

AIRSPACES SHUT, FARES SOAR

India-Pak Tensions Hit Travellers Hard



Observer News Service

Srinagar: India on Wednesday closed its airspace for flights operated by Pakistan airlines in a fresh retaliatory move amid escalating tensions with the neighbouring country following the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to officials, the Indian airspace ban applies not only to aircraft registered in Pakistan but also to planes operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani carriers — including military aircraft.

The move comes days after Pakistan shut its airspace to all Indian-owned and Indian-operated airlines with immediate effect.

The decision has led to immediate and widespread disruptions in international travel, particularly for flyers from North India. With direct routes now off-limits, many flights are being rerouted through longer paths, increasing fuel costs and flight durations significantly.

Flights that would usually take 3 to 4 hours | [More on P6](#)

Haj Flights From Srinagar Unaffected: Officials

Amid rising concerns over Pakistan's recent airspace restrictions, officials have assured that Haj flights from Srinagar will continue as planned, as these flights were never routed through Pakistani airspace. Clearing the air on the issue, authorities said the annual pilgrimage from Jammu and Kashmir remains unaffected and preparations are on track. The Jammu | [More on P6](#)

'You Want To Demoralise Security Forces?'

SC Rejects PIL for Judicial Probe into Pahalgam Attack

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the petitioners and refused to hear their PIL seeking a judicial probe into the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people were killed.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh castigated the petitioners for seeking a retired judge to monitor the probe into the Pahalgam attack and said retired judges were not experts.

"In this crucial time, each and every citizen of the country has joined hands to fight terror. Do you want to demoralise the security forces by filing this kind of PIL? Don't bring this kind of issue to the judicial domain," the bench said.

Petitioners Fathesh Kumar Saahu and others were consequently asked to withdraw the PIL.

The top court asked the petitioners to realise the sensitivity of the issue and not make any

prayer in court which demoralised the forces.

"You are asking a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate. Since when the retired judges of the high court and supreme court became experts in investigation? They can only adjudicate and decide an issue. Don't ask us to pass an order. Go wherever you want to go.

Better you withdraw," the bench told one of the petitioners.

Justice Kant asked the petitioners to exercise caution while filing a PIL and expressed displeasure over the nature of prayers in the petition.

The PIL was filed by advocates Fatesh Kumar Sahu and Vicky Kumar aside from Kashmir resident Junaid Mohd.

They sought a direction to the Centre and the J&K union territory administration (UT) to ensure the safety of tourists.

The plea sought minimum security standards for tourist sites in areas prone to conflicts, such as Jammu | [More on P6](#)



Will Hunt Down Every Perpetrator Of Pahalgam Attack: Shah

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday vowed to hunt down each and every terrorist involved in the Pahalgam attack and said all of them will be made answerable for the heinous act.

Shah asserted that the Narendra Modi government will not spare any terrorist.

"Whoever has carried out the dastardly attack in Pahalgam, we will not spare anyone. We will hunt down each and every perpetrator," he said at an event here to



unveil a statue of Upendra Nath Brahma, the patriarch of Assam's Bodo community, and name a road after him.

DO NOT THINK THAT YOU HAVE WON BY KILLING 26 PEOPLE. Everyone of you will be made answerable."

The home minister said the Modi government has been pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against terrorists and fighting strongly against those who have been indulging in terror activities in

Kashmir since the 1990s.

"If someone thinks they will escape by carrying out such a cowardly attack, they are wrong. This is Narendra Modi's government. We will not spare anyone," he said.

Shah said the government's fight against terrorism will continue till the menace is completely wiped out.

"Do not think that you have won by killing 26 people. Everyone of you will be made answerable," he said.

Paying tributes to those killed in the Pahalgam attack, Shah said the entire country feels the pain | [More on P6](#)

US Says, Stands In Solidarity With India

The US on Thursday said it supports India's right to defend itself and its fight against terrorism as US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth dialled Defence Minister Rajnath Singh amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack. On his part, Singh told Hegseth that Pakistan has been

"exposed" as a "rogue" state fuelling global terrorism, and "destabilising" the region. The world can no longer turn a "blind eye" to terrorism, the defence minister said during the conversation, according to an official readout. Hegseth said the US stands in solidarity with India and supports India's right to | [More on P6](#)

Attari-Wagah Border Shut, Dozens Of Pakistanis Stranded

Observer News Service

Amritsar: Tension and uncertainty gripped the Attari-Wagah border on Thursday as the crucial crossing point between India and Pakistan was shut completely on Thursday, leaving at least 70 Pakistani nationals stranded after the expiry of visa deadlines in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

The closure followed a government directive ordering all Pakistani citizens on short-term visas to leave India. While hundreds rushed to meet the deadline, many like Suraj Kumar, who came



to visit his aunt in Indore, and Rajesh, who arrived with 15 family members on a religious trip to Haridwar, failed to make it in time. "We didn't know April 30 was the last day," Kumar said, standing

beside vehicles lined up outside the Integrated Check Post (ICP), now locked.

As the gates were shut, a long queue of vehicles with Pakistani nationals was seen outside the | [More on P6](#)

Pak National Claims He Voted in J&K

Election authorities in Baramulla district have launched a detailed inquiry and registration of an FIR after a Pakistani national, who was

repatriated to his native country in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, claimed that he voted in India during his 17-year stay in the country. "A detailed | [More on P6](#)

Centre Warns Media On J&K Coverage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of India has issued a stern advisory to media houses across Jammu and Kashmir, urging strict adherence to security protocols while reporting on ongoing operations in the region.

The advisory issued by the Ministry of Defence on Thursday states that in a letter from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, media outlets were specifically directed not to broadcast real-time coverage, visuals, or source-based reporting related to counter-insurgency or security

operations in the region.

Notably, the advisory comes amid concerns over the spread of fake and unverified news, which officials say inadvertently aids hostile elements, lowers operational effectiveness, and endangers the safety of personnel on the ground.

"It has been noticed that some fake news is being proliferated by various media houses," the communication notes. "The proliferation of unverified news leads to inadvertent assistance to hostile elements, lowers operational effectiveness and endangers the safety of personnel." | [More on P6](#)

Pakistani Nationals Asked To Apply Afresh For LT Visas

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a fresh set of guidelines for Pakistani nationals holding Long Term Visas (LTV) in India. The order, issued on April 28, mandates that all Pakistani nationals with an LTV who have not yet acquired Indian citizenship must reapply for their visa through the eFRR portal. The new process aims to update records and ensure compliance with immigration regulations.

Pakistani nationals holding Long Term Visas are now required to submit a new application on the eFRR portal



between May 10, 2025, and July 10, 2025. Those who fail to submit their application within this period will face cancellation of their visa.

Documents Required for Reapplication:

Valid Long Term Visa Certificate – A copy of the current LTV certificate.

NIA Chief Visits Baisaran Terror Site

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The chief of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sadanand Date, on Thursday inspected the site of April 22 terror attack at Baisaran here, officials said.

Date also had discussion with senior officials of the anti-terror agency probing the case, they said.

The NIA had on April 27 taken over the terrorist attack case in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down. The agency has also intensified search for evidence and questioned scores of eyewitnesses to unravel the terror conspiracy, the officials said.

After the dastardly terror attack, a team of NIA officials led by its inspector general (IG) was rushed to the site to assist the local police, they said.

The officials said that the NIA teams have been camping at the attack site.

The teams, overseen by an IG, a DIG and | [More on P6](#)

LoC Flareup- Fear Grips Border Villages

Agencies

Srinagar: Fear and uncertainty loom over border villages in Jammu and Kashmir as the Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked shelling on the seventh consecutive night, targeting forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC). The Indian Army swiftly responded to the shelling.

"During the night of 30 April-01 May 2025, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small-arms fire across the Line of Control opposite Kupwara, Uri and Akhnoor in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the Indian Army said in a statement, adding that these were responded proportionately by the Indian Army.

The Pakistan Army has carried out 17 ceasefire violations over the past week, including in the Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnoor sectors.

"On the seventh consecutive day, the shelling along the LoC continues, heightening fear among the locals," said Mohammad Suleiman, a resident of Rajouri. "After years of peace, we're now seeking shelter in underground bunkers, fearing we might be caught in the crossfire again."

Kashim Khan, a farmer from Poonch said the ceasefire had given their children hope for a better future. Now, with the shelling restarting, we're worried their education will be disrupted, and we may be forced to flee again, he said.

Mushtaq Ahmad from Karnah said, "After four years of peace, the renewed tension over cross-border firing has left us in constant fear. Our lives are uncertain once again. We pray the ceasefire holds. It has brought stability, improved infrastructure, and boosted border tourism." | [More on P6](#)

Kashmiris Call Out YouTubers for Showing Them In Poor Light

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At a tea stall in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, a group of college students scrolls through YouTube. They pause at a thumbnail bearing a dramatic title: "The Truth About Kashmir They Don't Want You to See."

The video, posted by a self-proclaimed "truth seeker" from north India, is filled with sweeping generalizations and suspicious edits. For the students, it's become a familiar pattern.

"YouTubers are coming here to turn us into villains," said 21-year-old Faizan Ahmad, a sociology major. "They talk to us nicely, pretend to understand, and then use our words to paint us as dangerous or backward."

In the years since the 2019



Pulwama attack and the revocation of Article 370, Kashmir has seen an influx of social media influencers, many of them right-wing vloggers from across India. Their mission, locals say, often seems

less about understanding and more about accusing. Several of them have posted videos portraying Kashmiris as untrustworthy or radical, questioning their patriotism and even mocking their faith.

A NEW WAVE OF CONTENT CREATORS IS DRAWING CRITICISM in Kashmir for portraying locals in a negative light. Their videos attract millions, but at what cost?

The trend has increased after the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead in Kashmir's mini Switzerland on April 22. On the heels of that human tragedy, three YouTubers entered a crowded marketplace in Srinagar and

began criticizing Islam during a live feed. Their tone quickly turned confrontational.

In days to come, their vitriolic videos went viral, drawing public outrage. Apparently, police intervened, and the YouTubers were forced to issue a public apology. But such responses remain rare.

"It's not just about one video," said Aliya Mir, a school teacher in Srinagar. "They come here, smile for the camera, then go home and post hate. It spreads faster than we can defend ourselves."

In another case, a YouTuber couple from Haryana filmed themselves in Kashmir while discouraging Indians from visiting. In their video, they questioned the mindset of locals and warned | [More on P6](#)

Bank Clerk Gets 3 Years Jail For Rs 19 Lakh Fraud

M Ahmad



Srinagar: A court here has convicted and sentenced a former Cashier-Cum-Clerk of J&K Grameen Bank to three years simple imprisonment for committing fraud to the tune of Rs.19.12 lakh in Kupwara from 28 June 2007 to 31 December 2010.

The Court of the Special Judge Anti-corruption (CBI Cases) Kashmir Srinagar Adnan Sayeed also imposed varied sentences and Rs 10000 fine each for various offences including under section 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 477 of erstwhile RPC and U/S 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006.

"All the imprisonments imposed in different sections shall run concurrently and in case of failing to pay fine

imposed herein above in different sections, accused shall undergo simple imprisonment of one month each in default in every section in the same sequence but that imprisonment in case of failing to pay fine shall run separately after actual imprisonment of three years is over," the court said and ordered the convicted person Javed Habib Khuroo of Sopore be lodged in Central Jail Srinagar.

The misappropriated amount had been already recovered by the Bank from | [More on P6](#)



Locals Aghast As Sikh Bagh Marriage Hall In Shambles

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Nowshera and Sikh Bagh areas of Srinagar City have expressed deep concern over the deteriorating condition of the Community Facilitation Centre at Sikh Bagh.

The marriage hall, meant to serve as a venue for public events, is reportedly facing serious infrastructure issues.

A local from the area said that a leaking water supply line has made four washrooms non-functional, while the motor responsible for pumping water to the overhead tank is completely damaged.

He said this has affected water availability in the remaining washrooms as well.

"This is not just an inconvenience, but it is a complete

failure of the system. How can such a big hall be brought into such a state?" questioned Imran Ahmad, a local resident.

"A family was humiliated in front of guests because of something that could have been prevented with timely repairs," he added.

Another local from the area said the host family was left helpless on the day of the wedding.

Similarly, locals also criticized the absence of a proper mechanism to report such issues. "The first point of contact is a non-official local person who could not do anything," said Farooq Khan, another resident, adding that a team of officials visited but left without taking accurate steps. "If they were serious, they could have sent trained technicians."(KNO)

NIT Srinagar Registers First-Ever Alumni Association

Observer News Service

Srinagar:For the first time since its establishment in 1960, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has officially registered its Alumni Association, marking a milestone in the institute's six-decade journey. According to the News agency Associated News Bureau ANB that The long-awaited step was spearheaded by Prof. M.A. Shah, Dr. H.S. Pali, Dr. Dinesh, Mr. Mohammad Rafiq, and a committed team of alumni including Er. Aamir Ali. This move formalizes alumni engagement and aims to build stronger, more collaborative ties between former students and the Institute.

Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanauiya, hailed the development as a landmark moment. "It reflects our commitment to building lasting connections with our alumni, who are an integral part of our legacy and growth," he said, noting the global impact of NIT Srinagar's alumni over the years.

Registrar Atikur Rahman called the registration a "significant achievement" that will provide a structured plat-

form for engaging alumni in the institute's development.

Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean Alumni & International Affairs, emphasized the association's mission to foster unity, shared purpose, and mentorship. "Our alumni are crucial in preparing students to meet future challenges, both through guidance and through creating professional opportunities," he said.

He further underlined the alumni's role in nation-building and philanthropic support for academic and institutional initiatives.

The newly formed Alumni Association of NIT Srinagar (AANITS) has appointed Prof. Mohammad Shafi Mir as President and Er. Aamir Ali Mir, Director of Disaster Management J&K, as Vice-President. Other key office-bearers include Er. Ali Mohammad Rather, Er. Syed Javed Bukhari, Dr. Mohammad Mursaleen, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger, and Dr. Shahid Saleem.

The institute also announced plans to establish regional and international alumni chapters, aiming to strengthen community spirit and professional networking among its global alumni base.

Admin Hosts Comprehensive Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programmes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To sensitize communities about the dangers of drug addiction and highlight Government schemes and benefits available to those affected, District Administration Srinagar hosted a comprehensive drug de-addiction awareness program across all Panchayats in Srinagar Block of the District, targeting the local population.

The series of awareness programmes were held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative.

The programmes saw active participation from multiple departments, including Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Excise and Rural

Development Department.

Experts from these departments delivered informative sessions, shedding light on the issues surrounding drug addiction and the support systems in place to help individuals and families.

The Education Department played a crucial role in the program, raising awareness among students about the risks and consequences of drug addiction. Additionally, counseling sessions were conducted to support students and provide guidance on overcoming addiction.

During the programmes, awareness sessions on the risks and consequences of drug addiction were held and information regarding Government schemes and benefits for those struggling with addiction were highlighted in detail.



A bhepuri seller waits patiently for customers along Boulevard Road in Srinagar.

KO Photo: Faisal Khan

Police Intensify Searches At Homes Of Terror Suspects Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In its continuing persistent action against terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police has intensified searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terror-supporting infrastructure in the district.

A police spokesman in a statement issued said that Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences of Aadil Nazir Janada son of Nazir ah Janada resident of Gousia Colony Babademb involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13,16,19,20,39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Faizyab Showkat Dewani son of Late Showkat Ahmad resident of Pather Masjid involved in case FIR No. FIR NO 35/022 U/S 13 ULAP,505,153A, 153B IPC of Police Station M R Gunj, Momin Ahmad Sheikh adopted Son of Wali Mohammad resident of Aali Kadal involved in case FIR No. FIR NO. 73/2021 U/S 302, 120-B IPC 7/27 ARMS Act, 18, 16, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Fayaz Ahmad Kullo Son of Ab Aziz Kullo resident of Rasmpora Chattabal involved in case FIR No. 97/2016 U/S 148, 189 336, 477, 341 RPC of Police Station Safakadal, Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar @ Latrum son of Gh Rasool resident of Gani Mohallah Jamai Masjid Kashmir based Pakistani Handler/Terrorist involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar and Showkat Ahmad Khandwa son of GH. Rasool Khandwan resident of Malpora Jamia Masjid Srinagar involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 0, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar.

The others include Mohd Bariq Magray son of Mohd Shafi Magray res-

ident of Kolipora Khanyar involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Mohd Rafiq Shah son of Noor Mohd Shah resident of Hazari Bazar involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Yasir Hayat Ahanger son of Mohd Ashraf Ahanger resident of Hazari Bazar involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Sheikh Faisal Rashid son of Ab Rashid

lice Station Khanyar, Shahid Ahmad Lone son of Gh Nabi Lone resident of Chanpora Jamia Masjid involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 7/27 A. Actt 13,16,18,19,20,39 ULA(P) Act of Police Station Khanyar, Imtiyaz Ahmad Chikla son of Mohammad Sadeeq Chikla resident of Asaar Colony involved in case FIR No. 02/2020 U/S 307, 120-B IPC, % Exp. Sub Act and 16, 18 ULA(P) Act of Police Station Nigeen, Gulzar Ahmad Malla son of Abdul Ahad Malla resident of Tiploo Mohall

The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the Nation,"

resident of Firdous Colony Abu Bakar Lane Syedpora, Moomin Javid Gajri son of Javid Ahmad resident of Shalimar Colony Syedpora, Suhaib Bin Shafi resident of Gretabal Kawadara involved in case FIR No. 156/2024 U/S 13, 19, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Safakadal, Parvaiz Ahmad Shah son of Gh Nabi Shah resident of Naidyara Bala involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13,16,19,20,39 ULA(P) Act of Police Station Khanyar, Imtiyaz Ahmad Khanday son of Tariq Ahmad Khanday resident of Hamdaniya Colony Bemina involved in case FIR No. 112/2023 under ULA(P) Act of Police Station Bemina, Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh son of Abdul Ahad Sheikh resident of Urdu Bazar Srinagar involved in case FIR No. 07/2004 U/S 307 RPC 7/28 IA Act of Police Station M.R.Gunj, Wahid Abass son of Mohd Abass resident of Kadikadal involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 7/27 A. Act 13,16,18,19,20,39 ULA(P) Act of Po-

involved in case FIR No. 41/2021 U/S 13 ULA(P) Act 188,269 IPC of Police Station Soura, Nazir Ahmad Kandhoo @ Lara son of Gh Ahmad Kandoo resident of Anchar Soura involved in case FIR No. 77/2020 U/S 13 ULA(P) Act 120-B IPC of Police Station Soura and Shabir Ahmad Gajri son of Abdul Salam involved in case FIR No.07/2024 U/S. 13,38,39 UA(P) Act , 120(B), 506 IPC of CIK Sgr.

The searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses under the supervision of the officers of J&K Police, the statement reads.

"The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the Nation," it added.

BJP Reviews Outreach In Key Organizational Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) convened a high-level organizational meeting on Wednesday at its Kashmir Head Office in Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, to assess party functioning and chalk out strategies for strengthening its base in the Valley.

The meeting was chaired by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, who was

joined by General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretaries Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and Vibodh Gupta, Vice President Sofi Yousuf, and Senior Leader Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir. District Presidents, District Prabharris, and senior party leaders from across Kashmir were in attendance.

In his address, Sat Sharma reaffirmed the party's commitment to development, peace, and inclusive progress in the Union Territory. He

urged BJP workers to stay closely connected with the public, enhance accessibility, and focus on welfare initiatives that benefit all communities. "The BJP has a clear roadmap for J&K's development. Our cadre must be the driving force behind this mission on the ground," Sharma said, stressing the need to ensure grassroots visibility and to actively promote the party's guiding principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.

NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9060 1120 8582 from Zabeer to Zahid Ahmed. In this regard if any body is having any objection may convey to Aadhaar Centre Srinagar within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahid Ahmed

S/o: Sabar Ali

R/o Bye Pass,Sitni,Kengdel,
Nagrota Jammu

AB

OBITUARY

With profound grief, I inform about the passing away of my dear Mother **Smt. Nirmala Devi Mathawan W/O Late Chander Bhan** R/O Jawhar Nagar Srinagar on **30-04-2025**. My Mother was a humble human being whose passing away has created a deep void. She was a pious soul whose love and guidance will be deeply missed. May her soul rest in peace now.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Mr Surinder Kumar,
Assistant, Director Planning,
Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay unit under the name & Style of M/s. SNOBAR SONAMARG HOMESTAY " situated at Sonamarg

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh S/o Gh Mohammad Sheikh R/o Mar Gund Ganderbal,Kangan 191202 intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay unit under the name and style" M/s. SNOBAR SONAMARG HOMESTAY" situated at Sonamarg under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate(Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI
CALENDAR
04 Zil-Qadah
1446

PRAYERS
FAJR 4:10
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:17
Magrib 7:17
ISHA 8:48

This Day In History

- 1335 - Otto the Merry, Duke of Austria, becomes Duke of Carinthia.
- 1345 - "Quaden Maendach" in Ghent: battles between fullers & weavers
- 1497 - John Cabot's expedition departs Bristol searching for new lands across the Atlantic
- 1526 - German evangelical monarchy joins Schmalkaldische League
- 1598 - France & Spain sign Peace of Vervins
- 1776 - France & Spain agreed to give weapons to American rebels
- 1808 - Uprising against French occupation begins in Madrid
- 1833 - Russian Tsar Nicolas I bans public sale of serfs
- 1889 - Abyssinian Emperor Menelik II and Italy sign Treaty of Wichale
- 1905 - French newspapers publish lists of Jules Verne unpublished work
- 1906 - Tsar Nicolas II of Russia dismisses his moderate Prime Minister Witte and appoints Ivan Goremykin, a conservative bureaucrat
- 1911 - French troops occupy Fès El Bali Morocco
- 1924 - Netherlands refuses to recognize USSR
- 1926 - US military intervenes in Nicaragua
- 1927 - Intl Economic Conference (52 countries including USSR) opens
- 1933 - In Germany, Adolf Hitler bans trade unions
- 1942 - Japanese troops occupy Mandalay, Burma
- 1945 - Allies occupy Wismar, Northern Germany

From KO Archives

Love Bug' Computer Virus Wreaks Fresh Havoc

Agencies

NEW YORK- Copycat variants of the "Love Bug" vi-rus labeled "Joke" and "Moth-er's Day" infected computers around the world on Friday, a day after the most widespread cyberattack ever-wreaked havoc on business and govern-ment operations.

Tens of millions of the com-puters have been disabled so far as the virus, first detected in Asia, spread around the globe, forcing network admin-istrators to shut down e-mail systems at major companies and penetrating the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Parliament.

Security experts said the vi-rus was far more devastating than last year's Melissa bug, with losses now counting in the billions from damaged data and the distractions of fighting the software scourge, and warned that it could take weeks to stem the invasion.

"There's a potential 't' that anyone who receives this virus can go to the Internet and 'nd) tools to change codes within the virus program that can give the e-

mail or the attachment a new name," said Simon Perry, vice president for security products at Computer Associates International Inc. (NYSE : CA -news).

The Islandia, N.Y is a leading maker of anti-Virus software such as inoculateIT.

For the time being, most of the virus variants are only cos-metically different from the original virus. "Based on our research, we believe that the variants are coming from a number of different people," Perry said.

ASIA AND EUROPE TAKE STOCK OF IMPACT: Computer users woke up on Friday to the chilling implications for a world that is now so wired up that quarantining such bugs may prove an endless cat-and-mouse game — with far-reaching financial consequences.

Computer Economics, a market research firm located in Carlsbad, Calif, estimated that the virus already had caused \$2.61 billion dollars in damages worldwide, but most experts said precise figures would be difficult to pin down.

The impact of the bug in Asia on Friday was possibly muted by the fact the markets in four countries-Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand - were closed for pub-lic holidays on Friday. European Enterprise Com-missioner Erkki Liikanen said: "The Love Bug is a warning to us all that security must be given top priority if consumer and user confidence is to be maintained as we move into the information age."

A German government spokeswoman said the virus had penetrated its foreign, jus-tice, interior and economics min-istries. The spokesman re-ported no serious damage as the interior ministry called in a special task force to advise on coun-ter-measures.

Britain's Consumers Asso-ciation said 30 to 50 percent of UK businesses seemed to be af-fected. "It is spreading very rap-idly. Yesterday we had 10 to 15 percent," said Alan Stevens. Kit experts warned the full effects of the bug may carry through the weekend.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 May, 2000)

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Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
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Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsERVER.net

KO VIEW

Guarding The Gains

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s decision to grant the armed forces “complete operational freedom” is the expected response to the brutal terror attack at Pahalgam that killed 25 tourists and one pony operator. The decision is both understandable and, in many ways, inevitable. The sheer brutality of the attack has shaken public confidence and reignited widespread anger. At the same time, this has only further strengthened the country’s resolve to fight the terrorist menace. The PM has promised to act and pursue the attackers and their backers to the “ends of earth.” For a government that has repeatedly championed a strong national security doctrine, inaction is not an option. And it has left no one in doubt on this score. Earlier in 2016 and 2019, the government took the fight to the enemy’s territory. Whatever form the government’s response takes this time, Pahalgam attackers and their backers can rest assured that they will eventually be tracked down.

In the high-level security meeting chaired by the PM on Wednesday, with the Defence Minister, National Security Advisor, and the three service chiefs in attendance, the message was unambiguous: the Indian military now has full autonomy to decide when, where, and how to respond. Under the BJP’s rule, India has time and again made it clear that it will no longer absorb terrorist provocations without consequences. Ever since the BJP took the reigns of power in New Delhi, it has made sure that no terror attack goes unanswered. This has certainly made a redeeming difference on the ground in Kashmir. In a place where terror attacks and all kinds of violence used to be the order of the day is now largely normal. True, Pahalgam attack has broken the calm, but it has happened at a remote unmotorable area which doesn’t affect the overall normalcy of the Valley. Truth is that the Valley has come a long way and is peaceful in all law and order metrics. Separatist politics has all but disappeared, so have stone throwing, protests and shutdowns. One brutal attack can’t undo the years of progress.

That the attackers targeted unarmed tourists at a scenic hill station reflects a cruel intent not just to kill, but to fracture Kashmir’s fragile return to normalcy. The outrage, then, is national, not merely strategic. But it shouldn’t distract us from the larger goal of further stabilizing the prevailing peace and the ongoing development.



How the Rich Think About Money

Irshad Mushtaq

A growing number of financial experts say wealth isn’t just about money. It’s about mindset. And the habits people form early in life can make or break their path to financial freedom.

People with a poor mindset often chase bargains, but not value. They spend hours hunting for discounts, buying things they don’t need. Many use credit to fund purchases, turning consumer goods into long-term debt. Cars, phones, and vacations become liabilities when financed through loans. This pattern often leads to living beyond one’s means, with expenses far outpacing income.

Short-term gratification plays a big role. Immediate rewards, even small ones, are prioritized over long-term security. That’s where the cycle begins, and deepens.

In contrast, a rich mindset emphasizes delayed gratification and smart spending. These individuals buy less, but better. They invest in assets—stocks, real estate, and education—while avoiding flashy expenses that lose value quickly.

Discipline is key. Those with a rich mindset balance income and expenses. They pay themselves first, build emergency funds, and think twice before taking on debt. If they borrow, it’s often to buy something that will grow in value.

Financial literacy is the engine behind these choices. Rich-mindset individuals read, research, and adapt. They stay curious about money, tracking changes in markets, learning from mistakes, and adjusting goals as needed.

The shift from a poor mindset to a rich one doesn’t happen overnight. But small changes—spending less, saving more, and learning continuously—can move the needle. Wealth, after all, is less about what’s earned and more about what’s kept.

Writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir’s Grade Obsession

Exam results spark joy across Jammu and Kashmir, but the fixation on marks masks a broken system that leaves too many students without jobs, hope, or support. It’s time to rethink what success means.



Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

There’s a bright spot worth noting: government schools, long overshadowed by private academies, are making gains. In 2025, public schools in places like Anantnag and Pulwama posted pass rates above 80%, matching or beating many elite institutions, according to JKBOSE data.

Each year, when the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) releases Class 10 and 12 results, the Valley comes alive with celebration.

This spring, 79.94% of Class 10 students—116,453 in all—passed their exams. Girls topped boys, with an 81.24% pass rate compared to 78.74%. In Class 12, 74.83% of students succeeded, with girls again leading at 77.72% against 71.95% for boys.

Families poured into sweet shops, almonds vanished from shelves, and neighborhoods hummed with pride. For students who worked tirelessly, often through power cuts and political uncertainty, it was a moment to savor.

But as the festivities fade, a hard truth remains: in Kashmir, where grades are everything, high marks don’t always mean a bright future.

The region’s obsession with exam scores hides a deeper crisis: an education system that churns out certificates but leaves too many young people stranded.

For every student clutching a top score, others face the pain of falling short. Thousands didn’t pass their JKBOSE exams this year. Many now wrestle with self-doubt, fear, or a sense that they’ve let everyone down. Are they failures? Hardly. They’re teenagers navigating a system that slaps a single number on their worth. A low score at 16 doesn’t doom a life, but in Kashmir’s grade-crazed culture, it can feel like it does.

There’s a bright spot worth noting: government schools, long overshadowed by private academies, are making gains. In 2025, public schools in places like Anantnag and Pulwama posted pass rates above 80%, matching or beating many elite institutions, according to JK-

BOSE data.

Better teachers, more classrooms, and focused enrollment efforts are paying off. It’s proof that quality education can thrive without a steep price tag, offering hope for a fairer system.

Yet, even for those who ace their exams, the road ahead is rocky. Kashmir’s job market is a graveyard of dreams.

Unemployment sits at roughly 18%, among India’s highest, per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Walk into any village, and you’ll find a graduate—or three—without work. These aren’t slackers; they’re young people with degrees in engineering, science, or literature, stuck in a region with too few opportunities.

When the government posts jobs, like the 4,000 constable positions advertised in 2023, thousands apply, only to wait years for a resolution. What good is a diploma if it can’t buy bread?

The reservation system, designed to lift marginalized groups, often deepens frustration. Its original aim to correct historical wrongs is vital, but today it sometimes rewards privilege over need.

A 2024 study by the J&K Institute of Public Administration found that 60% of reserved-category jobholders came from households with above-average incomes. Meanwhile, talented students from poorer families, whether general or reserved, miss out.

The system needs a reboot, one that targets economic hardship over blanket caste quotas, to ensure fairness for all.

Education itself has become a business. Private coaching centers, charging up to 50,000 rupees a year, promise high scores, for those who can pay. Wealthy families snap up premium tutors, online courses,

and mock tests, giving their kids a leg up. Students from humbler homes, stuck with outdated textbooks or overpacked classrooms, fight an uphill battle.

J&K’s coaching industry, now worth an estimated 500 crores, thrives on this inequality. Talent is universal; access isn’t.

The mental strain of this system is crushing. In Kashmir, exams aren’t just tests, they’re a public verdict on a child’s value. The pressure to score high, win a college seat, and land a job is unrelenting. Failure feels like disgrace. Worse, it can be deadly.

In 2024, at least 12 students in J&K died by suicide after exam results, local health records show. This is a tragedy, not a norm. Schools need counselors, mental health programs, and a culture that sees students as more than their marks.

The JKBOSE results are a snapshot, not a destiny. Kashmir’s education system mints toppers but struggles to spark opportunity. It hands out degrees while jobs stay scarce. It praises scores while ignoring the graduate serving tea, the student who can’t afford coaching, the teenager too ashamed to try again.

We need an approach that builds skills, not just transcripts; that creates work, not just winners; that values minds, not just marks.

Until then, the sweets will taste bittersweet. The real test isn’t passing an exam, it’s building a system where every student has a shot at a future.

The author is a Ganderbal-based columnist. He posts on X @peermohdamir. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.



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How Kashmir is Preparing for Hajj 2025

Every year, Muslims around the world prepare for Hajj — one of the five pillars of Islam. In Kashmir, this sacred pilgrimage carries deep personal and spiritual meaning. For many, it’s a once-in-a-lifetime chance to seek forgiveness and walk in the footsteps of prophets.

This year, a significant number of pilgrims are heading to Saudi Arabia from Jammu and Kashmir. While the excitement is clear, preparation is key — not just spiritually, but mentally and physically. Hajj can be demanding, and even small things, like staying hydrated or keeping track of documents, can

make a big difference.

The Hajj Committee of India is holding orientation programs across districts to help pilgrims understand the rituals and logistics. These sessions are vital because most of Hajj is practical — managing crowds, dealing with heat, and following precise steps of worship.

Khadim-ul-Hujjaj, the volunteers who accompany pilgrims, also play a crucial role. Their presence can offer both emotional support and real-time help. It’s important that these individuals are experienced and well-trained, ideally with personal Hajj experience.

Technology is also becoming a

helpful companion. Apps like Haj Suvidha and Nusuk provide updates, guidance, and emergency contact features. Pilgrims should familiarize themselves with these tools before they leave. At the same time, it’s important to remember that Hajj is not a photo-op. Overuse of phones can distract from the spiritual focus of the journey.

A few practical tips for pilgrims: set your intention purely for God’s sake, seek forgiveness from those you’ve wronged, and learn the rituals carefully to avoid errors. Women should consult scholars about religious rulings that affect them. Stick with your group, avoid unnecessary

wandering, and protect your health — eat light, stay hydrated, and avoid the sun.

Also, keep your documents and medicines safe, and don’t hesitate to ask for help when needed. Hajj is a test of patience as much as devotion. Even in hardship, remember: you are a guest of Allah.

Kashmir has long nurtured a deep spiritual connection to Hajj. Now, with better systems and support, it’s time to make this journey smoother and more meaningful for all.

Sincerely,
Mir Imtiyaz Aafreen
Researcher, Kashmir.

Zaheen's Way Learning, Living, Leading

A Kashmiri boy is reshaping the idea of education with startups, sports, and self-learning in a region where success is often measured by scores.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

In a season when social media timelines across Kashmir lit up with perfect scores and triumphant toppers, one boy's story quietly stood out. Not for how much he scored, but for how far he has come.

Zaheen Ashai, just 16, skipped the traditional classroom after sanctions shut down his school. He wasn't enrolled in any coaching center. He didn't sit in classrooms or attend revision marathons. For the past five years, he studied alone: without walls, without teachers, without the structure most students are told they need. And yet, when the Class 10 results were announced, he passed with a shining grade.

But the numbers on his mark-sheet tell only a fraction of his story.

While many of his peers were solving sample papers, Zaheen was building his own startup. While others revised textbooks, he was designing logos, learning code, playing national-level football, and stringing tunes on his guitar. He wasn't aiming for rank. He was building a life.

"I didn't want to just pass exams," Zaheen says. "I wanted to create something real. Something of my own."

In Kashmir, where academic achievement is often reduced to marks and ranks, his path is not just unusual, it's radical. Education here has long followed a straight line: school, tuition, coaching, exams. For many students, success is a numbers game. Score high, get praise, disappear. No one asks what comes after.

"There's a kind of emotional



burnout that happens," says Sadiq Mohammad, a Srinagar-based teacher who has worked with toppers for years. "Students give everything to get a number. And once they get it, the system moves on. We rarely follow up to see what they become."

Zaheen, by contrast, is becoming someone different. At just 13, he registered his first consul-

tancy. He became a CEO before he could grow a moustache or get a driver's license.

Today, he's preparing to launch a small-scale manufacturing unit. In between, he represents Jammu and Kashmir in football at the national level. He's a self-taught graphic designer, a passionate boxer, an amateur musician, and a young coder with ambitions that

stretch beyond any syllabus.

What sets him apart isn't just talent, it's direction. While other kids of his age were coached to find the right answers, Zaheen was asking different questions: What does a brand need? How does a product solve a real-world problem? What can I learn that school doesn't teach me?

His parents admit they were

skeptical at first. "We weren't sure," says Farooq Ashai, Zaheen's proud father and a former banker. "But we saw how serious he was. He was disciplined in his own way. He was learning, failing, improving. So we let him follow that path."

That path was messy, filled with online tutorials, trial-and-error experiments, and endless hours spent thinking through

ideas. But it was also purposeful. Zaheen didn't just want to be educated. He wanted to be useful.

In his homeland, where the startup culture is still emerging, he is part of a new generation trying to break away from the traditional routes to success. And while schools and coaching centers remain vital for many, Zaheen believes there should be room for other ways of learning.

"I'm not against educational institutions," he says. "But they're not for everyone. I think students should be allowed to build things, try things, fail, and still be seen as successful."

The idea, that success can be measured in impact, not just in percentages, is still hard to sell in a society obsessed with academic rankings. Every year, a fresh list of toppers makes headlines. But few of those stories explore what the toppers actually go on to do.

"We celebrate their marks, not their futures," says Dr. Jameel Hassan, a retired school principal. "We don't ask: Are they building something? Are they helping others? Are they happy?"

Zaheen's story answers those questions in quiet but powerful ways. His success isn't loud. It doesn't involve trophies or speeches. But it's built on resilience, self-direction, and a hunger to do more than just pass. And perhaps that's what makes him stand out.

In a place where most students are asked to fit into a system, Zaheen created one for himself. He's still studying, still experimenting, still dreaming. But he's also already building, and that's something marks alone can never measure.

Logo Logic

Why we chase labels to feel seen, and what happens when we stop.



Shah Zeeshan Fazil

I was 13, standing in front of the mirror, convinced that Eid would only shine if I wore branded clothes. Not just any shirt, but one with a logo that screamed I belonged. I begged my parents, tying my worth to a tag, believing it would make me strong, respected, whole. Looking back, I realize I was chasing validation in fabric, unaware that the real search was for self-acceptance.

Khalil Gibran's words hit me years later: "Though you seek in garments the freedom of privacy, you may find in them a harness and a chain." They stung. Clothes, meant to shelter, can bind us. I started questioning everything. What if the pursuit of the "right" outfit was a trap, pulling us further from who we are? What if, in chasing labels, we're selling our true selves?

I've watched friends scrape together every cent for designer gear, believing it'll spark confidence or uniqueness. I've seen hours vanish into e-commerce apps, people renting dresses for one night's fleeting glory. Some even scam online stores for outfits meant to impress just for an event. What drives this? A hunger for approval, seeking validation that should come from within.

But then I think about the flip side. What if someone wears the same shirt every day? Or flip-flops to a wedding? Why do we judge? Shouldn't comfort trump convention? I think of a guy in pink, a girl in baggy trousers, both defying norms. Soci-

ety sneers, but aren't they the brave ones, wearing what feels right? Clothes shouldn't dictate gender, wealth, or identity. Yet, society forces stereotypes—pink for girls, suits for men—as if fabric defines masculinity or femininity.

Religion, too, gets tangled in this. A girl in a burkha, a boy in a kurta with a topi, are seen as holier than those in jeans. A saree with a bindi or a saffron tilak signals piety, while other styles don't. We're so often performing faith through cloth, not living it. Is that dignity?

I've heard the phrase "fake it till you make it," but why fake anything? If friends judge my outfit, are they really friends? A clean, simple, respectful look should be enough. Clothes cover us. They don't define who we are. True freedom lies in wearing what fits your soul, not what society tells you to wear.

I'm not saying we should ditch trendy clothes. Wear what you love, but wear it for yourself. Don't size up others based on their threads. A logo won't make you whole; a plain tee won't make you less. Dignity isn't stitched into fabric, it's in your character, your actions, your mind.

I think of that 13-year-old, desperate for a branded shirt to feel seen. If I could, I'd tell him: You're enough. The real glow comes from within, not from what you wear. Let's wear our truth, not our chains.

The author hails from New Qazi Bagh, KP Road, Anantnag.

The Weight Kashmir Ignores

They carry Kashmir, but remain invisible. One load revealed the weight of their unseen lives.

Syed Mudasir Mushtaq

I'll never forget the day I carried a single bag of rice from my car to my house. It was just one bag, but its weight pressed hard on my shoulders.

I'm no stranger to the world of labour. I work with the Department of Food and Civil Supplies, where I see workers handle thousands of quintals of grain with nothing but their hands and grit.

But that day, something shifted. That bag wasn't just rice. It was a window into lives I'd seen but never truly understood.

As I heaved it up, faces flashed through my mind: labourers I've passed by, their backs bent under loads far heavier than mine, their eyes steady with resolve. These are the people who carry our world. They hoist electric poles to light our homes, sow seeds to fill our plates, and lay bricks for houses they may never own. They're everywhere, yet we rarely stop to notice. Some lose their health. Some lose their lives. And still, they keep going, often without a simple "thank you."

That rice bag taught me something profound. It made me think of the workers who dig trenches for our cables, pave roads for our cars, and build runways for our planes. Their sweat is the foundation of every step we take, every comfort we enjoy. But their stories? Too often ignored, drowned out by the hum of progress we celebrate without them.

I think of Ghulam Rasool Baba, a labourer who gave his life to our department. One day, in the dim heat of a godown, he collapsed under the weight

of his work and never got up. He left six children, hoping the system he served for 30 years would honour his sacrifice.

Instead, they got a few thousand rupees from his fund. It was barely enough to dry their tears, let alone secure their future. Then there's Ali Mohammad Ganie, who I met recently. After 35 years of service, his eyes dim and body worn, he asked me, "What will I get for all this?" I had no answer. The silence between us was heavier than any sack of rice.

These workers are the pillars of our nation, yet they're underpaid, unprotected, and forgotten. They build our comfort, our safety, our survival, but when they falter, we turn away. It's not enough to call them heroes on Labour Day and move on. Their struggles are real, and they demand our action.

We need fair wages. We need health coverage and pensions to protect their futures. Workplaces must be safe, especially in dangerous jobs like construction or mining. We should offer training to help them grow beyond physical labour and include their voices in the policies that shape their lives. Companies must be held accountable, not just for profits but for treating workers with dignity. And for those like Ghulam and Ali, who've given decades to public service, we must ensure they leave with security, not empty hands.

That single bag of rice changed me. If one load could teach me so much, imagine the mountains these workers carry daily.

The author hails from Nazneepora Shopian.

Kashmir Needs Tourism Relief

A terror attack threatens the Valley's economic engine. Swift government action is essential to save jobs and restore hope.



Zainul Abi Din Raina

The recent terror attack in Pahalgam has dealt a devastating blow to Kashmir's tourism industry. As cancellations mount, the crucial summer season hangs in the balance.

Thousands of Kashmiris who rely on tourism for their livelihoods now face job losses, loan defaults, and deepening financial distress. The Jammu and Kashmir government must act swiftly and decisively to provide relief and prevent a wider crisis.

Tourism has long been a cornerstone of the Valley's economic life. In the wake of the Covid pandemic, a surge in visitors revived hopes and opened new opportunities. Young, educated Kashmiris led the way. They invested in hotels, guesthouses, travel agencies, taxis, and adventure services like snowbiking.

Many staked their futures on the industry, taking out loans or using family savings to build businesses. Tourism became more than an income stream; it offered dignity, innovation, and a chance at self-reliance.

But this fragile progress is now in jeopardy. Hotels stand empty, drivers sit idle, and small businesses teeter on the edge. For those with bank loans, the sudden revenue collapse could trigger defaults and shutdowns. The ripple effects would be severe: families plunged into hardship, youth driven to despair, and years of hard-won economic gains wiped out.

Worse still, the unraveling of tourism threatens the region's broader stability. It has long served as both an economic bridge and a symbol of normalcy and peace.

There is a narrow window for intervention. The government must urgently announce a relief package tailored to the needs of tourism stakeholders, especially those with outstanding loans. Measures like loan restructuring, interest waivers, or temporary repayment moratoriums can offer immediate breathing room. A balanced tourist refund policy could also help restore confidence without sinking local operators.

These steps are not just economic triage — they are investments in the Valley's future. Kashmir's tourism sector is more than a revenue generator; it is a lifeline for a generation that has chosen optimism over despair. Those who poured their savings, skills, and dreams into this industry deserve support in their hour of need.

The stakes could not be higher. Without decisive action, the collapse of tourism may trigger a chain reaction of economic, social, and psychological setbacks that will take years to reverse. But with targeted relief and a show of political will, the government can keep hope alive and preserve one of Kashmir's most vital industries.

The author hails from Gund Sonamarg.

PM At WAVES 2025: Right Time For Create In India, Create For World

Observer News Service

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that technology was playing an increasingly important role in the lives of people and urged content creators to build a more compassionate future by using art forms such as music, dance and storytelling.

"Humans should not be turned into robots. We need to make them more sensitive," Modi said while batting for creative responsibility at the

inauguration of the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here. WAVES is envisaged as a platform to position India as a global hub for media, entertainment and digital innovation by bringing together creators, start ups, industry leaders and policy-makers from across the world. The prime minister's remarks came against the backdrop of a raging debate over online content and the Supreme Court asking the government to frame guidelines to regulate it.

Modi said WAVES has the potential to become a global talent platform at a time when India is emerging as an international hub for film production, digital content, gaming, fashion, music and live concerts. He said this was the right time for "create in India, create for world" when the world is looking for new ways of storytelling while India has so much more to offer. He said the creative world holds the power to foster human compassion and deepen societal

consciousness. Modi said the goal is not to create robots but to nurture individuals with heightened sensitivity, emotional depth, and intellectual richness - qualities that cannot stem from information overload or technological speed alone. He also highlighted the need to protect young generations from divisive and harmful ideologies, stating that WAVES can serve as a vital platform to uphold cultural integrity and instill positive values.

The summit began with a stirring invocation of a hymn from RigVeda set to tune by Academy Award winner M M Keeravani and performed by singers such as Shreya Ghoshal. Actor Shah Rukh Khan set the ball rolling by welcoming the guests to the summit. Film personalities like Anupam Kher, Hema Malini, Mohanlal, Rajnikanth, Kartik Aryan, S S Rajamouli and Anil Kapoor made brief speeches and lauded the prime minister's vision about creating a global platform

for Indian talent. The prime minister cancelled the lunch he had planned for select guests in view of the Pahalgam terror attack. He also did not attend the cultural evening featuring performances by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ronu Majumdar, M M Keeravani, A R Rahman and Anupam Kher among others. Modi said WAVES has the potential to provide global talent a platform at a time when India is emerging as an international hub for film production, digital

content, gaming, fashion, music and live concerts. Like Indian 'khana', I am sure Indian 'gaana' will also become globally popular, he said, adding the screen size may be becoming mini but the message (India's stories) is becoming mega. "Even though the screen size is getting smaller, the scope is becoming infinite," he said. Modi expressed confidence in India's content creators and said their free-flowing creativity is redefining the global creative landscape.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

India-Pak Tensions

are now stretching to nearly 6, burning more fuel and time. Industry insiders estimate Indian airlines could incur an additional monthly burden of ₹37 crore due to the extended routes. Travellers, meanwhile, are already feeling the pinch. Fares for popular destinations such as Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Iran and Iraq — frequently travelled by Kashmiris for work and pilgrimage — have spiked steeply. According to travel agents, a Delhi-to-Saudi Arabia ticket that cost around ₹18,000 now sells for over ₹25,000. Fares to Dubai have climbed from ₹15,000 to ₹21,000, while Delhi-Iran routes now cost upwards of ₹33,000, up from ₹24,000 just last week.

Interestingly, flights departing from Mumbai have seen minimal fare changes.

Air India, the national flag carrier of India, took to X (formerly Twitter) to announce alternative routes for international flights. "Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen airspace closure that is outside our control. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," the airline said. Reports suggest that the closure of Pakistani airspace has affected approximately 800 weekly flights. The ongoing restrictions force Indian airlines to take longer, more circuitous routes, particularly for flights heading west. This adds significantly to flight time and fuel costs, ultimately impacting ticket prices for passengers.

According to reports, experts estimate that Indian airlines incurred losses of around INR 700 crore during the over four-month closure in 2019 alone, due to increased fuel expenses and operational complexities. Similar, or more, losses are expected to hit the aviation industry this time around. As a rollover effect, flight rates may rise for Indian travellers flying international.

The impact is felt most acutely by airlines operating long-haul flights to Europe, North America, and the Middle East. These flights now require detours, adding hours to journey times. For example, flights to Europe often reroute over the Arabian Sea, adding significantly to the distance. Flights from northern Indian cities like Delhi, Amritsar, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Varanasi are directly impacted. The duration of some USA and European flights operated by Indian airlines has increased by two to 2.5 hours. IndiGo has even suspended flights to Tashkent and Almaty, as these destinations are now outside the operational range of its narrow-body aircraft due to the necessary rerouting.

Haj Flights From

and Kashmir Haj Committee has released the schedule for the first batch of pilgrims, confirming that the inaugural flight (SG-5304) will depart from Srinagar on May 4, 2025.

Pilgrims scheduled for the first flight have been instructed to report at Haj House, Bemina, between 5:00 AM and 5:30 AM on the day of departure. The committee emphasized the need for strict adherence to reporting times and baggage guidelines.

The schedule for the remaining flights will be released separately in the coming days.

This year, more than 3,600 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to perform Haj under the government quota.

Meanwhile, apprehensions had emerged following Saudi Arabia's temporary suspension of Umrah, tourist, and visit visas. However, officials clarified that the move is a routine pre-Haj step aimed at managing logistical arrangements and will not impact the Haj pilgrimage from India.

The authorities have appealed to pilgrims to stay updated through official communication channels and refrain from paying heed to rumours or unverified information. (KNT)

Will Hunt Down

of those who lost their near and dear ones to terrorists' bullets. "Each citizen of India is feeling the pain. It is our resolve to uproot terrorism from every inch of this country and it will be accomplished. Not only 140 crore Indians but the whole world is standing with India in this fight," he said.

The home minister said all countries in the world have come together and are standing by the people of India in the fight against terrorism.

"I want to reiterate the resolve that until terrorism is wiped out from the country, our fight will continue and those who have committed the crime will certainly be given appropriate punishment," he said.

Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were killed and several injured when terrorists opened fire at a meadow near the popular tourist town of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on April 22.

Paying tributes to Brahma, Shah said the iconic leader dedicated his entire life for the progress of the Bodo community in Assam.

"It is a matter of immense joy that today, his statue is being unveiled and a road is being dedicated in his honour in Delhi," he said.

Shah said Brahma's statue will be a symbol of self-respect for the small tribal communities across the country that have been struggling for respect even after so many years of independence.

"The installation of Upendra Nath Brahma's statue in a prominent area of Delhi is a matter of pride not only for the Bodo community but also for all the tribal communities residing in India," he said.

The home minister said no one from the Bodo community should ever harbour an inferiority complex as they have equal rights in the country as him (Shah).

Referring to the peace accord signed with Bodo insurgent groups in 2024, Shah said 96 per cent clauses of the pact have been implemented and asked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was present at the event, to implement the remaining clauses as early as possible.

The event was attended by Sarma, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Council Promod Boro, among others.

US Says, Stands

defend itself, Singh's office said in a social media post.

"He reiterated the strong support of the US government in India's fight against terrorism," it said.

"The defence minister told the US Secretary of Defence that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations," the readout issued by the defence ministry said.

"Pakistan has been exposed as a rogue state, fuelling global terrorism, and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye to terrorism," the ministry quoted Singh as saying.

It is important for the global community to "explicitly and unequivocally" condemn and "call out" such heinous acts of terrorism, he said.

The ministry said Hegseth called up Singh to express his "sympathies" and "condolences" for the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives in the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack.

The phone conversation between Hegseth and Singh came a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Rubio conveyed to Jaishankar the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism and also "encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia," according to a US readout.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror attack, according to government sources.

The prime minister affirmed that it is a national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, they said after the meeting.

India on April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the

attack. In response, Pakistan 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 will be seen as an "act of war".

NIA Chief Visits

a superintendent of police from the agency, are examining people who had seen the horrific attack unfold before their eyes at the picturesque Baisaran valley in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

In the targeted attack, a group of terrorists killed male tourists milling around eateries, taking pony rides or just picnicking with their families including young children and parents at the meadow.

NIA teams, aided by forensic and other experts, are checking the entire area thoroughly for evidence to expose the terror conspiracy that led to the attack that has shocked the nation.

The eyewitnesses have been questioned in minute detail to piece together the sequence of events, the officials said.

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

Initial investigations into the massacre indicate that the number of terrorists involved could range from five to seven, they said, adding the attackers were also aided by at least two local militants who received training in Pakistan.

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

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

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

Attari-Wagah Border

Integrated Check Post (ICP). The officials said that Pakistani nationals were not allowed by the customs and immigration authorities to enter the ICP to travel further to Pakistan.

They further said that Pakistan, too, has shut its border. Consequently, many Indian nationals who were waiting to cross over were left stranded there on the Pakistan side.

The Union government ordered all Pakistani citizens with short-term visa to leave India in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, sources said.

The Attari-Wagah border crossing point is completely closed now and no one from either country crossed over to the other side on Thursday, two sources confirmed.

A total of 125 Pakistani nationals left India on Wednesday through the Attari-Wagah border, taking the total number of Pakistanis leaving the country to 911 in the last seven days.

Fifteen Indian citizens with Pakistani visa also crossed over to Pakistan on Wednesday, taking the total number of such people exiting India to 23.

Similarly, 152 Indian nationals and 73 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visa have entered India through the international border crossing point in Punjab's Amritsar district, taking the total number of such people to 1,617 and 224, respectively.

The Centre issued the 'Leave India' notice to Pakistani nationals after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists with Pakistan links in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26. For those carrying medical visas, the deadline was April 29.

The deadline for 12 other categories of visas was April 27. These were visas on arrival and visas for business, film, journalists, transit, conferences, mountaineering, students, visitors, group tourists, pilgrims and group pilgrims.

Three defence/military, naval and air advisors in the Pakistan High

Commission in New Delhi were declared persona non grata on April 23 and were given one week to leave India. Five support staff of these defence attaches were also asked to leave India.

India also withdrew its defence attaché from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

However, those having long-term, diplomatic or official visas were exempted from the 'Leave-India' order. Sources told PTI that altogether 125 Pakistani nationals left India through the Attari-Wagah border crossing point on April 30; a total of 94 Pakistani nationals, including 10 diplomats, left India on April 29; 145 Pakistanis, including 36 diplomats, their dependents and support staff, left on April 28; 237 Pakistanis, including nine diplomats and officials, left India on April 27; 81 left on April 26; 191 on April 25 and 28 on April 24.

Fifteen Indian nationals with Pakistani visa also left India through the international border crossing point on April 30; 469 Indians, including 11 diplomats and officials, returned from Pakistan through the same route on April 29; 146 Indians returned on April 28; 116 Indians, including one diplomat, returned on April 27; 342 Indians, including 13 diplomats and officials, came back on April 26; 287 Indians crossed over from Pakistan on April 25 and 105 Indians returned on April 24, the sources said.

A total of 73 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visas came to the country through the border point on April 30; 22 Pakistani nationals came on April 29, while 129 Pakistanis with the same category of visas entered India on April 28.

Sources said some of the Pakistanis might have left India through airports too, pointing out that since India does not have direct air connectivity with Pakistan, they might have left for a third country.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on April 25 called up the chief ministers of all states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country.

After Shah's telephonic conversations with the chief ministers, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan also held a videoconferencing with the chief secretaries of states and asked them to ensure that all Pakistani nationals whose visas were revoked leave India before the deadline.

The already-strained relations between India and Pakistan nosedived further after the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, with New Delhi announcing a raft of measures, including the cancellation of visas, against Islamabad, which hit back with a string of tit-for-tat measures.

The enquiry has been ordered, and instructions have been issued for the registration of an FIR in the matter," the Baramulla district election officer said in a post on X.

The inquiry was ordered after Ussama Imtiaz in a video claimed that he had been living in India since 2008. Though he came here on a visa, Imtiaz claimed he acquired an Aadhaar card and other documents and enrolled himself as a voter in India.

"The district election officer (DEO), Baramulla, has taken cognisance of a video circulating on social media in which an individual allegedly claims to have enrolled himself in the electoral roll for the Uri Assembly constituency without being an Indian citizen. "In response, the DEO has directed the electoral registration officer (ERO) of Uri to take appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950," the DEO said.

Imtiaz was among the 59 Pakistanis in J&K who were deported after the expiry of the April 27 deadline given to them to leave the country.

The Centre cancelled visas issued to Pakistani nationals in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on April 22.

LoC Flareup- Fear

We don't want to go back to the instability of the past."

Shahbaz Ahmad, a resident of Karnah said, "It was the peak tourism season for Gurez and other border areas, but due to the recent tensions, no one is visiting now. Last year, these areas were bustling with tourists, but today they wear a deserted look."

Muzaffar Ahmad, another Karnah resident, said, "We pray for peace along the LoC because war is not an option. The development we've seen in border areas over the past few years came only after the ceasefire between the two nations."

Bordering belt residents, speaking to KNO, pleaded for urgent safety measures and the restoration of calm, saying they have been living under the shadow of escalating violence since the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

The residents said they had appealed to the authorities multiple times to build bunkers for their safety, but are still waiting.

A resident added, "Yes, a few community bunkers exist, and are now being cleaned for the safety measures. The situation is tense, but we stand firmly with the Indian Army. We are the last village before the border, and we want to assure the Army that we are always with them, come what may."

Villagers in Kupwara's LoC belt say the constant hovering of helicopters, combined with frequent gunfire, has shattered the fragile peace they had come to depend on after the ceasefire understanding. "We hardly sleep at night. The silence is broken by gunshots. We fear for our lives and our homes," said a Keran resident.

In Uri, residents expressed similar concerns as sporadic cross-border firing intensified. "We live in constant fear. The sound of shells and bullets haunts us. We pray that peace prevails," said villagers from Churinda, a settlement that has witnessed casualties in past skirmishes. "This is not the first time. Our village has seen blood, injuries, and damage to homes".

Meanwhile, an official said that security forces have intensified vigilance along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K to prevent cross-border infiltration and the shelling.

"Patrols by the Army and Border Security Force (BSF) have been increased in border districts like Poonch, Rajouri and north Kashmir. A multi-layered defence system, including advanced surveillance and intelligence gathering, has been deployed to monitor suspicious activities," he said. (KNO)

SC Rejects PIL

and Kashmir. The plea also sought an action plan for the safety of the people in tourist areas of J&K by CRPF, NIA and the UT administration.

The top court was urged to passed directions to the Press Council of India for ensuring only "fair and true" reporting in connection with the attack to ensure peace and harmony in society.

Terrorists on April 22 opened fire in Baisaran, a popular tourist spot in the upper reaches of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, killing 26 people, mostly tourists from other states.

The incident spiked India-Pakistan tensions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting the killers would be pursued "to the ends of the earth."

Centre Warns

As per the advisory, all media houses have been requested to implement the media advisory issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and follow the security measures while publishing any news pertaining to ongoing operations in J&K.

Notably, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting last week on Saturday issued an advisory directing all media outlets to refrain from broadcasting live coverage of military operations or movements of security forces.

The advisory extends to news agencies, digital platforms, and social media users, emphasising the need for utmost caution and responsibility in reporting matters related to national security.

Pakistani Nationals

India under a Long Term Visa and

have not yet become Indian citizens are properly registered. This new policy will be enforced through the eFRRRO portal (accessible at <https://indianfrrro.gov.in>).

Key Dates: Reapplication Start Date: May 10, 2025 Reapplication End Date: July 10, 2025

According to the order, Pakistani nationals who fail to reapply within the prescribed period will see their Long Term Visa status revoked.

The order has been disseminated to relevant authorities, including the Ministry of External Affairs, Intelligence Bureau, Bureau of Immigration, and the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territories. The government has urged all concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRRROs) and Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs) to inform all affected individuals promptly.

Kashmiris Call

viewers not to trust Kashmiris. Once back home, they continued their tirade online, reaching hundreds of thousands of subscribers.

Perhaps more disturbing was the video of a YouTube urging locals to chant a provocative slogan. When people refused, he framed their resistance as hostility. For many viewers outside the region, such moments reinforce long-held biases. But for Kashmiris, they deepen the wounds of misunderstanding.

Even social media scribes have come under scrutiny. One content creator, who last year got a massive online traction with her malicious Kashmir coverage, returned this year for what she claimed was a "deep-dive" into local life.

Locals say her casual conversations with taxi drivers and shopkeepers are being brazenly edited and taken out of context, contributing to a growing narrative that treats Kashmiri identity as suspicious.

"It's not journalism, it's performance," said a senior Kashmiri journalist. "And the performance sells fear."

The situation has sparked wider conversations in the Valley. Young Kashmiris are organizing digital campaigns to counter misinformation. Several have started their own YouTube channels and Instagram pages to share their side of the story. They narrate quiet resilience, not rage.

But the imbalance remains. YouTubers with millions of followers and lucrative sponsorships still dominate the discourse. Their content shapes national sentiment, often at the expense of truth.

Legal experts say the issue exists in a gray zone. While hate speech is punishable, much of the content skirts the line without crossing it overtly. In most cases, authorities don't act unless public pressure forces their hand.

At Lal Chowk's teastall, the young students walk past a group of vloggers filming near the clock tower. They nod politely, knowing the camera may not capture their truth.

"They say they are showing India the real Kashmir," Faizan concluded. "But they only come looking for the worst in us."

Bank Clerk Gets

Khuroo, now an elderly person, and the connecting loss to the Bank was made good at the time when this fraud had surfaced in the Bank.

However a case (FIR No. 1232011A0003 of 2011 P/S CBI Srinagar Offences U/Sec. 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 477-A RPC and Sections 5(2) r/w Section 5(1)(c)(d) of J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006) was registered against Khuroo and investigation culminated into filing of the FIR.

During the course of investigation, as recorded by the Court, it was revealed that all the account holders were having very good relations with Khuroo since he used to help them in Bank during deposit of cash and withdrawal of cheques and didn't suspect his bonafide actions. Taking advantage of this, Khuroo approached them and obtained cheques of various amounts from time to time in different names and withdrew the amount from their accounts numbers. The amount was therefore misappropriated by him in view of the fact that account holders didn't receive any of this amount as deposited by them, the investigation agency.

Pak A Failed State: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday described Pakistan as a failed state, accusing it of attempting to deflect attention from its internal failures through the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Dr Farooq said both India and Pakistan appear to be preparing for war, though global efforts are underway to de-escalate the situation and bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice. "God knows how much the world will succeed in it," he remarked.

He stated that rather than addressing its domestic challenges, Pakistan continues to provoke tensions externally, and warned of the potentially catastrophic consequences if atomic power is ever used by either side. "Both countries possess nuclear weapons. If they are used, God knows what will happen," he said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State said rising tensions are undeniable, but whether



war is the last option remains uncertain. "It is up to the leaders of the two nations to decide on it," he added.

Commenting on the state of India-Pakistan relations, Dr Farooq said improvement is unlikely unless the military's grip on Pakistan ends. "The people of Pakistan want friendship with India, but not the hierarchy. Peace between the two nations can only come when there is a people's government in Pakistan," he asserted.

On the Union Cabinet's recent decision to conduct a caste census, Dr Farooq welcomed the move, saying it had been a long-pending demand. He emphasized the importance of having accurate data on the populations of Muslims, Sikhs, Brahmins, Christians, and other communities in India.

JKPCC Passes Resolution Backing Caste Census

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday presided over a key meeting of senior party leaders and district presidents in Srinagar, where the party unanimously adopted a resolution lauding Rahul Gandhi's steadfast advocacy for a nationwide caste census.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the resolution adopted by the JKPCC stated, "Recognising the Historic Step Towards Social Justice, equitable development and participation in the country's power structure. This house places on record its profound appreciation for the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, for his relentless and courageous advocacy for the nationwide caste census. His sustained efforts have culminated in a historic Cabinet decision that

marks a significant step towards achieving social justice and equitable development. We firmly believe that the caste census is not merely a data-gathering exercise but a vital instrument for policy-making that ensures the voices of the historically marginalised and under-represented communities are heard and empowered. The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee receives the news with pleasure amid mourning on the Pahalgam episode and reaffirms its full support for this initiative and resolves to carry forward the message of justice, equity, and inclusion across all regions of Jammu & Kashmir. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Rahul Gandhi ji and the Indian National Congress, we commit ourselves to working tirelessly towards building an India where every citizen is treated with dignity and fairness."

The statement read that the resolution was adopted unanimously.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Kashmir United In Grief: Tanvir Sadiq

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference chief spokesman and MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq, said the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack was not just an act of terror but a direct assault on Kashmir's dignity and collective soul. Tanvir Sadiq described how Kashmir responded with spontaneous shutdowns, mourning, and unity, rejecting violence without any political prompting.

Highlighting the courage of 30-year-old ponywallah Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who died defending tourists, Sadiq said his

sacrifice symbolized the true spirit of Kashmiriyat. He also acknowledged the many unnamed Kashmiris who helped the injured, calling them unsung heroes.

He also welcomed the historic special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, which unanimously condemned the terror attack, saying it was a clear message that Kashmir stands against violence.

"Not in our name," he said, echoing the Assembly's resolution, and adding that the world must now see the humane, resilient face of Kashmir. [KNT]

Internship Programme For CU Students Concludes At DIPR



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The one-month internship programme organized for students of the Central University concluded today at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir.

In a brief meaningful ceremony, Director Information, Nitish Rajora, felicitated the interns and acknowledged their enthusiasm, dedication, and active participation throughout the duration of the programme.

The internship aimed to provide hands-on exposure to media operations, public relations, and the communication framework of the government. The students were engaged in various aspects of media management, content

creation, enabling them to gain valuable practical experience.

Director Information Nitish Rajora, while addressing the interns, encouraged them to continue exploring the dynamic field of media and communication and appreciated their commitment to learning. He highlighted the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between academia and practical work environments.

The students expressed gratitude to the Directorate for providing them with this enriching learning opportunity and shared their positive experiences during the internship.

The DIPR reiterated its commitment to promoting youth engagement and skill development through such educational collaborations in the future.

75% Qualify 12th Class Exams

Girls Outshine Boys Yet Again

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education on Wednesday announced results of annual regular exams of 12th standard with an overall pass percentage of 75 percent.

Girl students have yet again outshined boys.

BOSE said that the total pass percentage includes 72 percent in boys and 78 percent among girl students.

It also said that a total of 1,033,08 candidates were enrolled for the exams in which 77,311 successfully qualified it.

Stating the overall performance of the candidates, BOSE said that a total of 51,717 male and 51,591 female candidates appeared in the examination out of which 75 percent qualified it.

In the exams, a total of 30,622 students have registered distinctions, 36,311 secured first divisions, 10,304 bagged second division and 74 candidates registered third division.

BOSE further said that in the examination, 970 students couldn't qualify the exams while 25,027 have been asked to reappear in the exams.

The official had said that

nearly 3,55,963 students were registered for the annual regular examination of class 10th, 11th and 12th including 1,32,992 candidates of 10th standard, 1,20,673 in 11th standard and 1,02,298 students of 12th standard respectively.

Pertinently, Education Minister Sakina Itoo had directed the BOSE and the concerned authorities to announce the results by April-30.

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had said that the board was mulling to announce the results of 10th and 12th standard on the same date—(KNO)

Living In Tent, Tribal Girl Secures Over 92% Marks

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable display of determination, Shabnum, a tribal girl from the remote Paner area of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, has achieved an outstanding result by securing 463 marks in her 10+2 examinations — all without any formal coaching or coaching centres.

Coming from a humble background, Shabnum's achievement has not only filled her family with pride but has also become an inspiring story for students across the region, especially girls from underprivileged communities. With limited access to educational facilities and no nearby coaching centres, she relied solely on self-study and guidance from her school teachers.

Shabnum Sadiq, who lives in a polythene tent at Kathwadi near Paner Jagir Tral, faced numerous hardships on her path to success. Despite these challenges, she remained focused and committed to her studies.

Shabnum shared her journey: "Every day, I had to walk several kilometres to reach the school because our area still lacks proper road connectivity. I had no access to coaching classes, but I stayed determined. My parents supported



me wholeheartedly, and I am grateful for their encouragement, as well as the prayers and guidance from my teachers."

She said that living in a tent amidst snow and harsh cold conditions was extremely tough, but she persevered, studying late into the night to prepare for her exams.

Looking ahead, Shabnum expressed her ambitions: "I plan to pursue graduation, and after that, I want to appear for the UPSC exams to become an IAS officer. My goal is to serve and develop our area, as many students here face problems due to the lack of roads and basic facilities."

Her maternal uncle, who, according to Shabnum, is behind her success, expressed immense pride. "We expected her to do well, but her out-

standing performance exceeded our expectations. She worked very hard, and this result is a testament to her dedication," he said.

Neighbours have lauded her achievement and called for improved educational infrastructure in tribal and remote areas like Paner. They have urged the authorities to address connectivity issues and provide better facilities to support aspiring students.

Shabnum and her family, along with local residents, have urged the MLA Tral and the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama to intervene and ensure the construction of roads in their area. They believe that better connectivity will enable more students to access quality education without suffering the hardships they currently endure.

Supreme Leader's Envoy Highlights Deep India-Iran Ties

Stresses Journalists' Power to Shape Nations

Ashraf Zaidi

NEW DELHI: India and Iran share multifaceted relationships rooted in history and the media can play a crucial role to further this bond between the two great civilizations, said the newly appointed Representative of Iran's Supreme Leader in India.

In his first interaction with a group of Delhi based journalists Dr Abdul Majid Hakim Elahi highlighted the historic and multifaceted relationship between Iran and India Dr Elahi called India "a familiar home," and emphasized the enduring ties between the two nations.

Dr Elahi remarked that the bond between the two nations are not only longstanding but are deeply intertwined through scholarly, literary, cultural, economic, and diplomatic connections. "There is a unique affinity between the two countries that is not commonly found elsewhere," he said. "When one arrives in India, it feels like coming home — there is a familiar fragrance to this land."

Dr Elahi, who assumed his role following the tenure of Ayatollah Mahdi Mahdavi Pour, also spoke about the critical importance of journal-



ism in today's world. "The age of information technology has turned journalism into a significant institution, with entire universities now dedicated to it," he said. "A journalist's role is not limited to reporting; it involves commentary and analysis. One piece of news can either stabilise a government or bring it down. The stock market can crash or rise based on a single report."

He further emphasised, "Today, the reins of global influence are in the hands of journalists. However, alongside this power come immense challenges, including political and economic pressures. It is crucial for journalists to navigate these challenges while staying true to their responsibilities."

Dr Elahi acknowledged the

often difficult and modest lives of journalists lead, driven by a commitment to public service. "A good journalist must be honest, sincere, creative, analytical, impartial, and free from prejudice," he noted. "Journalism is not just about news — it is about shaping minds and building humanity. A journalist is a beacon for society, guiding the blind to the right path."

Dr Elahi, a former university vice-chancellor and current member of several academic councils, has delivered scholarly lectures in 35 countries and held various key positions within the Iranian government. He is also the author of numerous books and over 40 research papers, with a long-standing dedication to education and academia.

Road Safety Enforcement Intensified On NH-44 In Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a determined push to strengthen road safety measures, the Assistant Regional Transport Office Baramulla conducted an extensive enforcement drive along the Baramulla-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

The operation led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla, Mohammad

Mukhtar Sofi was aimed at curbing violations and ensuring strict compliance with traffic norms, particularly in high-traffic and vulnerable zones.

During the drive, the enforcement team issued 24 e-challans for a range of traffic violations. In addition, five show-cause notices were served on the spot to drivers and vehicle owners found in serious breach of road safety standards.

Special emphasis was laid on the inspection of school buses, two-wheelers, and commercial vehicles. A variety of infractions were observed, including riding two-wheelers without helmets, unauthorized vehicle modifications, operating commercial vehicles without valid fitness certificates, absence of speed limiting devices, and failure to wear seat belts.

Waqf Board Honours Pahalgam Martyr, Offers Job To Brother



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a heartfelt tribute to courage and sacrifice, Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday handed over an appointment letter to Nazakat Ahmad Shah, brother of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who lost his life while confronting terrorists during the April 22 attack on tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley.

Alongside the employment offer, a Bravery Award was posthumously conferred upon Syed Adil Hussain, who died shielding tourists during the tragic incident that claimed 26 lives.

The solemn function witnessed the presence of senior BJP leaders and top officials, where Adil's heroism was lauded and support extended to his bereaved family.

Speaking to reporters, Dr. Andrabi stated, "Our fight against terrorism must be matched with meaningful actions. Offering employment to the martyr's brother is our way of providing

financial stability to the family while honouring Adil's supreme sacrifice."

She described Adil as a "symbol of Kashmir's resilience and valour," and affirmed that his legacy would remain an inspiration for generations to come.

BJP President Sat Sharma, also present at the event, praised the Waqf Board's initiative, calling it "a compassionate and commendable step" that sets an example of genuine respect for martyrdom.

Nazakat Ahmad Shah, while receiving the appointment letter, expressed his gratitude to the Waqf Board. "My brother gave his life protecting others. This recognition and the support provided to our family bring some comfort amid our grief. We are deeply thankful to Dr. Andrabi and all who stood by us," he said.

On April 22, terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam. Among the first to respond was Adil Hussain, a local horse ride operator, who died while trying to protect the visitors.

Chief Justice Administers Oath To Newly Appointed Judges



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli Thursday administered the oath of office to the two newly appointed Judges; Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem as Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in the Chief Justice's Court Room here.

The oath ceremony was attended at Jammu by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani while Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal participated virtually from the Srinagar Wing of the High Court.

The proceedings of the ceremony were conducted by M.K. Sharma, Registrar General (Officiating) of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh who read the contents of the notification received from the Government of India, Ministry

of Law & Justice, Department of Justice, the Warrants of Appointment issued by the President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to administer the oath of office to the two newly appointed Judges.

The ceremony was also attended by the Former Chief Justices/Former Judges of the High Court, Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Jammu as well as Srinagar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Senior Advocates, President Bar Association, Jammu & Members of Bar, Officers from Civil and Police Administration and Officers & Officials of the Registry.

With the elevation of two Officers from Higher Judicial Services as Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, the strength of Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has risen to 15 Judges including Chief Justice.

ECI Introduces 3 New Initiatives

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has introduced new initiatives aimed at improving the accuracy of electoral rolls, making the voting process more convenient for citizens.

These measures are in line with the initiatives as envisaged by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India Gyanesh Kumar during the Conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), in the presence of Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi in March this year.

The Commission will now obtain death registration data electronically from the Registrar General of India in line with Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (as amended in 2023). This will ensure that the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) receive timely information about registered deaths. This will also enable Booth Level Officers (BLOs)

to re-verify the information through field visits, without waiting for a formal request under Form 7.

To make Voter Information Slips (VIS) more voter friendly, the Commission has also decided to modify its design. The serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently, with increased font size, making it easier for voters to identify their polling station and for polling officials to locate their names in the electoral roll efficiently.

The Commission has also directed that all BLOs, who are appointed by the EROs under Section 13B(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, be issued standard photo identity cards to ensure that citizens can recognise and interact confidently with BLOs during voter verification and registration drives. As the first interface between the voters and the ECI in performing election related duties, it is important that BLOs are easily identifiable to the public while conducting house-to-house visits.

GT Eye Quick Turnaround, SRH Need Win To Stay In IPL Playoff Race

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans will look to bounce back from the carnage that wonder boy Vaibhav Suryavanshi inflicted on them when they face a stuttering Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Friday.

GT were left stunned when Rajasthan Royals' Suryavanshi took the game by storm, smashing the fastest century of the season in just 35 balls and becoming the youngest ever to score an IPL ton at just 14 years and 32 days.

The eight-wicket defeat was crushing despite GT posting a formidable 209/4 but, overall, the result has not changed their position in this IPL. The Titans are still one of the most consistent teams this season, having a well-balanced squad with depth in both batting and bowling.

The Shubman Gill-led side is currently placed comfortably with six wins from nine match-



es (12 points), and it needs just two victories from their remaining five fixtures to reach the magical 16-point mark -- good enough to secure the qualification for playoffs.

Back at home, GT will be buoyed by their in-form top-order.

In the reverse fixture earlier

this season, GT had registered a commanding seven-wicket win over SRH in Hyderabad, built around Mohammed Siraj's sensational spell of 4/17.

A month later, they'll be hoping for an encore.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad have slipped into a precarious position

and face a must-win scenario.

Last year's runners-up, known for their explosive brand of cricket, have faltered badly -- managing just three wins from nine matches and dropping to ninth place on the points table. Another defeat would all but knock them out of playoff contention.

SRH's campaign has seen fleeting sparks, particularly from openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head, but consistency has been sorely lacking.

Their top-order failures have often been compounded by a fragile middle-order, with the likes of Heinrich Klaasen, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Ishan Kishan struggling to find form.

Abhishek has failed to cross double digits in the last two games, while Head -- despite his fearsome reputation -- has scored just one fifty in his last eight outings and appears a shadow of his destructive self.

In a team full of big names, 23-year-old Aniket Verma has emerged as a surprise package.

However, SRH will need much more from the experienced duo of Pat Cummins and Mohammed Shami, both of whom have struggled to make a significant impact so far.

Match starts at 7:30 pm.

Short TAKES

3rd District Bandipora Ball Badminton C'ship Concludes

The 3rd District Bandipora Ball Badminton Championship, organised by the Bandipora Ball Badminton Association in collaboration with the J&K Ball Badminton Association, Dubai Grand International School, Department of Social Welfare Bandipora and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, concluded successfully at Dubai Grand International School, Bandipora.

The event was supported by Star Sports Academy Bandipora, J&K Police Bandipora, Indian Army 14 RR, Empire Pizza Café Bandipora, and Vintage Tent House Bandipora, under the esteemed banner of the J&K Sports Council.

The two-day tournament, held from April 29 to April 30, 2025, saw enthusiastic participation from 220 players across boys and girls categories, showcasing the region's growing interest and talent in ball badminton.

IPL Powerhouse Chennai First To Be Eliminated From Playoff Race

Indian Premier League powerhouse Chennai Super Kings have become the first team to be eliminated from the playoff race this season, paying the price for an outdated style of batting in the 10-team competition.

The five-time champions succumbed to their eighth loss in 10 matches this season after Punjab Kings beat them by four wickets on Wednesday to keep them at the bottom of the points table.

At 172-4 in the 18th over, Chennai looked set for a 200-plus score but they were eventually all out for 190 with four balls left in their innings after Punjab spinner Yuzvendra Chahal claimed four wickets in five balls, including a hat-trick.

"It was the first time when we had put enough runs on the board, but was it a par score? I feel (we were) slightly short," Chennai captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said afterwards.

"Not to forget when it's a high-scoring game, we didn't play the last four deliveries and in the second last over, we got four batsmen out." "In close games, seven (dot) deliveries mean a lot," he said.

Pak Javelin Star Nadeem's Instagram Account Blocked In India

Pakistan's Olympic gold-winning javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem's Instagram account has been blocked in India owing to a "legal request" in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Users attempting to access Nadeem's Instagram page from India are met with the message: "Account not available in India. This is because we complied with a legal request to restrict this content."

The government has since cracked down on Pakistani social media accounts that have large following in India.

Earlier this week, several Pakistani YouTube channels were also restricted in India for "disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies".

Former cricketers Shoaib Akhtar, Basit Ali, and Shahid Afridi were among those whose YouTube accounts were withheld.

Interestingly, while their YouTube content is no longer accessible, their Instagram accounts remain available, unlike Nadeem's.

The Instagram accounts of current Pakistan cricketers including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheed Afridi are also accessible.

Manchester City's Rodri & Erling Haaland Back In Training

Manchester City midfielder Rodri has returned to training for the first time since suffering a serious knee injury in September, manager Pep Guardiola said on Thursday.

The Spain international's absence following surgery on his anterior cruciate ligament has been cited as a major reason City's quest for a fifth straight Premier League title crumbled.

While the 28-year-old Ballon d'Or winner's recovery has probably come too late for this campaign, the news of his return to the grass is a welcome boost for City.

Guardiola also said their Norway striker Erling Haaland is back in training, having not played since March 30 because of an ankle injury, although he is unlikely to feature in Friday's home game against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Rodri will now be guided by the club's medical staff before a return date is set, Guardiola said.

Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Tournaments Begin At GHSS Rainawari



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Zone Rainawari on Thursday inaugurated its Inter-School Zonal-Level Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Volleyball tournaments at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Rainawari.

The event was officially declared open by senior faculty members Altaf Hussain Haji and Syed Naseer Hussain Rizvi, in the presence of Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Mu-

zamil Ahmad Dar.

Before the commencement of the games, a pledge against drug abuse was administered to all participants, highlighting the zone's commitment to promoting sports and a drug-free lifestyle among youth.

The opening day witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 230 Under-14 boys representing both government and private institutions.

In the Volleyball final,

BMS Jogi Lankar edged past BMS Khalifapora in a thrilling 2-1 victory. In Kho-Kho, MS Choudhary Bagh defeated GMS Zaildar Mohalla, while in Kabaddi, GMS Zaildar Mohalla turned the tables to clinch the title against MS Choudhary Bagh.

ZPEO Rainawari Muzamil Ahmad Dar expressed gratitude to the dedicated field staff of Zone Rainawari for their tireless efforts and support in organizing the successful tournament.

YSS Ganderbal's Inter School Zonal Level Volleyball Tournament Concludes



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal conducted its Inter School Zonal Level Volleyball tournament in Zone Ganderbal for Boys Under-17 at Qamaria

Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal.

The event, which entered its second day today, witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 150 student players representing various schools of the zone.

As the competition inten-

sified, teams battled fiercely for a spot in the upcoming Inter Zonal District Level Tournament. After a series of gripping matches, BHSS Ganderbal and BHS Gutlibagh emerged as the finalists.

In a thrilling showdown, BHSS Ganderbal clinched the title by defeating BHS Gutlibagh 2-1 in sets, showcasing remarkable skill and composure under pressure.

The Principal of Qamaria HSS Ganderbal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed trophies among the winning and runner-up teams.

Punjab Kings Star Glenn Maxwell Ruled Out Of 2025 IPL

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Punjab Kings' Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was on Thursday ruled out of the Indian Premier League's remaining matches after fracturing his finger, the franchise announced.

Maxwell suffered the injury before PBKS' rained out game against Kolkata Knight Riders in which he was dismissed for 7, continuing an underwhelming season.

"Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the remainder of the season due to a finger injury. We wish him a speedy recovery," Kings posted on their social media handle.

Maxwell was replaced by Suryansh

suitable replacement for Maxwell which may not be easy to find.

"We will be signing some replacements at some stage," Ponting said in the post-match press conference when asked about the injury setback.

"We've got until our 12th game, so we have a couple of games to go yet. With the squad we've got, we're trying to find players in our squad anyway. So we've got Azmatullah (Omarzai), Aaron Hardie who hasn't played yet, Xavier Bartlett who didn't play today.

"It's conditions based. But when we get to Dharamsala he will come back into the reckoning up there, where the ball might swing and bounce a little bit more," he explained.



Shedje in Wednesday night's clash against Chennai Super Kings that PBKS won by four wickets.

The veteran Australian all-rounder had a forgettable run in this year's IPL, managing a mere 48 runs in seven matches averaging a lowly eight while taking four wickets.

"Unfortunately, Maxi's broken his finger. He broke it just before the last game at training. He didn't think it was too bad, but it ended up getting pretty bad. He had scans and yeah, the results weren't great. So unfortunately for Maxi, I think it's likely he's out for the tournament," Maxwell's compatriot and PBKS teammate Marcus Stoinis had told 'Jiostar' ahead of the CSK game.

Punjab head coach Ricky Ponting said the side is currently trying to figure a

look at the Indian talent that it has as international options are limited due to other ongoing leagues.

"...there's not a lot of high quality replacements out there to be honest. So we've just been patient," he said.

"We're having a look around at Indian talent as well and we're looking at what roles we might be able to fill with some younger Indian players. We'll actually take a couple of guys to Dharamsala with us, a couple of guys trained with us yesterday and they will come with us to Dharamsala.

"...we'll have a closer look at them and they might find themselves with a Punjab contract going forward (smiles). It has to be this week, has to be before the 12th game so stay tuned," he added.

Barcelona Teenager Yamal Praised By Friend & Foe For Performance Against Inter Milan

Agencies

BARCELONA: After witnessing from the touchline how Lamine Yamal pushed his Inter Milan lineup to the limit, Simone Inzaghi said talents like the Barcelona teenager come around only once in a half century.

"He's the kind of talent who is born every 50 years, I had never seen him live and he really impressed me today," the Inter coach said after Yamal helped Barcelona rally in a scintillating 3-3 draw Wednesday to start their Champions League semifinal series.

"Lamine Yamal caused us so many problems in the last 25 minutes of the first half."

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick described his 17-year-old player as "a genius" after Yamal put on his latest talent show in his 100th game for the club's senior squad.

"He's special. I've said it before, but he's a genius," Flick

said. "In the big matches, he shows up, and I think he enjoyed the situation. I'm really happy that this talent, if it only comes every 50 years like Simone said, I'm glad it's for Barcelona."

Yamal Romping Where Messi Once Did

Yamal dismissed any comparison to Lionel Messi in his first press conference for his club a day before Inter came to town. But his performance recalled the best days of Messi as his teammates fed him passes and let him pick Inter apart from the right flank. Each time he had the ball he was either searching for a teammate in scoring position or dipping his head and dribbling past his marker.

His goal was one for the YouTube compilations.

Inter had a 2-0 lead and the momentum from goals by Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries, and it appeared



like they'd left Yamal with nowhere to go in the 24th. But he slipped around one defender, sped past a second, and then, putting the ball on his left foot, he curled a shot past the turning heads of at least two more Inter players. The ball smacked the far post and was cradled in the net.

That goal made Yamal -- at 17 years, 291 days -- the youngest scorer in a Champions League semifinal.

He went so close to bettering that moments later when he glided past two defenders and sliced a shot from a sliver of an angle off the crossbar.

"This guy is incredible," Manchester City striker Erling Haaland posted on Snapchat with a screenshot of Yamal's shot off the bar.

Yamal fed passes to Ferran Torres and Dani Olmo for back-to-back shots that Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer saved before Raphinha took over and headed a ball down for Torres to ram home for 2-2 before

halftime.

Dumfries put Inter ahead again before Raphinha ensured the draw with a long-range strike that found the net. But Yamal was disappointed that a final push for a winner came up short.

"The whole world can see what a good footballer he is. He's a player who shines," Inter midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan said. "We tried to stop him, but that was so difficult because he's got great talent. I hope we don't let him play this much next week."

Hungry For More

Yamal said he appreciated the praise but just wanted to focus on the next match with a European Cup just two wins away.

"I am happy to have helped the team, and now we need to go for more," he said. "We knew we could have won the game but now we are just focused on the second leg and going through."