questions. How did the attackers move around so easily? Why did the security system fail? These were the queries that needed urgent answers.

Yet, rather than focus on these vital inquiries, many television channels and social media outlets rushed to target an entire community.

Headlines like "Kashmiri separatism raising its head again?" and "How long will Kashmiris hide terrorists among them?" were flashed across major TV channels. On social media, calls for boycotting Kashmiri students, businesses, and workers outside the Valley went viral. It did not stop at words.

In Delhi and other cities, Kashmiri students reported being harassed and called

WHEN SECTIONS OF THE MEDIA FOCUS ON DIVISION rather than truth, it becomes harder for real solutions to take root."

names. Traders from Kashmir were threatened in markets they had worked in peacefully for years.

This is not just unfair; it is dangerous. Kashmiris, who have lived through decades of violence and loss, are now being blamed for acts they neither supported nor committed. They are being made scapegoats at a time when they should be partners in finding a path to peace.

In moments like these, the true role of the media becomes clear. Journalism should speak

truth to power, not punch down at ordinary citizens. It should demand accountability from those responsible for public safety, not deepen the wounds of already suffering communities. After the Pahalgam attack, very few journalists asked the essential questions about intelligence failures or security gaps. Instead, many preferred to stoke emotions and raise their ratings.

When sections of the media focus on division rather than truth, it becomes harder for real solutions to take root. Hatred spreads faster than facts, and innocent people pay the price. True journalism does not build walls of mistrust; it builds bridges of understanding. It challenges those who must answer, and it protects those who deserve justice.

If the media genuinely cares about the unity and safety of the country, it must stop chasing anger and start chasing the truth. Only by facing uncomfortable questions can we hope to prevent future tragedies.

Blaming the innocent is easy. Holding the powerful accountable is harder. But it is the only way forward.

Writer hails from Hanjwara Bala, and can be reached at musaddiq80@gmail.com.

## Hospitality in Hard Times

After the Pahalgam attack, Kashmiris fed, sheltered, and transported stranded tourists, even as the mainland answered with threats and violence.



Mahoor Haya Shah

Being Kashmiri is carrying your heart like contraband — everywhere inspected, everywhere distrusted.

After the attack in Pahalgam, where blood spilled and screams tore through the meadow, the old narrative was revived. Every Kashmiri was blamed again. But here's what most headlines missed: even in grief, we opened our homes.

Hotels flung open their doors. Restaurants cooked extra meals. Villagers shared their meager supplies with stranded tourists. Drivers offered free rides to the airport, refusing money. Across Pahalgam and beyond, kindness became instinct, not strategy.

In Kashmir, even amid heartbreak, hospitality runs deeper than fear.

Far from these mountains, a different story unfolded. Kashmiri students were assaulted. Shopkeepers were threatened. Tenants were evicted overnight. Jobs were lost simply for having a Kashmiri surname. Social media roared with calls to "bulldoze" us, "teach us a lesson," erase us.

But here in the valley, no mobs formed. No tourists were hurt. Instead, tea was poured. Beds were made. Bread was broken together.

This isn't because we are naïve or weak. We know betrayal well. We've buried sons and salvaged dreams from

Beat the Kashmiri student in a train station. Evict the Kashmiri tenant from a rented room. Boycott the Kashmiri poet. You still won't teach us how to hate. We are made differently. Of snow and grief and relentless, unreasonable hope.

the ashes. Rage would be easy, justified even. Yet time and again, Kashmir chooses generosity over anger, welcome over resentment.

Being Kashmiri isn't about politics or religion. It's about an impossible resilience: a commitment to humanity even when humanity feels like a one-way street.

When the world shuns us, we don't return hate with hate. We offer bandages to those who mistrust us. We light stoves for those who might never defend us. We hand umbrellas to people who would rather throw stones.

It's not martyrdom. It's who we are. Generations raised under the long shadow of conflict learn this truth: if

sorrow must exist, let it end with us. Let it not pass to the next soul. Let it not become bitterness that scars every handshake, every shared meal.

There is a sickness spreading, but it is not ours. It is the sickness of cruelty worn as pride. It is forgetting that dignity cannot survive selective compassion.

Today, cruelty can trend faster than compassion. But here, among these battered hills and bullet-torn alleys, something stubborn survives. A belief that kindness is not conditional.

Beat the Kashmiri student in a train station. Evict the Kashmiri tenant from a rented room. Boycott the Kashmiri poet. You still won't teach us how to hate. We are made differently. Of snow and grief and relentless, unreasonable hope.

We know that carrying a cracked heart is harder than wielding a stone. We know that real strength is in refusing to let hate change the shape of your soul.

In Pahalgam's shadow, while violence spoke one language, Kashmiris chose another. They gave food, shelter, and safety, with no questions asked. No identity checked. No gratitude expected.

This is the Kashmir they won't show you on primetime debates. This is the Kashmir that refuses to die, no matter how many storms it weathers.

Write hails from Srinagar and can be reached out to hayashah546@gmail.com





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# Study Estimates 80% Length of India's Rivers Posing Risks from Antibiotic Pollution

Press Trust Of India

Eighty per cent of total length of India's rivers could be posing environmental and health risks due to antibiotic pollution, a study has estimated. Along with India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Pakistan are among the countries facing similar risks due to pollution from antibiotics, the research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Nexus, said. Researchers from McGill University, Canada, explained that antibiotics -- they help fight bacterial diseases -- are not completely metabolised while passing through the body, nor completely destroyed or removed by most wastewater treatment facilities. Potentially 315 million people in India could be exposed to environmental risks arising from rivers contaminated with antibiotics, according to the study, which measured amounts of 21 antibiotics at 877 locations globally. Findings highlight the need for appropriate wastewater management plans and improving current practices, the team said.



Regulations and guidelines on use of antibiotics also need to be updated, with a particular focus on high-risk substances and locations that pose the greatest risk, they said. Most high-risk areas were noted to coincide with places where antibiotics are readily available without prescription and are sometimes used preventively.

Previous studies have estimated human consumption of antibiotics to have increased by 65 per cent between 2000 and 2015. For this study, the researchers analysed the 'RiverATLAS' dataset. The global network of RiverATLAS contains 8,477,883 individual river reaches (or segments), representing about

36 million kilometres of the world's rivers. The dataset is maintained by McGill University. The team estimated that in a year, people consume around 29,200 tonnes of the 40 most used antibiotics -- about a third of the amount enters the world's rivers and 11 per cent enters oceans and lakes, after metabolism and wastewater treatment. Further, six million kilometres of rivers around the world could be exposed to antibiotic levels exceeding thresholds that protect ecosystems, with major contributions from amoxicillin, ceftriaxone, and cefixime, the authors said. Cefixime, which helps treat bronchitis among others, was found to be the substance contributing the most to pollution in rivers in India. The team also predicted high antibiotic levels in regions already affected by antibiotic resistance, including south and southeast Asia. "Annual human consumption of the 40 most used antibiotics (29,200 tonnes), 8,500 tonnes (29 per cent) are released into the river system and 3,300 tonnes (11 per cent) reach the world's oceans or inland sinks," the authors wrote.

## لائسنس کی گمشدگی

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میری لائسنس زیر نمبر JK0420120015923 کوئی شخص نے اٹھائی ہو تو براہ مہربانی نیچے دئے ہوئے پتہ پر واپس کریں۔ بصورت دیگر اس کی ذیلی کاپٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اپنا اعتراض ARTO بڑگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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فون۔ 9596241013

mcb

## سرٹیفکیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری دسویں جماعت کی Provisional / Character certificate نمبر 117005334 2024 گم ہو گئی ہے اب اس کی ڈپلی کاپٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اپنا اعتراض پرنسپل گورنمنٹ ہائسز ہائی اسکول شوگہ پورہ بڑگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

محمد احمد میر ولد بلال احمد میر ساکن جوالا پورہ بڑگام  
فون۔ 9103677066

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son was wrongly written in DOB certificate as Mohammad Jihad Rather, while his real name is Mohammad Hani Rather which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection I this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

I, Mohammad Shafi Rather,  
Father of Mohammad Hani Rather, fko  
R/o Woolina Ichgam Budgam, Tehsil and District Budgam,

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Anwar Lone, resident of Arigam, Budgam, have rented out my house at Arigam, Budgam to the Social Welfare Department. I now intend to transfer the water connection in favor of the Social Welfare Department so that they can pay the water bills themselves.

If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, he or she may file their objection in the concerned PHE Office within seven (7) days from the date of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Anwar Lone  
R/o Arigam, Budgam

fko

## OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Farooq Ahmad Chopan S/o, Mohamad Ramzan Chopan R/o Saloosa Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection, a report of Patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Saloosa of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to the Chopan caste, community having annual income of Rs. 180,000/-.

S. No	Name Of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation
01	Farooq Ahmad Chopan	P/o	51	Labour
02	Fahmeeda Bano	M/o	42	H/W
03	Ambreena Abdal	D/o	14	Student
04	Adnan Abdal	S/o	12	S
05	Aafreen Abdal	D/o	05	S

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the public; if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I mehraj Gani R/o Homehuna Shopian want to change my name from (old name) Mehraj Ahmad Bhat to (New Name) Mehraj Gani in future I will be known as Mehraj Gani If anybody has any objection they may contact passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR TANGMARG

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
TANGMARG / ASSISTANT COLLECTOR 2nd CLASS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the applicant MANZOOR AHMAD SHAH S/O GULL SHAH R/O SHIRPORA Tehsil TANAGMAR Distt. Baramulla had applied for the issuance Birth certificate of his SON namely DANISH MANZOOR SHAH The applicant intends to register the DOB of his SON as per the School record which is 04/03/2008 if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko

Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
TANGMARG

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Abdul Rasheed Bangroo to Abdul Rashid Bangroo. In future I will be known as Abdul Rashid Bangroo. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

ird

## 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 Aymen Parvaiz D/o Parvaiz Ahmad War R/o check Yahama Qalamabad with verified date of birth 18/02/2015 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.

fko

SD  
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar births and deaths (Block Development Officer) Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Ghulam Mohammad Wani S/D/W/O Ghulam Rasool Wani R/O Dargam Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (Birth) as 15-10-1959 occurred at Home.

In this connection if anybody having objections to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

Executive Magistrate 1st Class,  
Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Pattan)

## OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar births and deaths (Block Development Officer) Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Rafeeqa Begum W/O Abdul Majeed Ganaie R/O Wanigam Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (Birth ) as 15-02-1975 occurred at Home.

In this connection if anybody having objections to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

Executive Magistrate 1st Class,  
Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Pattan)

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER SALLAR (MEDICAL DIRECTOR YATRA PAHALGAM)

e-mail: bmosallar2020@gmail.com

Ph:

NIT No: MD/SANJY/2025/67-71

Dated: 28/04/2025

Subject: - Providing of Labour and cooks during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 from Zig Tunnel to Dardkoot.

## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

On behalf of the District Level Committee constituted by Chief Medical Officer Anantnag vide Order No. CMOA/Est-II/484-91 Dated: 11/04/2025, for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra – 2025 (Pahalgam Axis), District Anantnagonline tenders are invited from reputed, experienced, and registered manpower service providers for the Supply of Cooks and Labourers for deployment at various medical camps/sites during the Yatra period. The engagement shall be purely on a temporary basis and as per the terms and conditions laid down herein. The approval for the above tender has been granted by the District Level Committee, as communicated by the Chief Medical Officer Anantnag, through communication No. CMOA/Yatra/883-86 Dated 19/04/2025.

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender Fee:

S.No	Event	Date
01.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-04-2025
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-04-2025 (10:00 AM) to 05-05-2025 (04:00 PM)
03.	Bid Submission Start date	28-04-2025 (10:00 AM)
04.	Bid Submission End date	05-05-2025 (04:00 PM)
05.	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	05-05-2025 (04:15 PM)
06.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.50000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
07.	Cost of Tender Document	Rs.250 (Two Hundred Fifty Only)

Bids must be accompanied with the scanned copy of cost of Tender document in shape of Bank receipt deposited in the J&K Bank, Pahalgam (Account No:0122040500004744) IFSC Code: JAKAOPHLGAM in favour of Medical Director Yatra Pahalgam (Block Medical Officer Sallar), J&K and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Medical Director Yatra Pahalgam J&K. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on the official e-tendering portal: www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online, in the office of the Block Medical Officer, Sallar, in the presence of the District Level Committee constituted for SANJY-2025 (Pahalgam Axis). Block Medical Officer, Sallar

DIPK-908/25  
dated: 28-04-2025

(Medical Director Yatra Pahalgam)  
Block Medical Officer, Sallar  
(Medical Director Yatra Pahalgam)

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KULGAM

(Collector Land Acquisition (Assistant Commissions Revenue) Kulgam)  
email: acr.kulgam@jk.gov.in phone/ fax: (01931) 260499-60500-260980

### FORM VI Preliminary Notification

[See sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-II(l) of the Act-30/2013]

No: DCK/NLA(ACR)/2025/33 of 2025  
Dated 26/04/2025

Whereas, it appears to the appropriate Government that a total of 22 Marlas & 02 Sarsais of land is required for Construction of Three (03) number of Tower foundations at villages Redwani Bala, Akhran and Muthalhamo on 220KV (D/C) Alusteng-Mirbazar Pampore Transmission Line, at District Kulgam for public purpose.

Whereas, a committee was constituted by this office under sub rule (1) of rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules 2023 to visit the spot along with the representatives of Requiring Body to make a preliminary enquiry.

The Summary of the Preliminary enquiry report is as follows:

- That the indenting department was offered State/Government land at various locations for the proposed acquisition and have not found any suitable land and has agreed to the proposed land which serves public purpose;
- That the extent of land proposed for acquisition is the absolute bare-minimum needed for the purpose/project.
- That the acquisition of land at on alternative place has been considered and found not feasible;
- That there is no sufficient/suitable unutilised land which has been previously acquired in the area;
- That there is no State/Government/Common land available which would serve the public purpose and there is only option to acquire the proposed patch of land which also include private land;
- That there is no acquired unutilised land which may be used for such purpose;
- That the requisition is consistent to the provisions contained in section 10 or other provisions of the Act; and
- The committee is of view (hot land is absolutely required for the public purpose in order to make availability of electricity to large populace, so it may be notified and acquired for the said project.

No families are likely to be displaced due to the said land acquisition with no adverse impact and rehabilitation involved.

The said report was considered SIA report as envisaged in Chapter III Rule 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules 2023.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project, land measuring, 22 Marlas & 02 sirsais, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition.

S.No	Name of Village	Khasra No. (Survey No.)	Type of Title Private/Govt /Common	Type Land Rural/ Urban	Area under Acquisition		Trees		Structures	
					Marla	Sirsai	Variety	Number	Type	Plinth area
1	Redwani Bala	593 min	Private Land	Rural	04	03	-	-	-	-
2	Aakhran	816/684	Private Land	Rural	10	-	-	-	-	-
3	Muthalhamo	168	Private Land	Rural	02	06	-	-	-	-
		187	Shamilat	Rural	05	02	-	-	-	-

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act no. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.

A Plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector on any working day during the working hours. The Government authorizes Collector and his Revenue field staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the Act.

Under sub section (4) of section 11 of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Collector.

Place: Kulgam  
Dated: -04-2025

DIPK-889/25  
dated: 28-04-2025

Collector, Land Acquisition,  
Assistant Commissioner (Revenue),  
Kulgam.





## Floriculture Dept Launches Drive To Revive City’s ‘Lung Spaces’

Agencies

Srinagar: In a move to combat the environmental impact of urban pollution, the Department of Floriculture Kashmir has launched a major initiative to revive Srinagar's parks and gardens, often described as the city's 'lung spaces'.

Speaking about the project, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Shakeel-ul-Rehman Rather said that the department plans to plant at least 15,000 perennial trees across Srinagar.

“Over the years, pollution and environmental degradation have severely impacted the health and vitality of existing plants,” he said. “Many trees have either grown too old or lost their ability to withstand changing conditions.”

The new plantation drive will focus on perennial species that require a one-time plantation effort but provide long-term benefits. “We will plant them only once,” Rather said, highlighting the department's focus on sustainability and longevity.

The Director said that the campaign will start with Srinagar's prominent parks and gardens and is expected to be expanded to other districts in subsequent phases. Officials believe the effort will not only enhance the green cover but also help improve air quality and urban aesthetics.

He added that the department aims to enhance the green cover of urban spaces, making them more resilient to climate change and more inviting for citizens—(KNO)

## Woman Dies After Setting Herself Ablaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A lady from Hazratbal Srinagar died on Monday after setting herself ablaze at Hazratbal area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official said that a lady set herself ablaze in a room in the first floor of a three-storeyed building at Hazratbal area of Srinagar city.

He said the fire call

was reported at about 11:42 AM. The officials from Fire and Emergency Department rushed to the spot and took the lady out and shifted her to the hospital with severe burn injury.

Meanwhile, the lady later died at the hospital while police have launched the investigation in this regard.

An official also added the cause of death is being ascertained.

## LCMA Begins Process To Demolish Illegal Structures

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority has initiated the process of demolishing all illegal structures constructed in the Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony.

The Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony has been established by the government for rehabilitation of Del dwellers. As on date around 1806 plots have been allotted to such Dal dwellers, who had shifted from the lake and have been paid compensation for acquisition of their structures and land in the lake by the LCMA, a statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads.

However, it has been brought to the notice of LCMA that some notorious persons have illegally occupied some plots on the basis of fake documents or have occupied the plots without having any authorisation from the LCMA.

It has been also seen that some persons, who are actually residents of different districts of Kashmir are also residing in Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony, which as per LCMA

needs immediate attention. Accordingly, today on 28th April 2025 an anti-encroachment drive was conducted at Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony and boundary walls and plinths of two structures, being constructed at Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony, have been demolished by the enforcement wing and engineers of the LCMA.

It is being clarified to all that the Rakhe-e-Arth resettlement colony has been established for Dal dwellers and nobody other than Dal dwellers has any right to purchase the land there or use any means to stay in the colony. The LCMA warns all such individuals, who are befooling the general public and selling the plots on the basis of fake promises and fake documents, of dire consequences in future.

Anti-encroachment drives shall continue and all such plots and structures which have been raised on the basis of fake documents or without any valid authorisation will be raised to Ground. The LCMA has collected all the information and the process of cleaning has been set into motion.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.Applicatin of Rubeena Begum w/o Bilal Ahmad Nazroo R/o Aram Mohalla Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate ...

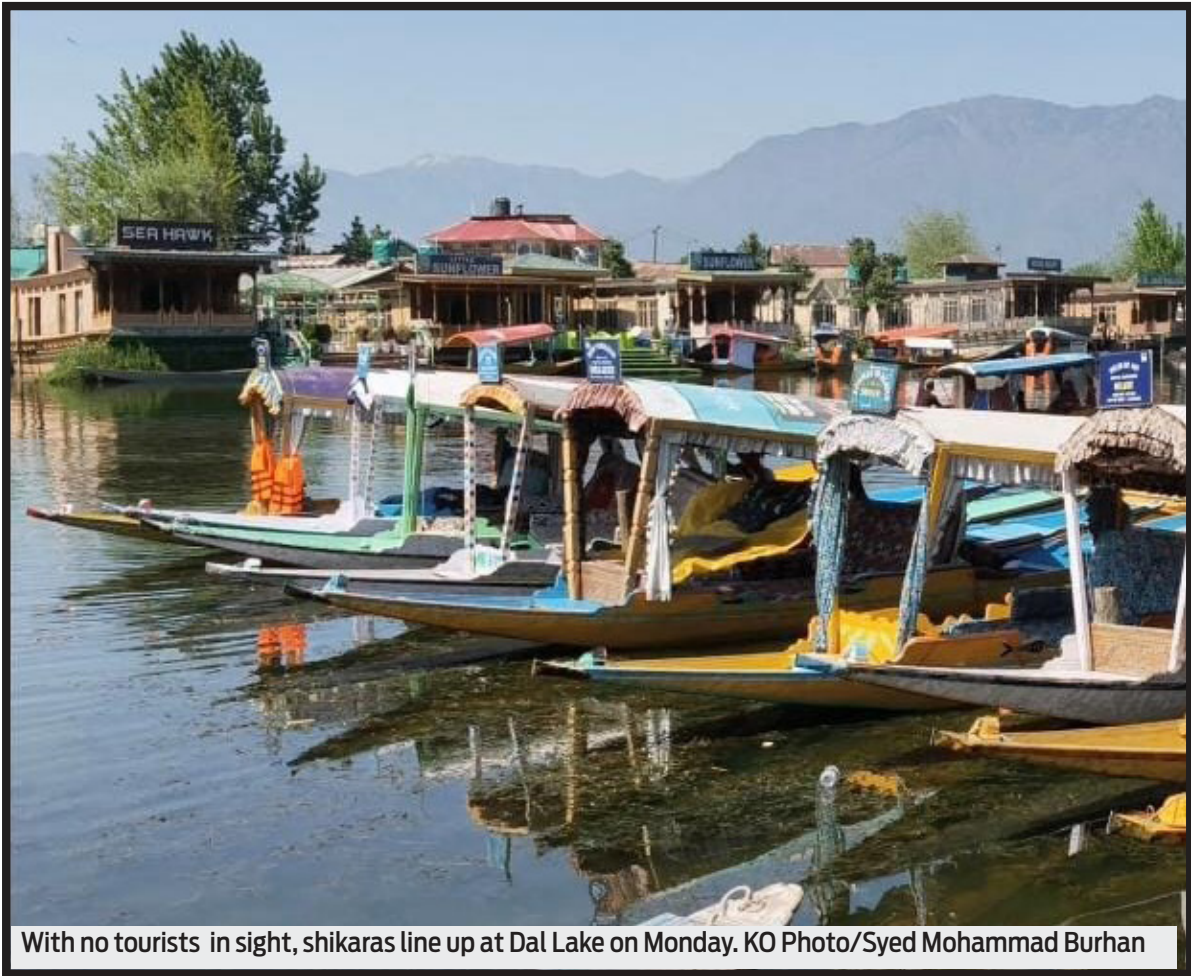
Public Notice..

IT is inform to general public that applicants husband legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicant's husband namely Bilal Ahmad Nazroo s/o Mohammad Sulthan Nazroo R/o pattan died on 14/09/2024 and left following legal hairs ..

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Madiha Jan	8	daughter	UNMARRIED
Aasim	4	son	UNMARRIED
Sadaf Bilal	9	daughter	UNMARRIED
Rubeena Begum	37	wife	WIDOW

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



With no tourists in sight, shikaras line up at Dal Lake on Monday. KO Photo/Syed Mohammad Burhan

## Pahalgam Terror Attack Aftermath

# Passenger Traffic At Airport Records Sharp Decline

AGENCIES

Srinagar: Passenger traffic at Srinagar International Airport has witnessed a steep decline following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Anantnag.

According to data accessed, the number of passengers travelling through Srinagar Airport fell noticeably over the past few days, beginning April 23, soon after the Pahalgam attack.

It says, on April 23, a total of 17,653 passengers travelled through the airport across 112 flights with 6,561 arrivals and 11,092 departures.

However, from the very next day, the numbers started dropping. On April 24, the airport handled 15,836 passengers on 118 flights including 4,456 arrivals and 11,380 departures.

The downward trend continued on April 25, with 14,041 passengers

travelling on 100 scheduled flights, in addition to a few additional flights that carried minimal numbers—24 arrivals and 794 departures on four extra flights. Similarly, on April 26, Srinagar Airport witnessed 14,783 passengers travelling through 106 scheduled flights, with an additional three flights carrying 28 arriving and 351 departing passengers.

Airport officials said that while flight operations have remained largely unaffected in terms of the number of flights, the load factor (passenger occupancy) has fallen. “The fear triggered by the attack has led to a dip in tourist arrivals, affecting the overall air traffic,” an official said.

He said that the security situation continues to be monitored closely and that all flights are operating normally, but the immediate aftermath of the attack has definitely

impacted air travel demand.

Meanwhile, travel industry stakeholders, especially those associated with tourism, said they are worried about the declining footfall and its potential impact on Kashmir's tourism season.

“April to June is our prime season. Such incidents severely dent the confidence of tourists. The dip in air traffic is already reflecting this,” said a travel operator in Srinagar, adding that most of the bookings have been cancelled.

Meanwhile, the authorities have assured enhanced security measures in and around tourist hotspots to ensure the safety of visitors.

Notably, the attack in Pahalgam claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists and was widely condemned. Security has since been heightened across South Kashmir and other tourist areas—(KNO)

## DISTRICT SRINAGAR

# Hajj Committee Notifies Schedule For Collection Of Travel Documents

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As per J&K Haj Committee notice, all the intending Haj Pilgrims of District Srinagar can collect their travel documents from Haj House, Bemina Srinagar as per

the details given below, after production of Passport Receipt and Haj Arrangement Dues Slip during office working hours.

Selected Haj pilgrims featuring from Cover No. 3 to 1396, can collect travel documents on 1st May 2025

while those falling in between 1398 to 2048 can obtain documents on 2nd May 2025.

Meanwhile, pilgrims of other districts shall collect their travel documents from their respective D.C. Offices on 1st & 2nd May, 2025.

اظہار تعزیت

یہ خیر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ جوان سال المیہ روف احمد بٹ بروز اتوار 27 اپریل 2025 کو مختصر علالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئی۔ مرحومہ نیک سیرت، ملنسار، خوش اخلاق اور صوم و صلوة کی پابندی تھی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ نصیب عطا کرے اور سوگواراں کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی توفیق دیں۔ مرحومہ کی فاتحہ خوانی بروز بدھوار بتاریخ 30 اپریل 2025، بوقت 10 بجے صبح اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع نزدیک خشخاش باغ میں انجام دی جائیگی۔

سوگواراں

قصر احمد بٹ معراج الدین وانی، رعنا اعجاز احمد خان، مختار احمد بٹ، محمد اشرف بٹ

فون: 9419018459, 7006025884

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

HELP

112

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

✈

RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BUBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Closed )

Mughal Road - ( Open )

Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

☆

☾

HIJRI

CALENDAR

28 Shawwal

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR

4: 17

ZUHR

12:29

ASR

5: 16

Magrib

7:15

ISHA

8: 42

## This Day In History

- 1296 - Battle of Dunbar: The Scots are defeated by Edward I of England.
- 1518 Treaty of St Truiden: anti-French Trapdoors/Bourgondisch covenant
- 1522- Battle of La Bicocca: a combined French and Venetian was decisively defeated by a Spanish-Imperial and Papal army
- 1522 Battle at Bicacca: Charles I & Pope Adrianus VI beat France
- 1526- Mughal King Babur beats sultan of Delhi
- 1650 - The Battle of Carbisdale: Royalist army under Marquess of Montrose invades mainland Scotland from Orkney; defeated by a Covenanter army.
- 1662- Netherlands & France sign military covenant
- 1805 - US Marines attack shores of Tripoli
- 1861- US President Abraham Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus (US Civil War)
- 1863 - Battle of Straight's raid: Tuscumbia to Cedar Bluff, AL
- 1865 - Steamboat "SS Sultana" explodes in the Mississippi River, killing up to 1,800 of the 2,427 passengers in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. Most were paroled Union POWs on their way home.
- 1890- French troops under Capt Archinard occupy Oussebouougou West Sudan
- 1909- Sultan of Turkey Abdul Hamid II is overthrown
- 1911 - Following the resignation and death of William P. Frye, a compromise is reached to rotate the office of President pro tempore (for the time being) of the United States Senate.
- 1911- Indian passive resistance is suspended when Gen. J.C. Smuts enters into negotiations with Mahatma Gandhi.
- 1915-Counterattack launched by Turkish forces under the command of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk against allied troops
- 1941- German troops occupy Athens, Greece
- 1942- Belgian Jews are forced to wear stars
- 1943- Soviet Union breaks contact with Polish government exiled in London
- 1945-Italian partisans capture Benito Mussolini at Dongo (Lake Como)
- 1945- World War II: The Völkischer Beobachter, the newspaper of the Nazi Party, ceases publication.
- 1946- 1st radar installed aboard a commercial ship
- 1951- Mohammed Mossadeq chosen as premier of Persia
- 1959- Liu Sjau-chi elected president of China People's Republic.
- 1960- 1st atomic powered electric-drive submarine launched (Tullibee)
- 1960- Togo (formerly French Togo) declares independence from French administration
- 1961- NASA launches Explorer II into Earth orbit to study gamma rays
- 1961- Sierra Leone declares independence from UK
- 1972- Apollo 16 returns to Earth
- 1976- Arabic Monetary Fund established in Abu Dhabi
- 1978- Afghanistan revolution (National Day), pro-Russian military coup
- 1981- Xerox PARC introduces the computer mouse.
- 1989-Hurricane in Bangladesh kills 500.
- 2002 - The last successful telemetry from the NASA space probe Pioneer 10
- 2012 - Four explosions in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, kill 27 people
- 2013 - 10 people are killed and 25 are injured after a bomb attack in Karachi, Pakistan.
- 2018 - Historic Korean summit, the North's Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in of South Korea agree to officially end Korean war and rid peninsula of nuclear weapons
- 2020- Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 pass 3 million with the death toll at 205,000. US has 1/3 of all new cases.
- 2020- US Defense Department declassifies and releases videos of unidentified "aerial phenomena" from 2004 and 2015
- 2021- Pfizer announces it is working on a new antiviral therapy to treat COVID-19 at its onset and prevent hospitalization



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KO VIEW

Peace Lies Broken

The last few days have made it painfully clear: we are back to square one along the Line of Control. In the aftermath of the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam, the fragile calm that had prevailed over the LoC for the better part of the past few years has shattered. The Indian and Pakistani armies have traded fire across Poonch and Kupwara for four consecutive days, with Pakistani troops resorting to unprovoked small-arms fire. Indian forces have given a befitting reply to firing from Pakistani positions. The message, however, is unmistakable, a dangerous spiral of hostility is taking shape once again.

The government’s response to the Pahalgam attack has been swift and tough. New Delhi suspended the decades-old Indus Waters Treaty, closed the Attari land crossing, expelled Pakistani military attaches, and ordered Pakistanis who entered through land borders to leave by May 1. The measures mark a serious diplomatic rupture between two neighbours. The terrorist attack at Pahalgam left India with no option but to react. And these are just initial steps. The prime minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that India will pursue the Pahalgam attackers "to the end of earth." The PM has vowed to “identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers” and this has resonated with a country that is justifiably outraged.

As things stand, the LoC ceasefire between the two countries seems to be all but over. It was an agreement, which although first signed in 2002, was reinstituted in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. It was one of the oddest circumstances for the agreement to be restored as at that time the relationship between the two neighbours had sunk to its lowest. And since then the understanding has held, despite apparently zero diplomatic engagement between the two countries. After the Pahalgam attack, the situation in India is such that few are in a position to call for business as usual relationship with Pakistan. The people are rightly calling for justice for the victims of the terror attack.

It is a tough situation. The ceasefire is crumbling. Dialogue is dead. And Kashmir once again finds itself caught between crosshairs. Tourism has received a mortal setback and terrorism is once again rearing its head. Worse, the clouds of a potential war are hovering over the region, with unpredictable consequences. At the same time, it has become difficult to urge the central government to pull back from the brink. However, there is hope that in the end the tough situation will resolve itself. Here’s hoping with hope.



Kashmir’s Prosperity Plan

Diversifying income has become essential in Kashmir. The valley’s seasonal work and tourism booms leave households exposed when harvests fail or visitor numbers dip. Building multiple income streams offers a lifeline. Relying on apples or tourists is risky. A sudden frost or a security alert can wipe out a season’s earnings. By adding other sources, such as mutual funds or dividend-paying shares, families can cushion themselves against financial shocks.

Passive income means money that keeps coming in without clocking extra hours. For Kashmiris, starting small can yield big returns. Mutual funds, regulated by SEBI, mix stocks, bonds, and gold, offer balanced returns throughout market ups and downs. REITs, or Real Estate Investment Trusts, allow people to invest in property without owning real estate, offering rental dividends. Similarly, investing in dividend stocks, from companies listed on the NSE and BSE, can become a steady drip of cash.

Long associated with Kashmiri heritage, precious metals still play a role. Gold and silver act as an inflation hedge when the rupee value wavers. Some growers even reinvest saffron profits into bullion, preserving wealth when crop yields falter.

Digital platforms like J&K Bank’s online demat services and fintech apps such as Groww or Zerodha bring investing to the valley’s youth. Yet technology alone isn’t enough. Local financial advisors, familiar with Kashmir’s unique risks, can tailor plans to match goals and safeguard capital.

Start by defining your needs: education fees, home repairs, or future travel. Adopt a long-term view, reinvest dividends, and let compounding work its magic. Over time, these steps can turn modest investments into meaningful support during lean seasons.

In Kashmir’s changing economy, income diversity is no longer optional. It’s the bedrock on which families build resilience and hope for a more stable tomorrow.

Writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Economic Roadmap

Kashmir has vast untapped potential across agriculture, handicrafts, tech, and renewable energy. Here’s a practical roadmap to diversify its economy.



Wasim Khawaja

Kashmir’s stunning landscapes and rich culture are well-known worldwide, but the region’s economic potential has often been overshadowed by its reliance on tourism. While tourism has played a vital role in the local economy, it’s time to think bigger.

Kashmir has far more to offer. The region can diversify its economy by tapping into its natural resources, agricultural wealth, skilled labor, and rich cultural heritage. There’s an opportunity for transformation to build a sustainable future beyond the tourist season.

A key starting point is the region’s high-value agriculture. Kashmir’s saffron, often regarded as the best in the world, could be marketed globally. With its unique quality and rich history, it could be expanded in cultivation, branded as a luxury product, and marketed through Geographical Indication (GI) tagging. This would give Kashmir a competitive edge in the global market.

Alongside saffron, Kashmir’s apples, walnuts, cherries, and almonds are already famous, but these crops could be processed and packaged for export in modern facilities equipped with cold chains. This would allow Kashmir’s agricultural sector to provide a steady, year-round income, both locally and globally.

Beyond these staple crops, Kashmir’s diverse landscape makes it a natural hub for medicinal and aromatic plants such as lavender, rosemary, and chamomile. These herbs could be developed into high-value products like essential oils and nutraceuticals.

In addition, organic and hydroponic farming could be introduced, producing premium vegetables and berries for the luxury market. The introduction of seed banks and agro-research centers would protect indigenous varieties, while fostering the development of modern hybrids that can withstand global challenges, allowing Kashmir to play a central role in sustainable agriculture.

At the same time, Kashmir’s crafts and traditional industries need a modern touch. The region is known for its exceptional carpets, Pashmina shawls, papier-mâché, and walnut woodwork, but these products must evolve to compete in the global marketplace.

By introducing modern designs and creating strong e-commerce partnerships, these handicrafts can reach customers worldwide. Platforms like Etsy, Amazon Handmade, and Shopify would provide local artisans a direct route to international buyers, eliminating the need for middlemen and allowing artisans to retain more of the profit.

This shift could reinvigorate the handicraft industry, making it more sustainable and profitable in the long run. Similarly, artisan co-operatives should be formed to allow local

tered shops — we have seen it happen too often. Young people who invested heavily in building guesthouses or buying vehicles are left stranded with debt and broken dreams.

We cannot continue living at the mercy of circumstances beyond our control.

This is a sincere call to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir: We must diversify. Our land is rich in agriculture, horticulture, beekeeping, handicrafts, and untapped technology sectors. The world is evolving fast. We need skills that can survive global

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creators to collaborate, share resources, and sell directly to consumers. Such a move would help ensure the industry’s survival in an increasingly digital world while helping rural communities thrive.

Kashmir also has an opportunity to lead in the renewable energy sector. The region is rich in natural resources, including rivers that could power micro-hydro projects to provide local communities with sustainable, self-sufficient energy. The potential for solar energy is significant, too, particularly in barren or hilly areas that could be used for solar parks.

Beyond solar and hydro energy, biomass plants could be established using organic waste, such as apple pruning and walnut shells, turning them into clean energy sources. This green energy approach would not only meet local needs but could also create an eco-friendly model for other regions to follow.

In the modern world, tech and innovation are at the core of economic growth. Kashmir’s young, educated population could thrive in the IT sector, creating jobs and opportunities for global collaboration.

By setting up small tech parks in key cities like Srinagar, Baramulla, and Anantnag, the region could attract startups and BPO companies. These parks would offer affordable office space, reliable internet, and a supportive ecosystem for tech entrepreneurs.

The creation of a Kashmir Startup Mission would encourage young talent to explore fields like AgriTech, HandicraftTech, and HealthTech. By funding and nurturing local innovation, Kashmir could build a knowledge economy that supports both traditional industries and new-age technologies.

Alongside this, remote work centers could be

established, enabling local talent to work for global companies without leaving Kashmir, offering services such as coding, design, and data entry.

The region’s health and wellness sectors are also ripe for development. Kashmir’s herbal wealth offers enormous potential for Ayurveda and Unani medicine. Wellness retreats could be established, offering not only spiritual and healing experiences but also attracting international medical tourism.

Kashmir’s natural environment, combined with its ancient medicinal traditions, could position it as a leader in alternative medicine, drawing visitors seeking holistic healing.

Kashmir’s agricultural bounty, if combined with a robust food processing and cold storage infrastructure, could revolutionize the region’s agricultural output. Food parks dedicated to processing high-value products like apples, cherries, saffron, and dried vegetables could create a year-round export industry, driving the local economy.

Cold storage facilities strategically located in key areas like Sopore and Pulwama would prevent product wastage, further ensuring the supply chain remains intact. This infrastructure would be a game-changer for local farmers, allowing them to sell their goods beyond the local market and ensuring global competitiveness.

Education and research also have the potential to be a cornerstone of Kashmir’s economic future. By establishing specialized agricultural research institutes focused on high-altitude farming and herbal cultivation, Kashmir could become a regional hub for innovation.

The development of skill centers to teach both traditional crafts and new tech skills would empower local communities and create a workforce capable of adapting to changing global demands. The establishment of universities offering specialized courses in botany, mountain agriculture, Islamic studies, and tourism management could further elevate the region’s reputation as a global knowledge center.

Finally, logistics and export infrastructure need a significant upgrade. The development of a dry port or inland container depot in Srinagar could streamline exports to the Gulf and European markets, reducing shipping time and costs.

Dedicated air cargo services for Kashmir’s unique products, such as saffron and handicrafts, would give these items quicker access to international markets, ensuring they reach global buyers at peak freshness.

With a clear roadmap, Kashmir can diversify its economy and build a sustainable future.

Writer is a Kashmir based bizman. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.



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Kashmir Must Skill Up for Tomorrow

For decades, the breathtaking beauty of Jammu & Kashmir has been the heartbeat of our economy. Tourists from across the world have filled our valleys, stayed in our hotels, and driven our livelihoods. Tourism has become the primary source of income for thousands of families.

But today, we must ask ourselves: Are we depending too much on one fragile pillar?

Every time political instability or tension arises, tourism collapses first. Empty hotels, idle taxis, shut-

changes, skills that make us strong in every season.

Another urgent concern is education. Why must our best students leave to study elsewhere? If we can build luxury hotels for visitors, why can’t we build world-class institutions for our children? The ability to create vibrant learning spaces lies within us.

Our youth are already excelling in fields like I.T., medicine, research, and business across the globe. Now is the time for them to come home, to mentor, to invest, to

uplift. We must show that growth, innovation, and resilience can flourish in our homeland too.

Tourism is a blessing, but it cannot be our only identity. True progress lies in spreading our roots deeper, in creating opportunities that no political storm can wipe away.

The valley of Kashmir has always stood tall. It is time our dreams do too.

Yours sincerely,  
Zain Ul Abidin Raina  
Gund Sonamarg