

3 Terrorists Killed In Shopian Encounter

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three terrorists were Tuesday killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Based on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in Shukroo Keller area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces who retaliated.

In the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed, they said.

"During the encounter, three terrorists were killed and arms and ammunition were recovered from the site," an official said, adding, "The slain terrorists have been identified as Shahid Ah Kuttay of Chotipora Keller Shopian, Adnan Shafi Dar of Zainapora Shopian, and Ehsan Ul Haq Sheikh of Murran Pulwama."

It is noteworthy that the houses of all three terrorists were demolished last month following the killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam.

According to the official, Shahid Kuttay, son of Mohammad Yousef Kuttay from Chotipora Heerpora, had reportedly joined LeT on March 8, 2023, and was classified as a Category-A terrorist. "He was a key figure in several high-profile terror incidents in south Kashmir, including the firing at Danish Resort on April 8, 2024, which | [More on P6](#)

India Rejects Trump's Mediation Offer On Kashmir

Kashmir Issue Strictly Bilateral: MEA | 'Indus Water Treaty On Hold Until Terror Ends'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: India on Tuesday appeared to push back against US President Donald Trump's offer of mediation on the Kashmir issue, assertion on trade and his claims of defusing a nuclear conflict in the context of hostilities between Indian and Pakistani militaries following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also seemed to reject Trump's forceful comments that Washington brokered the understanding between India and Pakistan on ending their four-day military conflict.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, replying to a volley of



6 THAT STATED POLICY ON J&K HAS NOT CHANGED. The outstanding matter is the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan."

questions at a media briefing on the US president's remarks on Kashmir, said India has a "longstanding" national position that any issue relating to it will have to be addressed by New Delhi and Islamabad bilaterally.

"That stated policy (on Jammu and Kashmir) has not changed. As you are aware, the outstanding matter is the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan," he said.

In a social media post on May 11, Trump claimed credit for helping India and Pakistan arrive at a "historic and heroic decision" to end their hostilities and offered to mediate on the Kashmir issue, saying he will work | [More on P6](#)

India's Lakshman Rekha Against Terrorism Now Clear: PM



New Delhi: With an S-400 missile defence system in the backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a firm message Tuesday from Adampur Air Base to Pakistan: Not only have you failed to harm any of India's military

installations but you will be annihilated if terrorism continues from your soil.

In his first speech to the armed forces since Operation Sindoor, Modi lauded the military for humbling Pakistan in the four-day | [More on P6](#)

6 PAKISTAN CANNOT MATCH our capability built on modern and cutting-edge technology.

Pahalgam Attack

Posters In Shopian Seek Leads On Terrorists

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Posters have appeared in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district announcing a reward of Rs 20 lakh for information about three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead, officials said on Tuesday.

The posters, pasted at several places in the south Kashmir district, have photographs of the three terrorists who are believed to have carried out the April 22 attack in Baisaran meadows in the tourist resort in south Kashmir.

The posters sought any information about the involved terrorists and offered a reward

of over Rs 20 lakh for such information, they said.

Written in Urdu, the posters sought the help of the people in tracing the terrorists, saying "those who killed the innocents do not have a place in our country".

On April 23, police announced a bounty of Rs 20 lakh for information leading to the neutralisation of terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

Security agencies had released the sketches of three men suspected to be involved in the terror attack.

The men, all Pakistanis, are Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha, officials said. They had code names Moosa, Yunus and Asif and | [More on P6](#)



Everyday life returns to Lal Chowk after ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan. KO Pic Faisal Khan

Child Rights Commission

HC Grants Govt 'Last Opportunity' To Clear Stand

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has granted the government "last opportunity" to make its position clear regarding the setting up of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal observed that despite repeated orders passed by the Court, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, in terms of Section 44 of the Protection of the Child from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, has not been constituted. Subsequently, requested the Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, to

appear before it. Accordingly, Sanjeev Verma, Secretary, SWD joined the proceedings virtually.

The court interacted with him at length, and he fairly admitted that although the advertisement to select and appoint the members, as also the Chairperson of the Commission, was issued way

back in June 2023, the process of selection is still at the nascent stage.

However, considering the sensitivity of the matter, as also that a considerable time has already elapsed, the

Secretary SWD prayed for a short accommodation to furnish a specific affidavit, indicating the precise time that was required to complete the selection process.

"That being so, and before we proceed | [More on P6](#)



Border Schools To Reopen Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Following the re-opening of educational institutes in non-border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, School Education Department Tuesday said that all schools in the border districts shall reopen on Wednesday except for those falling in the proximity of border zones.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said, "All government and private schools of zone Gurez shall remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025 as a precautionary measure. However, teachers will resume their duties by tomorrow. Schools in all other zones of district Bandipora shall remain open."

It also said that "All the schools in district Kupwara shall reopen on May-14-2025 except the schools in Karnah sub division Keran, Machil, Budnambal, Jumagand and Kumkadi where class work will remain suspended."

DSEK further said all government and private schools of zone Uri, Jhulla, Chandanwari and Boniyar (Sub division Uri) shall remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025 as a precautionary measure. | [More on P6](#)

JUSTICE DELAYED

Man Practiced Law 16 Years with Fake Degree

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a stunning revelation that has rocked the legal fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has cancelled the license of an advocate who practiced law for nearly sixteen years using a forged LL.B degree.

According to an official notification issued on Tuesday, the High Court revoked the Certificate of Enrollment of Advocate Sajad Ahmad Shah, who had been on the rolls of the Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir since July 2009. The drastic action comes after the Hon'ble Admission and Enrollment Committee of the High Court found that Shah's law degree was "forged and fake."

"Pursuant to the Resolution dated 29.04.2025 of the Hon'ble Admission and Enrollment Committee, it is hereby notified for general information that the Certificate of Enrollment No. JK-225/09 dated 17.07.2009, as an Advocate issued in favour of Sh. Sajad Ahmad Shah... is

hereby revoked," the High Court said in a notice that has sent shockwaves through legal circles.

The notice further added, "The name of the Advocate Sh. Sajad Ahmad Shah is removed from the Roll of Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir, having Fake and Forged LL.B Degree."

The case raises serious questions about the robustness of vetting procedures within the legal admission system, as Shah managed to enroll and actively practice law in various courts across the Union Territory for over a decade and a half—without detection.

Sources in the legal community expressed disbelief over how such a glaring fraud remained undetected for so long. "Sixteen years is a long time. This isn't just about one man; it points to a serious loophole in the system," said a senior lawyer, requesting anonymity. The High Court's move comes as part of a broader push to ensure greater accountability and transparency within the | [More on P6](#)

FAKE

Safety, Support & Swift Rehab Govt's Top Priority: CM

Assures Bunker Expansion During Visit to Shell-Affected Kupwara Villages

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of his continued outreach to border residents affected by cross-border shelling, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday visited Tangdhar in district Kupwara to assess the on-ground situation and interact with the affected families.

CM said he had come personally to assess the damages caused by shelling and reiterated that adequate help would be provided to the victims as part of relief and rehabilitation measures.

While inspecting community bunkers in Tangdhar, the Chief Minister acknowledged their critical role during crises.

"These structures are a lifeline during times of escalation. We will ensure the construction of additional bunkers to safeguard our people living in



vulnerable areas," he said. During the visit, the Chief Minister toured various villages in the Karnah border sub-division, including Tangdhar, Hajinard, Nachiyar, Shamspora, Baghbela, Batpora, and Tarboni.

He took stock of the damage to residential structures and listened to the grievances of the affected residents.

Assuring support from the

administration, he said, "The affected families have shown remarkable courage in the face of adversity. Their resilience is inspiring. The government stands shoulder to shoulder with them. Their pain will not go unnoticed, and every possible step will be taken to help them rebuild their lives with dignity and renewed hope."

He further emphasized that ensuring the | [More on P6](#)

New Bunkers Being Set Up Along Indo-Pak Border

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, while asserting that 9,500 bunkers have been set up along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir, reached out to shelling-affected people

along the Line of Control in Rajouri district on Tuesday. He assured that more bunkers would be constructed for the safety of border dwellers. Dulloo stated that | [More on P6](#)

Border Villages Undergo Shell Clearance Drive

Agencies

Srinagar: The bomb disposal squads of Army and police are undertaking a major exercise in Jammu and Kashmir's border villages to defuse the unexploded artillery and mortar shells fired by Pakistan.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo said they are monitoring the situation and will facilitate the return of the displaced border residents after getting clearance from the security agencies and will also ensure early compensation to those whose houses were damaged in the indiscriminate shelling on civilian areas.

The officials said dozens of unexploded explosives were destroyed by the experts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts and along the International Border in Jammu and Samba which witnessed intense cross-border shelling and drone attacks from May 7 to May 10.

The intensity in the shelling from Pakistan intensified on May 7 after the India armed forces carried out missile strikes at nine terror targets across the border under Operation Sindoor in retaliation to Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 that had left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

The ceasefire violations from Pakistan had started from north Kashmir immediately after the Pahalgam terror attack and extended to the areas along the LoC and IB in Jammu division, prompting | [More on P6](#)



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'Less Or Poor Quality Of Sleep In Babies Could Be Risk Factor Of Autism'

Press Trust Of India

Babies who sleep less or have a poor quality of sleep could be at a higher risk of developing and being diagnosed with autism, according to researchers who looked at over 1000 mother-infant pairs in Australia. An increase in night-time sleep by an hour by six months of age was related with fewer autism characteristics at age two and four. Findings, published in the journal Archives of Disease in Childhood, suggest that sleep issues in infants could be a potential indicator of autism -- a neurodevelopmental disorder, in which one

displays repetitive behaviour and has impaired social skills. Researchers, including those at The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, surveyed parents about their baby's sleep patterns at age six and 12 months. The parents then reported if they noticed autism-like characteristics when the child turned two and four years old. Sleep disturbances, including insomnia, are known to be common among children with autism -- they have an overactive brain which can hamper development, potentially resulting in problems with social skills and emotion regulation. The researchers also found that every in-

crease of five minutes in sleep latency -- or trouble with falling asleep -- was related with more autism characteristics and a 7.7 per cent higher chance of being diagnosed with the condition. "Poor infant sleep quality was linked to increased autism characteristics and diagnosis odds in a representative Australian sample," the authors wrote. "At 12 months (of age), each 25 per cent increase in sleep latency (of about five minutes) was associated with more autism characteristics (1.5 per cent increase) and 7.7 per cent higher autism diagnosis odds," they wrote. The participants were recruited during

2010-2013. Before the children turned age 12, 64 had been diagnosed with autism. Among the diagnosed, 42 per cent were found to have used melatonin in the past month. The supplement is often prescribed as people with autism have problems with producing melatonin, essential for regulating sleep-wake cycles. "Collectively, (the study) suggests that infant sleep characteristics have the potential to serve as one indicator for identifying infants who could benefit from autism monitoring, thereby facilitating early diagnosis. It may also inform future supportive evidence-based interventions for autistic children," the authors wrote.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Ghulam Bhat to new name Ghulam Mohd Bhat in future I will be known as (New Name) Ghulam Mohd Bhat if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Musaib Mehraj Bhat S/o Mehraj Ud Din Bhat & Tasleema R/o Lane No.5 Omer Colony A Lal Bazar Srinagar, have lost my Passport (Bearing passport no. H 9030650) while travelling from Kashmir University to Omer Colony A, Lal Bazar. Now I want to its Duplicate. In this regard, if anybody is having any objection he/she may file his/her objection to the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a week's time after that no objection will be entertained.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Bhat Wilayat in aadhar card while the correct name is Abdul Wilayat Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mudasir Ahmad Bhat
F/O Abdul Wilayat Bhat
R/o Mantribugh Shopian, Distt: Shopian

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Sub: Order for registration of Date of Birth in the records of Municipal Committee Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to the birth of Fatima tuz Zahra D/o Hakiem javid iqbal & Aamina javid D/o Hakiem javid iqbal R/o Palhallan, having verified the date of birth as 23-05-2019 and 25-03-2015 respectively and the event has shown occurred at SDH Pattan. On this connection, if anyone has any objection to the issuance of said order for obtaining birth certificates shall present his/her claim to this office within seven days. After that no further objection will be entertained.

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar
Pattan

fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to rectify the Mother's name of my daughter, studying in the grade 7, session 2025 under Roll no: 25, section: purple in Green Valley Educational Institute, Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar, from Seema to Samiya Yasin, which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter.

Name of parent: Imtiyaz Hussain Mir
R/o: Khaiwan, Narwara Eidgah (Srinagar)
190002 - J&K

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

SUB ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATION ORDER IN RESPECT OF DELAYED BIRTH..
PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mir Sulaimaan D.o.B 10/03/2019 and Mir Showkat Hussain D.o.B 10/03/2016 S/o sons of Showkat Rasool Mir R/o Golipora Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ab Ahad Tantry S/o Gh Ahmad Tantry R/o Shripura bangil tehsil pattan with verified date of birth 03/04/1978 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS Scholarship Section

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) for ST candidates for the Selection year 2025-26.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, invites online applications for the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) from ST candidates for the selection year 2025-26. The scholarship is awarded to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad at the Masters level, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Research programmes.

Number of slots for Scholarship: 20

Interested Candidates may apply online through the NOS Portal <https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/> The portal will remain open from 15th May 2025 to 30th June 2025 (5:30PM) for submission of applications.

For more details candidates may visit Ministry's portal: <https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/>

cbc 43101/11/0007/2526

Dignified Farewell

Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

In Kashmir, it is a painful irony that the departed, who leave behind a lifetime of earnings, are often transported to their final resting place in load carriers – vehicles they would never have used for commuting while alive. This stark contrast raises a profound question: shouldn't every soul be granted a dignified farewell, just as they lived with dignity? It is time to ensure that the last journey of our loved ones reflects the respect and honor they deserve. Since launching a dedicated funeral service in Islamabad in 2014, Mother Helpage now invites you to donate generously to provide these services for Srinagar, Budgam, and Baramulla.



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For queries call

Farooq A Ashai (Coordinator)

Ph: +91 788-9402837

Email : farooq.ashai@motherhelpage.org





Sgr Police Intensify Crackdown Against Terrorist Aides

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In its continued resolute efforts to combat terrorist ecosystem by targeting terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police Tuesday continued to intensify searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terrorist ecosystem in the district.

Pertinently, searches of residences of numerous terrorist associates have been conducted till now to target the infrastructure supporting terrorist activity unsparingly, a statement issued Kashmir Observer reads.

In continuation wrt the same, Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences of Noor Mohammad Sheikh son of Late Gh Mohammad resident of Kanimazar involved in case FIR No. 156/2023 u/s 7/25 A Act, 13, 23, 39 UAP Act, Waseem Tariq Matta son of Tariq Ahamd resident of Rampora involved in Case FIR No 46/2023 u/s 7/25 A,Act 4/5 Exp Act 18,23,38 UAP Act of Police Station Chanpora, Anjum Younis daughter of Mohammad Younis resident of Kenihama involved in case FIR no 27/21 u/s 302,392,7/27 Arms act ,13,16,18,20 UAPA of Police Station Nowgam, Bilal Ahmad Lone son of Ab Rehman resident of Syedpora Eidgah , involved in case FIR No. 51/021 u/s 302,

147,148,149 and 13 ULAP Act of Police Station Safakadal, Faizyab Showkat Dewani son of Showkat Ahmad resident of Pater Masjid Zainkadal involved in case FIR No. 35/2022 u/s 505, 153-A, 153-B IPC, 13 UAP Act Police Station M.R.Gunj Sgr, Bilal Lone @ Choonin son of Ab Rahman Lone resident of Saidpora Eidgah involved in case FIR No. 51/2021 u/s 302,147,148,149,341 RPC, 13 ULAP of Police Station Nowhatta and Case FIR No. 130/16 u/s 147,148,336,152 RPC Police Station Safakadal, Manzoor Tola [Released Militant] son of Asadullah Tola resident of KhaneSokta involved in case FIR No. 156/2023 u/s 13, 19, 39 UAP Act OF Police Station Safakadal, Mohammad Ayoub Dar son of Gh Mohammad Dar resident of Reiteng Khanyar involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 u/s 7/25 A.Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Mushtaq Ahmad Bachoon son of Gh Mohi ud din Bachoon resident of Kathidarwaza Rainawari involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 u/s 7/25 A.Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khan-yar and Firdous Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar resident of Ibrahim Colony, involved in Case FIR No 46/2023 u/s U/S 7/25 A.Act 4/5 Exp Act 13,23,38,UAP Act of Police Station Chanpora.

IWAI Sets Up Its New Office In City

Agencies

Srinagar: In a move that is set to strengthen the Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways sets up its new office in Srinagar's Transport Bhawan. The office space has been provided by the J & K government. Functional from today, this office will be central to all the IWT works being undertaken by the Authority in the region.

IWAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to develop river navigation infrastructure in three national waterways in the Union Territory i.e. NW-26 (River Chenab), NW-49 (River Jhelum), NW-84 (River Ravi). The Authority will

now start the development works under the framework of the MoU. These works include setting up of floating jetties at ten locations in Jammu and Kashmir, development of navigational fairway by dredging wherever required, night navigational aids and regular hydrographic surveys for safe plying of vessels in these waterways.

IWAI has made several infrastructural interventions to develop waterways as a robust engine of growth. With proactive steps like developing IWT terminals and related infrastructure, IWAI is working towards utilizing the immense potential of rivers across the country. The partnership between IWAI and the Jammu and Kashmir government is a significant step that promises to promote eco-tourism in the union territory while also stimulating local economy. (CNS)

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool & Associates

In the case of
1. Ali Mohammad Bhat Son Of Late Abdul Gani Bhat
2. Gh Nabi Bhat Son of Late Gh Hassan Bhat
3. Mohammad Anwar Bhat Son of Late Mohammad Subhan Bhat
All residents of Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan Baramulla

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepara- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

Sd/advocate

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Gh Nabi Para s/o Ab Salam Para R/o Sheerpura bangil with verified date of birth 24/06/1977 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan



25 Professor, Over 150 Assistant Professor Posts Vacant At GMC Sgr

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar is facing a severe faculty shortage, with over 150 assistant professor posts and 25 professor-level positions currently vacant.

This information was revealed through a Right to Information (RTI) query obtained by RTI activist MM Shuja.

According to the RTI details, GMC Srinagar has 108 sanctioned professor posts—83 filled and 25 vacant. The vacant professor posts are due to the promotion process, which recommends eligible candidates as they meet the requirements.

To address the staffing shortage, GMC Srinagar advertised for assistant, associate, and professor posts across six sub-specialties at the Pediatric Hospital on an academic arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020, with the selection process ongoing. The entry-level assistant professor posts in 33 departments were also advertised, but their selection has been stayed by the Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh High Court as of November 14, 2024, in WP(c) No: 2529/2024.

Vacancies are spread across nearly all departments, includ-

“
Recruitments are pending and have been taken up with the concerned authorities. The process is ongoing.

ing critical areas like medical oncology, pediatric anaesthesia, pediatric cardiology, pediatric orthopaedics, neurology and others. In some departments, all three levels—professor, associate professor, and assistant professor—are vacant. This faculty shortage is impacting both academic activities and healthcare

services, which serve thousands of patients daily and train hundreds of medical students.

GMC Srinagar officials confirmed the staffing issues, saying that recruitment processes are underway. "Recruitments are pending and have been taken up with the concerned authorities. The process is ongoing," said a senior official.

Medical professionals expressed concern that the faculty crunch could compromise the quality of education and patient care. "Inadequate faculty means overburdened departments and limited attention for both students and patients," said a doctor at the hospital.

On the development front, officials said several infrastructure projects were completed last year, with more underway for 2025. "We completed various upgrades, including ward improvements, new medical equipment, and sanitation measures," an official said. "This year, our focus is on further modernisation and expanding services."

Students and healthcare workers have urged the government to expedite appointments to ensure that academic standards and patient services are not compromised—(KNO)

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand
but
did I clean it enough?
?Wash it again?
is it clean now?

It's not just
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BUT
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myths and stigma
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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
16 Zil-Qadah
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 55
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5: 20
Magrib	7:27
ISHA	9: 01

This Day In History

- 1264 - Battle of Lewes, 2nd Barons' War: Simon de Montfort the younger, Earl of Leicester, defeats English King Henry III
- 1509 - Battle of Agnadello, French beat Venetians in Northern Italy
- 1664 - Turkish Grand Vizier Köprülü Fazıl Ahmed attacks 120,000 Donau soldiers
- 1702 - England & Netherlands declare war on France & Spain
- 1702 - Swedish troops under King Charles XII occupy Warsaw
- 1811 - Paraguay gains independence from Spain (National Day)
- 1853 - Gail Borden, land surveyor, newspaper publisher and inventor, patents his process for condensed milk
- 1861 - The Canellas meteorite, an 859-gram chondrite-type meteorite, strikes the earth near Barcelona, Spain
- 1862 - Adolphe Nicole of Switzerland patents chronograph
- 1863 - American Civil War: The Battle of Jackson, Mississippi takes place
- 1868 - Japanese Boshin War: end of the Battle of Utsunomiya Castle, former Shogunate forces withdraw northward to Aizu by way of Nikk
- 1897 - Great Britain signs treaty with Emperor Menelik II of Abyssinia
- 1907 - Sweden adopts universal suffrage for elections to its lower house and proportional representation for both houses
- 1921 - Mussolini's fascists obtain 29 parliamentary seats in Italian elections
- 1939 - Lina Medina becomes the world's youngest confirmed mother in medical history at the age of five.
- 1944 - British troops occupy Kohima
- 1944 - General Rommel, Speidel & von Stulpnagel attempt to assassinate Hitler
- 1945 - Physician Joseph G. Hamilton injects misdiagnosed cancer patient Albert Stevens (CAL-1) with 131 kBq (3.55 µCi) of plutonium without his knowledge. Stevens lives another 20 years, surviving the highest known accumulated radiation dose in any human
- 1948 - Israel declares independence from British administration

From KO Archives

‘Tribal Justice’ Surfaces In Sleepy Kokerag Village

Women Branded with Red-Hot Irons For ‘Illicit Ties’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The police has arrested two persons and is looking for another five for branding two married women with red-hot iron rods in a village on the outskirts of Kokernag.

Some people in the Dardyu village of the Larnu area in Kokernag yesterday accused two local women of having an illicit relationship with one Riyaz Ahmad, a youth living in the neighbourhood.

The villagers caught the three accused and awarded punishment to the two women on their own.

According to, the police, the villagers took the law into their own hands and shaved the heads of the two women, and later branded their bodies with red-hot irons. The women were stripped by their accusers, reports said.

The area is seething with anger at the incident.

The women lodged a case with the Kokernag police, who arrested two persons, Syed Javed Ahmad Shah and Muhammad Ashraf Shah for causing injury, to the women.

A hunt has been launched for five more villagers identified as Syed Arshad Ahmad, Syed Nisar, Naseeb Ahmad, Basheer Ahmad and Manzoor Ahmad. Raids were conducted at several places to nab the suspects whose arrest has been demanded by the people of the area.

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

New Rules
Of Engagement

Visibly emotional and angry Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled India's new security policy in his speech to the nation on Monday evening. While reiterating that “this is not an era of war,” the PM added that this was not even “an era of terrorism.” He laid out a bold and unequivocal doctrine, one rooted in decisive retaliation, strategic clarity, and zero tolerance for both state-sponsored terror and nuclear blackmail.

In unequivocal terms, the PM declared that the age of India exercising strategic restraint in the face of repeated provocations is over. Operation Sindoor, as he described, was not merely a military mission but a calibrated assertion of India's strength, resolve, and moral authority. The precision strikes deep into Pakistani territory, targeting long-operating terror hubs like Bawalpur and Muridke, were a powerful message not just to Islamabad, but to the world: India, the PM rightly pointed out, will no longer be a passive victim of terrorism exported from across the border.

Coming in the immediate wake of the four day war ending in a ceasefire, the PM's speech resonated on multiple levels. First, it acknowledged the pain and outrage following the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, where innocents were killed in cold blood. Modi framed India's response not as vengeance, but as justice - swift, calibrated, and proportionate.

Second, was the PM's emphasis on unity of communities, political parties, and institutions, reaffirming the idea that the nation stands as one in the face of terror.

Perhaps the most important takeaway of the speech was the redefining of the rules of engagement with Pakistan. He said that any future dialogue with the neighbouring country will be confined to terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He dismissed any prospect of “peace talks” that ignore core security concerns, marking a clear departure from the cycles of talks and betrayals that have defined the relationship for decades.

The tone of the speech, delivered with firmness, deserves recognition by Pakistan. The PM invoked Lord Buddha's ideals of peace, but with the realism that peace must be backed by power. “Talks and terror can't go together. Blood and water cannot flow together,” Modi said, drawing a red line on both terror and trade. The speech articulated a doctrine. A new Indian security posture has been born, rooted in strength, steered by unity, and shaped by the will to protect every citizen's right to live in peace.



The Lifestyle Curse

Why Some People Never Find Financial Stability

Irshad Mushtaq

It's a silent crisis. Many people earn decently, but their bank accounts tell another story. The culprit isn't always poverty. It's often the choices we make in the name of lifestyle.

The trap starts early. You land your first job, and instead of building a cushion, you buy the car. The phone. The designer labels. You don't just live within your means, you stretch them to the limit. Credit cards and loans fill the gap, and suddenly, half your paycheck disappears into EMIs and interest.

What's left? Barely enough to get by, let alone save or invest. And it becomes a loop. The income comes in, the bills go out, and there's no exit ramp.

Add to that a belief system that blames fate: “I was never lucky with money” or “My family was never rich.”

It's easy to feel stuck when you think success only comes to the already successful, or the corrupt. People often eye the wealthy with suspicion rather than curiosity. They assume scams, not smart moves.

This mix of pride, resignation, and denial blocks growth. Advice is seen as judgment. Learning from others feels like defeat. But here's the truth: building wealth isn't about income alone. It's about habits, humility, and hard questions.

The way out starts with a shift in mindset. Drop the ego. Learn the basics. Ask questions. Spend less than you earn. Save before you splurge. And above all, believe that change is possible. Because it is.

Financial stability isn't luck. It's discipline. And the sooner we see that, the freer we become.

The writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Look, Kashmir tourism isn't just about pretty views or houseboats on Dal Lake. It's a lifeline for thousands of young people who've built their dreams on it.

After years of discord and disturbances, things started looking up around 2020. Young Kashmiris, with nothing but grit and some borrowed cash, launched travel agencies, cab services, and cozy guesthouses. They offered treks through alpine peaks, scenic drives, and homestays that felt like family.

For once, they weren't waiting for government jobs. They were making their own way. But now, that hope is crumbling.

The Pahalgam attack in April 2025, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, hit like a gut punch. Bookings dried up overnight. And now, hotels are empty, taxi drivers sit idle, and tour guides have no one to

show around.

Kashmir, which welcomed 3.5 million tourists in 2024, has now become a ghost town. Over 80% of upcoming bookings were canceled after the attack, and the region's tourism revenue, around Rs. 8,000 crore annually, is tanking.

This isn't just about money. It's about the young people who bet everything on peace. Many took loans to start their businesses, and now they're staring at defaults. Some are shutting down. Others are thinking of leaving Kashmir altogether. Many of them had sold family jewelry to start cab service, now they're wondering how to feed their kids.

These aren't big corporations with safety nets. They're small ventures run by locals who poured their hearts into them.

Kashmiri youth are already up against a brutal job market. The unemployment rate for those aged 15-29 hit

32% in mid-2024, double the national average. That's one in three young people without work. Tourism was a rare bright spot, employing nearly 70,000 people directly and supporting millions more through related businesses: artisans, shopkeepers, or the guy selling shawls by the lake. It accounts for 7-8% of Jammu and Kashmir's GDP.

When tourism thrives, it's not just hotel owners who benefit, it's the whole community.

In 2022, 1.88 crore visitors came, followed by 2.11 crore in 2023. By June 2024, over one crore had already visited. But when things go south, like after Pahalgam, these young tourism players do count on government for relief packages and loan waivers.

They deserve this much of support for giving tourists safety, warmth, and memories. In return, they got income, pride, and a reason to stay. But fear is undoing that progress.

The recent terror attack has made

people scared to visit, and without help, many of these young entrepreneurs might give up.

The government needs to step up now. Offer emergency aid to small businesses. Freeze loan repayments for youth-led ventures. Launch a campaign to show tourists that Kashmir is still safe and welcoming.

These steps won't fix everything, but they'll keep the lights on for people. Kashmir's tourism has always been a fragile thing, easily shaken by strife. What's different now is who's carrying the load.

It's not just big hotels. It's the local youth, betting on a future they believed in. They're the ones who made Kashmir feel like home for millions of visitors. We can't let their dreams collapse.

Sincerely,
Iqbal Bhat
Ganderbal

Mohammad Hanief

In Shopian's orchards, Ganderbal's vegetable patches, and Pampore's golden fields, farmers are proving resilience wins. Their work offers a model for Nepal, Peru, or any mountainous region facing similar odds.



Kashmiri farmers were stuck. Low yields, erratic weather, and markets that paid little kept them poor despite fertile soil. Now, a silent revolution is breaking that cycle.

Young Kashmiris, armed with tech and grit, are turning fields into engines of sustainable growth. This isn't just about more crops. It's a roadmap for any region where climate and economics choke livelihoods.

Farming sustains 70% of Kashmiri people. Apples, supplying 75% of India's market, and saffron, a global culinary gem, define the valley. But challenges piled up: outdated tools, weak irrigation, and climate shifts.

In 2015, erratic rains destroyed 20% of crops in Pulwama. Unemployment, hitting 32% among youth in 2024, left 30% of farmland fallow in some districts by 2018, as families lost hope.

Change came fast. Scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology rolled out high-yielding, disease-resistant crops like Shalimar Rice-1 and Shalimar Maize Composite-7.

In 2023, these boosted rice yields by 15% in Baramulla, saving farmers who once scraped by.

Mechanization is spreading. Seed drills and harvesters in Budgam cut labour costs by 30%. Drones, piloted in 12 districts, spray pesticides precisely, slashing chemical waste by 40%.

The apple industry is soaring. High-density orchards, with trees packed tighter, double yields on less land. Traditional trees take seven years to fruit; these start in three. Cold storage and grading units have cut post-harvest losses from 30% to 15%.

In 2024, apple exports surged

12%, adding \$10 million to the economy and reaching Europe and Southeast Asia. Since 2021, 1,200 new storage units have preserved 25% more produce.

Farmers are branching out. In Pulwama, organic vegetables, mushrooms, and lavender meet urban demand, with organic exports up 18% in 2024.

Kashmiri saffron, nearly extinct a decade ago, is thriving under the National Saffron Mission. In Pampore, sprinklers and better drying techniques lifted yields 20% since 2020. Digital platforms link farmers to global buyers, with saffron exports hitting \$2 million in 2024, up 10% from 2022.

The real fire comes from Kashmiri youth. Jobless graduates are returning to farms with bold ideas. Shabir, a 26-year-old in Ganderbal, grows kale and zucchini in a greenhouse, supplying Delhi restaurants.

Over 500 agri-startups emerged in 2023, backed by Start-Up India and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

From poultry to floriculture, these ventures created 2,000 jobs in 2024. Krishi Vigyan Kendras have trained 5,000 young farmers since 2020, sparking a mindset shift.

Amid all this, climate change remains a constant threat. Temperatures have risen 1.2°C since 2000, and rainfall patterns shifted 25%. Farmers are adapting with drip irrigation, saving 40% more water, and soil health cards for precise fertilizer use.

Greenhouses, now in 15% of farms, yield crops through harsh winters. Organic pest control and crop rotation preserve soils, with 60% of Kulgam farmers adopting these practices by 2023, up from 20% in 2018.

Pampore's saffron fields show

the payoff. Once dying from water shortages, they're now sprinkler-fed. Farmers use apps for weather and market data, and saffron's Geographical Indication tag has opened Europe's doors. Exports grew 15% in 2024, and 200 farmers joined cooperatives last year, boosting their bargaining power. This revival restores pride in a crop that's Kashmir's heart.

To keep this going, more is needed. Farmer Producer Organizations, covering just 10% of farmers, must grow to secure better prices. Remote districts lack cold storage, forcing 25% of produce to be sold cheap.

Digital tools—weather apps, e-markets—reach only 30% of farmers. Tourism, like farm stays or apple-picking festivals, could add \$5 million yearly.

Women, half the farm workforce, hold just 15% of leadership roles and need training. Research into climate-resilient crops, funded at \$2 million in 2024, must double to match warming trends.

Kashmir's Green Revolution is practical, not loud. It balances tradition with science, yield with ecology.

In Shopian's orchards, Ganderbal's vegetable patches, and Pampore's golden fields, farmers are proving resilience wins. Their work offers a model for Nepal, Peru, or any mountainous region facing similar odds.

It's proof that with tools, trust, and tenacity, even the toughest ground can grow hope, prosperity, and lessons for the world.

Mohammad Hanief
is a Kashmir-based writer focused on agriculture and sustainability. Reach him at m.hanief@gmail.com.



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Kashmiri Youth Count on Govt to Steady Sinking Tourism

show around.

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Chemist of the Mind

From books by candlelight in 1990s Kashmir to designing brain tracers in America, a scientist's unlikely path reshapes how medicine sees the mind and offers new hope for millions worldwide.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad

In a sleepy Kashmir village, a young stargazer looked up at the night sky, chasing questions larger than his world: Why does the mind forget? Where does illness hide in the brain? What lies beneath thought itself?

That Pulwama boy, Mudasir Maqbool, is now a scientist at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he crafts radiotracers: tiny chemical tools that light up the brain's hidden processes.

His work helps researchers study Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, depression and other diseases that remain among the greatest medical mysteries of our time.

In the sterile calm of NIH's Molecular Imaging Branch in Bethesda, Maryland, Dr. Mudasir's path has been anything but linear. But his trajectory is reshaping how scientists explore the human mind.

Growing up in the 1990s in Kashmir, a region long marred by political disturbances, Dr. Mudasir was no stranger to uncertainty. Electricity was unreliable. Internet was scarce. Classrooms were sometimes interrupted by clashes outside.

But what he lacked in resources, he made up for in resolve. "Books were my refuge," he said. "There was so much I didn't understand, but I knew that science could answer the big questions."

After high school, he left for New Delhi, earning a Ph.D. in chemistry at Jamia Millia Islamia. His doctoral work focused on proteins like beta-amyloid and tau, which cluster in the brains of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients. He used computational chemistry to design molecules that could disrupt these rogue proteins. It was an effort he carried forward in collaborations at India's Central Drug Research Insti-



tute and IIT Gandhinagar.

His early work earned him a prestigious research fellowship from India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Still, his scientific ambition pointed him outward.

In 2018, a Finnish government fellowship took Dr. Mudasir to the University of Turku, where he studied sugar-like molecules designed to neutralize toxic proteins.

The shift from South Asia's sun to Scandinavia's snow was stark. But it was in Turku's crisp laboratories that his research began to attract international attention.

By 2020, he was in Norway as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oslo. There, alongside Professor Patrick Riss, he honed a method for synthesizing radiotracers using fluorine-18, a radioactive isotope used in positron emission tomography (PET).

Their work led to new imaging agents that are now being used in medical centers across Europe and North America.

"These radiotracers act like guided missiles," Dr. Mudasir explained. "They find specific targets in the brain, attach to them, and emit signals we can see on a scan. It's one of the most precise ways to study disease without surgery."

His research also contributed to the development of

inhibitors aimed at cancer-linked proteins, part of a growing effort to adapt imaging agents into therapeutic tools.

In February 2023, the NIH called. Dr. Mudasir joined the Molecular Imaging Branch as a visiting fellow. There, he focuses on creating new radiotracers to explore the brain's cannabinoid receptors, immune-related enzymes, and other molecular pathways linked to inflammation and psychiatric illness.

The work is painstaking. Each tracer takes months, sometimes years, to develop and test. Even a slight miscalculation in chemical structure can render a compound ineffective or unsafe. But the potential payoff is enormous: earlier diagnoses, tailored treatments and clearer understanding of disease progression.

"Every tracer is a map," Dr. Mudasir said. "It shows us where suffering begins, so we can find ways to stop it."

His latest compounds are helping to chart the brain's involvement in disorders ranging from neurodegeneration to chronic depression. In a field where breakthroughs can take decades, his steady contributions are making the invisible, visible.

Despite his global footprint, Dr. Mudasir remains closely

connected to Kashmir. He regularly mentors young students from the region and dreams of one day establishing a research center back home.

"Kashmir has incredible talent," he said. "But opportunities are limited. I want to help change that, so that young scientists don't have to leave home just to pursue their curiosity."

He is aware that his story stands in contrast to how Kashmir is often portrayed. "People hear about conflict, not creativity," he said. "But there's so much more to us than that."

His colleagues describe him as soft-spoken, intensely focused, and driven more by questions than by accolades. He has published widely in international journals, and his imaging compounds have contributed to ongoing clinical studies on neurological disease.

But in his mind, the journey is still beginning.

"There is so much we don't know about the brain," Dr. Mudasir concluded. "If I can contribute even a small piece to that puzzle—to help people live better lives—that's enough."

The writer is a noted agricultural scientist covering breakthroughs in science and society in Kashmir.

The Brain Behind the Tantrum

Inside Kashmir's classrooms and homes, new science shows meltdowns aren't mischief. They're milestones.

Nihad Ashraf Khan

In a modest schoolroom in Pulwama, an eight-year-old knocks over his water bottle, clenches his fists, and lets out a sharp yell. His teacher doesn't scold him. Instead, she lowers her voice and says, "It's okay to feel big things. Let's take a breath."

Scenes like this are becoming more common in parts of Kashmir. Not because children are acting out more, but because educators and parents are slowly starting to respond differently—thanks to science.

For decades, meltdowns in children were seen as misbehavior. A loud tantrum in the middle of the market. A slammed door after homework frustration. A refusal to say sorry. These outbursts were usually met with punishment, lecture, or silence.

But neuroscience tells a different story: these reactions aren't signs of a poorly raised child. They're signs of a brain still growing, and struggling to cope.

A child's brain doesn't fully mature until their mid-twenties. The prefrontal cortex—the part responsible for reasoning, decision-making, and self-control—is among the last to develop. In children, it's under construction. In teens, it's still wiring itself together.

What's fully online, though, is the brain's survival system. This part, often called the "downstairs brain," reacts instantly to threat or distress: real or imagined.

When a child screams after losing a game or bursts into tears over a broken pencil, it's this lower brain taking over. Logic is off. Emotion is high. And in that moment, the child can't process reason. They're not choosing to disobey. They're overwhelmed.

In Kashmir, where generational trauma, social pressure, and conservative parenting often shape family life, these truths have been slow to enter public discourse. Discipline is still prized. Quiet obedience is often expected. Emotional expression is sometimes seen as weakness.

But change is starting. In a recent workshop in Baram-



ulla, attended by school counselors and community health workers, facilitators explained how a child's behavior is a reflection of what their brain can—and cannot—yet do. "Children aren't miniature adults," said one psychologist. "They're growing systems. Their brains are learning to connect emotional storms with calm seas. That takes time."

One recent study done in Kashmir followed 200 primary school students over a six-month period. Those who were offered emotional support—through grounding exercises, one-on-one check-ins, or simply patient presence—showed marked improvements in classroom focus, peer relationships, and stress recovery. The difference wasn't discipline. It was understanding.

In some homes, that understanding is becoming part of everyday parenting.

When her five-year-old son began having nightly meltdowns during power cuts in Anantnag, Sabeena Yousuf at first thought he was being difficult. But after speaking with a pediatrician, she changed her response. "I stopped shouting," she said. "I started sitting next to him, just listening. He began to calm down faster."

This shift, meeting a child's chaos with calm, goes against old instincts. But it works. When a caregiver responds with presence instead of punishment, it signals safety. That safety helps re-engage the "upstairs brain"—

the part that can think, reflect, and make better choices next time.

The idea isn't to ignore bad behavior. It's to understand where it's coming from. A child who throws a toy may need boundaries. But they also need help naming frustration. A teen who storms out might need consequences, but also connection.

In Kupwara, a community-run anganwadi has introduced emotion cards: simple illustrations of sad, angry, scared, and happy faces. Children point to how they feel before morning snacks. "It's a small thing," says the anganwadi worker. "But it's teaching them to name what's inside before it explodes."

There's no instant fix. A child's ability to manage emotions is built slowly, through repeated co-regulation with adults. And that means adults must also learn to pause, breathe, and sometimes unlearn their own habits.

It's especially hard in places like Kashmir, where strife, uncertainty, and grief often ripple through daily life. Parents are carrying their own emotional loads. But understanding the science of child development can be a tool. Not just for parenting, but for healing generational patterns.

Nihad Ashraf Khan is a research scholar in biosciences with a focus on neurodevelopment and childhood behavior.

The Man Who Made Me

Thirteen years after his passing, a grandson remembers the unwavering love and quiet strength of a man who shaped his life from the small village of Tral.

Er Aausyf Ibn Farooq

On the morning of May 12, 2012, the world lost a man few beyond his village may have known, but whose presence shaped mine completely.

My grandfather, Assad Ullah of Dadasara Tral, passed away that day. It's been thirteen years—4,748 days—and still, I find myself looking for him in my victories, in my prayers, in quiet moments when the world slows down.

He wasn't famous. He didn't seek attention. But he carried a rare kind of greatness. The kind that doesn't announce itself, but leaves its mark on everyone it touches.

To me, he was everything. Grandfather, yes, but also protector, teacher, companion, and the man who quietly built the foundation I stand on today.

I grew up under his watchful eyes, in the same house, blessed by his nearness. Our mornings were spent together. He had a rhythm, a way of doing simple things—praying, walking, working—that seemed to carry its own wisdom.

I followed him like a shadow. He never minded. He made space for my endless curiosity, gave me patience when I offered questions instead of answers, and somehow,



through the everyday, gave me an education in how to live with dignity.

His faith was quiet, but deep. He didn't preach. He acted. He treated people with grace, never raised his voice, and stood up for what was right. He believed in justice, in kindness, in humility. Because his religion told him to, yes, but also because it was simply who he was.

He gave more than he received, forgave more than he should have, and prayed not just for himself but for everyone he loved.

Every evening, I waited at the gate for him. Always, he had something in hand—a fruit, a sweet, a token of his affection. These were small gestures, but they built something huge: a sense of love so steady, so complete, that even now, far away and grown, I carry it with me.

When I think of success, I think of his prayers. When I face hardship, I hear his words. He be-

lieved in me long before I believed in myself.

I now live thousands of miles away, working as an engineer in Saudi Arabia. But a part of me is still that boy in Tral, waiting for his grandfather to come home, hoping for a smile or a story or a blessing. I often whisper prayers for him, asking Allah to grant him the peace he gave so freely to others.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that a person's deeds continue through ongoing charity, useful knowledge, and the prayers of a righteous child. I hope I live in a way that honors all three. I hope he sees me and smiles.

He may no longer walk beside me. But his shadow still covers me, and his love is stitched into the fabric of my days.

Er Aausyf Ibn Farooq is an automation and control engineer based in Saudi Arabia.

The Spring My Father Carried

For one man, spring was never a season of rest, but a time of toil that shaped a family's future. A son recalls the sacrifices behind the blossoms.



Mushtaq Hurra

Each spring in Kashmir, the earth wakes up slowly. Mustard fields glow gold, cuckoos start calling, and the almond trees bloom pink against the retreating snow. The air turns fragrant. Birds return. The world begins again. And I remember my father.

For him, Soun'th, our word for spring, wasn't a time for picnics or poetry. It meant work. It meant feeding the oxen, fixing ploughs, softening soil for rice that wouldn't grow on its own. While others celebrated the thaw, he was already knee-deep in the fields, sleeves rolled, back bent, breaking the ground with silent determination.

He never complained. Not once.

I was the eldest of seven.

My father had no education, but he placed ours above everything. We never missed a class. He made sure of it, even when there wasn't enough to go around. He worked so we could dream.

Blisters bloomed on his hands like the blossoms we barely noticed. Cracks split his soles, but not his resolve. His hair was often caked in dust and sweat. It was his version of a crown.

We didn't have outings or luxuries. Our joy came cheap. I fished with friends in irrigation canals, climbed trees for dove nests, hunted for mushrooms in wet woods. That was my childhood. It was enough.

But spring wasn't light for us. It came with the pressure of preparation.

Thirty-five days of ploughing before rice transplan-

tation. The fields had to be made mushy and rich, ready for seedling saplings. My father, with oxen he treated like royalty, did it all. He had even named them. They were family too.

I watched him carry more than tools. He carried our lives. And somehow, he kept us warm through bitter winters and afloat through lean seasons. He never let us feel how hard it was. The weight he bore was invisible to others. But I saw it. And I've never forgotten.

Years passed. We studied, graduated, found jobs. All seven of us. That was his reward: not rest, but pride.

He never asked for thanks. Never talked about sacrifice. He just kept going.

Now he's old, over eighty. The fields are quieter. The ploughs hang in the shed. And when spring arrives, I see him

watching it finally, not working through it. He listens to the birds. He lets the sun reach his skin. He smiles more.

But I carry something now. His unfinished season. A wish.

That he'd had more of the joy he gave us. That spring had meant more to him than thirty-five days of mud.

If I could, I'd take him back. One last walk through those fields. One last time to ride on his shoulder, to hear him hum a tune lost to time. To thank him, properly.

Come, Aba. Let's walk through Soun'th. Let the blossoms fall on us like blessings. Let the world see that this season, too, once belonged to you.

Mushtaq Hurra is a teacher and columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra43@gmail.com.

Study suggests health differences between men women involve social factors not only biological



New Delhi, May 13: Genetics may not solely explain the biology which cause different health risks, symptoms and outcomes between men and women -- social factors such as neighbourhood and lifestyle too need to be looked at, according to a study.

The research, led by Queen Mary University, UK, analysed genetic links between nearly 6,000 proteins and diseases in 56,000 people.

A "very small" fraction -- around 100 proteins -- were

found to be responsible for differing levels of majority of the 6,000 proteins studied between men and women.

Findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, "clearly show that with very few exceptions, protein regulating genetic variants identified so far behave in a very similar way in males and females," Claudia Langenberg, director of Precision Healthcare University Research Institute, Queen Mary University, said.

"This provides evidence for

an important implicit assumption -- that insights arising from studying these (genetic) variants apply to both sexes," Langenberg said.

The study highlights the importance of looking beyond genetics and medical factors, such as hormones, and looking at non-medical, social factors -- where people work and live, education, lifestyle, finances -- when comparing health risks and outcomes between men and women, the authors said.

The study's findings are

"essential to guide precision medicine approaches and identify where one size may not fit all", Langenberg said.

Precision, or personalised, medicine takes into account one's genes, environment and lifestyle for preventing or treating a disease.

"For the first time in history, we are able to study human biology at this level of detail -- across genes, proteins, and more. This is the largest study to date exploring the similarities and differences in how our

genetic code regulates blood protein levels between sexes," lead author Mine Koprulu, a postdoctoral researcher at Queen Mary University's Precision Healthcare University Research Institute, said.

"Our findings highlight the need to better understand the factors that impact health differences -- at the genetic level and beyond -- to create more tailored and equitable healthcare for everyone," Koprulu said.

For the study, data from the

UK Biobank and 'Fenland Study' -- which is examining how genetics interact with environmental factors in metabolic disorders, such as obesity and diabetes -- was analysed.

"Our results that collectively add to an emerging body of literature, that strong differences in health between the sexes later in life cannot be fully explained by sex-differential or even sex-discordant effects of genetic susceptibility in individual genetic (regions)," the authors wrote.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

India Rejects

with both sides to see if a "solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir".

Without directly mentioning Trump's claim of brokering the understanding on cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, Jaiswal said the arrangement was firmed up during a conversation over the hotline by Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) on May 10.

He said Indian military's "extremely effective attack" on key Pakistani air force bases on early May 10 forced Islamabad to stop military action.

"Let me be clear. It was of force of Indian arms that compelled Pakistan to stop its firing," he said, indirectly rebutting Trump's claim.

Asked about Trump's claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, Jaiswal said India's military action was entirely in the conventional domain.

"As you know, India has a firm stance that it will not give in to nuclear blackmail or allow cross-border terrorism to be conducted invoking it."

"In conversations with various countries, we also cautioned that their subscribing to such scenarios could hurt them in their own region," he said.

In his remarks to the media on Monday, Trump said: "On Saturday, my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think a permanent one, between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons."

The US president also claimed that He pressured New Delhi and Islamabad to stop hostilities by threatening to cut trade with both countries.

Asked about this, Jaiswal said the issue of trade did not come up in any of of the discussions.

"From the time Operation Sindoor commenced on May 7 till the understanding on cessation of firing and military action on May 10, there were conversations between Indian and US leaders on the evolving military situation," he said.

"The issue of trade did not come up in any of these discussions," he added.

The MEA spokesperson also explained that following the Pahalgam terror attack India conveyed to several countries that it was going to respond to the dastardly strike by targeting the terrorist infrastructure.

"As regards conversations with other nations, the message from India was clear and consistent. And exactly the same message that we were conveying from public platforms was the one conveyed in private conversations," he said.

"It was that India was responding to the April 22 terrorist attack by targeting the terrorist infrastructure."

"However, if the Pakistani armed forces fire, Indian armed forces will fire back; if Pakistan stops, India will also stop. This was also the message that was conveyed to the Pakistani side at the time of the commencement of Op Sindoor, which was not heeded to by the Pakistani side at that time," Jaiswal said.

"It is natural that many foreign leaders who heard this from us would have shared it with their Pakistani interlocutors," he said.

Jaiswal also said India will keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures support for cross-border terrorism.

Pakistan nurtured terrorism on an industrial scale, he said.

Terrorist infrastructure that India destroyed under Operation Sindoor were responsible not only for the deaths of Indians but of many other innocents around the world, he said.

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani actions were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damages to a number of key Pakistani military installations including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

FS To Brief

MP Shashi Tharoor told PTI Misri will brief the panel on Monday on the developments, which were marked by India striking terror sites in Pakistan followed by days of intense conflict between the two countries before they agreed to stop military actions.

Misri has regularly briefed the committee on a host of foreign affairs issues, including developments in India's neighbourhood like Bangladesh and in its ties with Canada.

DM Reviews

Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

The meeting reviewed the security situation along the Western frontier and related issues, officials said.

India's Lakshman

engagement that resulted in the destruction of nine terror sites, killing of over 100 terrorists and damage to its eight military installations.

"Aatank ke viruddh Bharat ki Lakshman Rekha ekdam spasht hai. Ab phir koi terror attack hua to Bharat jawab dega, pakka jawab dega. (India's Lakshman Rekha against terrorism is now crystal clear. India will respond and definitely respond if hit by a terror attack)," he said, in an over 27-minute speech which echoed the message of his address to the nation on Monday night.

But the significance of the speech was immense. It was delivered from the Adampur base, merely 100 km from the Pakistan border, which Pakistan claimed to have destroyed along with the S-400 missile defence system. India had rubbished the claims and TV cameras following Modi corroborated that.

Reiterating that Operation Sindoor is India's new normal, he praised the soldiers, saying what they have achieved is unprecedented, unimaginable and amazing, making every Indian proud and indebted.

Modi toured the base and greeted uniformed personnel who shouted 'Bharat Mata ki jai' after he arrived there unannounced early Tuesday morning.

After interacting with the soldiers, he delivered the speech with an S-400 system in the backdrop, wearing a Western Air Command cap with its trademark trishul embroidered on it.

He asked them to remain on guard and asserted, "This is the new India, this India seeks peace. But if humanity is attacked, it also knows how to crush the enemy on the battlefield."

He said Operation Sindoor is no ordinary campaign but a trinity of India's policy, intent and decisive capability, affirming that the country is the land of Buddha, the messenger of peace, as well as Guru Gobind Singh, who had galvanised the Sikh army against enemies.

His speech interspersed with enthusiastic soldiers raising the slogan of 'Bharat Mata ki jai', Modi said it is an Indian tradition to take up arms to establish 'dharma' (righteousness). "When the sindoor of our sisters and daughters was wiped away, we crushed terrorists in their hideouts."

He said, "Patrons of terrorism have realised that casting an evil eye on India will have only one consequence: destruction. There will be only one consequence of killing innocents: destruction, total annihilation."

He said terrorists thought they had the protection of the Pakistani armed forces. The Indian Air Force, Army and Navy humbled the Pakistani forces and conveyed to them that there is no place in Pakistan where terrorists can feel safe.

Modi said, "We will kill them in their hideouts and give no opportunity to escape."

The prime minister also praised the central armed police forces like the BSF, which is deployed at the International Border with Pakistan, and said they have made every Indian proud.

"I have come to you in the early morning for your 'darshan'," Modi said, praising the air warriors. He said they and their colleagues will be the most important chapter in any discussion on India's valour even after several decades.

"You all have become an inspiration for not only the present but the future generations," he said, saluting them.

Pakistan will have sleepless nights looking at India's drones and missiles after being left stunned by their speed and precision, he said, slamming the neighbouring country for using civilian aircraft in its airspace during the conflict and lauding the Indian forces for striking the enemies without harming civilian planes.

He said, "Not only were terror sites and air bases in Pakistan destroyed, but their unholy intent and misadventure were also defeated."

Modi said Pakistan made many attempts to attack Indian air bases, including the one in Adampur, but failed against its robust air defence system.

He reiterated the three messages he had made in his address to the nation, including that India will not succumb to Pakistan's nuclear blackmail and respond to any provocation from Pakistan on its terms and timing.

He heaped praise on the integrated air and land combat system and the integration between their modern weaponry and manpower. The coordination shown by the armed forces was amazing, he said.

Modi said the Indian Air Force has now "mastered the art of countering adversaries not just with weapons but also with data and drones."

He said India's traditional defence system, combined with the indigenous Akash anti-aircraft missiles and the modern S-400 platform, provides a strong shield against the enemy's firepower.

"Pakistan cannot match our capability built on modern and cutting-edge technology," he said, adding that the Indian armed forces were provided the best technologies of the world in the past decade.

"When our armed forces take the wind out of nuclear blackmail, our enemies understand the importance of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'," he said.

"Bharat Mata Ki Jai is not just a slogan, but our soldiers' pledge to dedicate their lives for the nation. When our drones and missiles hit our enemies, they hear 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'," he said.

Adampur is India's second-largest air base and houses Rafale and Mig-29 squadrons. It has played an important role in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan as well.

Border Villages

effective retaliation by Indian troops before the deadly four-day-long clashes.

As many as 28 persons were killed and over 50 others injured in the cross-border shelling which also forced over 2 lakh border residents to move out and take refuge at safer places. A good number of them have already returned to their villages over the past three days.

However, many more are still waiting at relief camps set up by the government for the green signal from the authorities.

The Chief Secretary visited shelling-hit areas to assess the situation besides inquiring about the health of the victims undergoing treatment at Government Medical College hospital, Rajouri.

"I am here to assess the ground situation after Pakistan indiscriminately targeted civilian areas. Three persons, including a senior government officer, were killed in Rajouri, dozens of houses were damaged and livestock perished," Dulloo told reporters after visiting the hospital.

He said the government wants to rehabilitate the displaced people as soon as possible and also ensure that they are adequately compensated to rebuild their homes.

"We express sympathies with the families who lost their members and also assure that the injured will be provided best healthcare for their complete recovery," the chief secretary said.

He said the displaced people will be taken back to their villages after getting a green signal from army and police authorities that the border areas were cleared of the littered explosives.

On the need to provide underground bunkers to the people in Rajouri town, he said this was for the first time that many towns like Rajouri and Poonch were hit by Pakistani shelling and "we have to think how the people would be safeguarded".

The officials said the army along with police teams are moving from village to village to track and destroy the live Pakistani shells.

The operation was launched on Monday afternoon and is continuing with experts destroying the unexploded shells in controlled explosions, the officials said.

The police have already issued advisories requesting people not to touch any suspicious object and report it to the nearest police station or security establishment for their own safety.

Many border residents, who have returned to their villages, said they are still spending their nights in underground bunkers fearing Pakistan shelling.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday afternoon to halt military actions with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

"Even after the announcement we are taking no chances as Pakistan is habitual of doing mischief. We are waiting for things to settle down," Mohd Firdous, a resident of Manjakote sector, said.

He asked the government to sanction more underground bunkers for the border residents.

"There are less number of bunkers available in the forward villages and the recent military conflict demands that more bunkers should be provided so that the people can save their lives in case there is shelling," Firdour said.

Chuni Lal, a resident of Nowshera said, they have not witnessed such a heavy shelling since February 2021 when India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement.

"We want peace on the borders so that we can do our routine without the tension of cross-border firing," he said, requesting for a special financial package for the border residents whose houses were damaged in the shelling.

3 Terrorists

injured two German tourists and their driver.

He was also accused of the targeted killing of a BJP Sarpanch in Heerpora on May 18, 2024, and is suspected to have been involved in the killing of a Territorial Army personnel in Behibagh, Kulgam, on February 3, 2025," he said.

The second terrorist, Adnan Shafi Dar, son of Mohammad Shafi Dar from Wanduna Melhora, Shopian, had joined LeT on October 18, 2024, and was classified as a Category-C terrorist. He was involved in the killing of a non-local labourer at Wachi, Shopian, on the same day he joined the group, the official said.

The third terrorist, Ehsan from Murran, who reportedly joined in September 2023, was involved in multiple terror cases, according to police sources.

Security forces are continuing search and sanitisation operations in the area.

An official said the elimination of terrorists and the recovery of arms and ammunition from the encounter site mark a blow to LeT's operational capabilities in the region. (inputs from agencies)

HC Grants Govt

any further in the matter, the proceedings are deferred to 02.06.2025," the court said and ordered that a status report in this regard be filed a week prior to June 2.

"...Before we record any order on merits, we consider it necessary to afford one last opportunity to the respondent-authorities to make their positions clear, to enable us to address the matter in issue," the court added.

Posters In Shopian

were involved in terror-related incidents in Poonch.

Border Schools

"Schools in all other zones of district Baramulla shall remain open."

In the meantime, the School Education Department said that in case of Jammu division, all government and private schools in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Samba Distt will remain closed tomorrow on May-14-2025.

"However, all government and private schools in district Udhampur and Bani, Basholi, Mahanpur, Bhaddu, Malhar and Billawar zones of Kathua district shall open on May-14-2025," it reads.

Man Practiced Law

legal profession. It's not yet clear how the forged degree came to light or whether any criminal proceedings will be initiated against Shah.

Legal experts note that this is not an isolated case in India. Several instances have surfaced in recent years where individuals forged academic qualifications to enter the legal field, often escaping scrutiny for years. However, the Shah case stands out for the sheer duration he managed to remain under the radar--appearing in court, representing clients, and drawing professional benefits under false pretenses.

As of now, the Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir has not issued a separate statement, but officials are expected to tighten enrollment verification protocols in the wake of this case.

Meanwhile, the fate of Shah's past cases remains uncertain, with legal analysts debating whether judgments delivered or cases argued by him could be challenged on the grounds of his invalid credentials.

This incident is likely to spark a renewed debate about the integrity of the legal profession and the urgent need for systemic reforms to prevent such fraud from repeating.

Safety, Support

safety, support, and swift rehabilitation of affected families remains the government's top priority.

The Chief Minister also visited Sub-District Hospital, Tangdhar, to review the availability and quality of healthcare services in the border area. He inspected key departments including Outpatient and Inpatient Units, Gynaecology, Operation Theatre, Ultrasonography, and X-Ray facilities. Interacting with the Chief Medical Officer, doctors, and staff, he directed them to work with utmost dedication and compassion to serve the people in this far-flung area.

He also spoke to patients and attendants to understand their concerns and degree of satisfaction with medical services.

He further added that the construction of individual bunkers will be taken up with the Union Government to enhance the safety of border residents during periods of heightened tension.

During the visit, the Chief Minister also inspected the Hydel Power Project at Gundi Shart, the progress of which had been affected due to recent hostilities. He assured that the project would be completed within the stipulated timeline.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Trehgam Mir Saifullah, MLA Sogam Qaiser Jamshed Lone, MLA Karnah Javid Mirchal, Deputy

Commissioner Kupwara Ayushi Sudan, Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara Ghulam Jeelani Wani and other senior officials.

New Bunkers

Pakistan's shelling in civilian areas has caused significant damage to livestock and properties. Highlighting the need for more bunkers along the border, he said, "I want to tell you that 9,500 bunkers are there along the borderline in J&K. There is more demand for bunkers, and more bunkers will be constructed. There will be no shortfall of bunkers."

The chief secretary visited the Kalsian panchayat in Nowshera tehsil, located near the Line of Control, where some houses have been damaged due to recent cross-border shelling. "I have come here to Rajouri and Nowshera sectors to assess the ground situation. The shelling from across the border has hit civilian areas," he said.

Dulloo mentioned that some people have been injured and added that there has been a loss of livestock and significant property damage. He assured that the administration would soon disburse compensation after assessing the losses.

During his visit, Dulloo interacted with the affected residents, assuring them of all possible support from the administration. He expressed solidarity with the people in this time of distress and emphasized the government's commitment to their safety and welfare.

The chief secretary also visited the Government Medical College (GMC) in Rajouri, where he met patients, including those injured in the shelling incident. Commending the district administration's efforts, he lauded the swift and coordinated response to the recent shelling incidents.

Flight Operations

due to the prevailing security situation," the official said.

He said the airport saw a total of four arrivals and four departures, facilitating the travel of 935 passengers on the first day of resumed operations.

Earlier, flight operations across 32 airports, including Srinagar, had been temporarily suspended following India's launch of Operation Sindoor--a military response targeting terror camps in Pakistan after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

The airlines, both IndiGo and SpiceJet, also announced that flights on the affected routes, including Srinagar, would be progressively restored starting May 14 (tomorrow).

"Scheduled operations to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot will resume gradually from tomorrow," a statement from IndiGo said, advising passengers to check their flight status before heading to the airport.

SpiceJet also resumed its scheduled flights to Srinagar today. The airline's first service, SG 9835, departed from Delhi at 2:30 PM, while the return flight from Srinagar was scheduled for 4:30 PM.

SpiceJet further announced that Haj 2025 operations from Srinagar would begin on May 14, with two wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft transporting pilgrims to Medina. "Each aircraft will carry 324 pilgrims, and the airline is facilitating the travel of approximately 15,500 Haj pilgrims this year," the airline's spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the resumption of flights brought relief to stranded passengers and their families in the Valley.

"I had to attend a medical appointment in Delhi, but my flight got cancelled last week. I am happy things are returning to normal," said Saqib Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar, who was seen at the airport with his boarding pass.

Another local said he was stuck in Amritsar for days. "We were very worried, but now I am going back home tomorrow. I am happy that flights are finally resuming," he said.

Notably, airport authorities have advised all travellers to remain updated through airline websites or official social media channels due to the evolving flight schedules.

Officials also said that coordination is being maintained with airlines and security agencies to ensure that all resumed operations are smooth, secure, and uninterrupted in the coming days.

KU Postpones

announced that regular classwork across all its campuses will resume on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, bringing an end to the recent academic suspension.

In an official statement issued on Monday, university authorities clarified that while most students are expected to return to classes starting Wednesday, students residing in border areas of Jammu & Kashmir and those coming from outside the Union Territory will be granted additional time. They may rejoin from Monday, May 19, 2025, to accommodate travel or safety concerns.

Satish Sharma Visits Shelling Affected Villages



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma Tuesday visited several villages affected by recent cross border shelling to assess the damage and extend support to the affected families.

During the visit, the Minister met with the residents whose homes and livelihoods have been severely impacted.

A preliminary assessment indicated that numerous households have suffered losses, including damage to residential structures and loss of livestock.

The villages visited by the Minister included Kot Maira, Chaprial, Pahariwala, Panjtoot, Narayana, Dhaleri and other adjoining areas.

The Minister expressed deep concern over the situation and assured all affected families that the government stands with them in this time of crisis. He directed the local authorities to expedite relief and rehabilitation measures, ensuring timely assistance to the victims.

"The safety and well being of citizens is our top priority. We will take all necessary steps to provide immediate relief and long term support to the affected families," said the Minister.

He added that the administration is conducting a detailed survey to determine the full extent of damage. He said that further announcements regarding compensation and assistance packages will follow accordingly.

Sajad Calls For Compensation, Bunkers For LoC Residents



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: People's Conference (PC) chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone expressed serious concern over the devastation caused by Pakistani shelling along the Line of Control (LoC).

The MLA said, "The destruction here is evident. Families have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their sense of security. We will appeal to the government to compensate the losses fully and fairly."

The PC chairman further said that the current relief and rehabilitation framework is grossly inadequate and incapable of addressing the scale of damage.

"If we want people to rebuild their homes and lives, the government must implement an out-of-the-box compensation system after a proper and transparent assessment," he added.

On the issue of bunkers, Lone advocated that all residents in forward areas be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) with provisions for underground shelters. "These people are on the frontline. They can't be left exposed. Bunkers are a basic right for the people living along the LoC," he said.

Offering solidarity, he assured the residents of his support on all platforms. "Whatever and wherever the people need to go for relief, I will be with them shoulder to shoulder. They are not alone," he asserted.

MLA Handwara said there hasn't been a single war in recent history that has delivered a decisive or lasting solution. "Only destruction and more miseries," he said. "We must move beyond violence."

Legacy Issue Of Similar EPIC Numbers Resolved

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In its effort to sanitize the electoral rolls and keep them updated, ECI has resolved a nearly 20-year-old legacy issue of similar EPIC numbers which got erroneously issued to genuine electors just because similar series were used by different EROs in such cases since 2005.

To resolve this long pending problem, the entire electoral database of over 99-crore electors was searched by CEOs of all the 36 States/UTs and EROs of all the 4123 Assembly constituencies across India in all the 10.50 lakh polling stations. On an average there are about 1000 electors per polling station. The number of similar EPIC numbers found were miniscule, i.e. averaging to around 1(one) in 4 (four) polling stations. During the field level verification, it was found that holders of such similar EPIC numbers were genuine electors

in different assembly constituencies and different polling stations. All such electors have since been issued new EPIC cards with new numbers.

The genesis of the issue has been traced from 2005, when various States/UTs were using Assembly Constituency-wise different alphanumeric series in a decentralised manner. These series had to be changed again in 2008, after delimitation of the constituencies. During this period, some ACs erroneously continued to use either the old series or because of typographic errors they used the series allotted to some other constituencies.

Every voter's name is in the electoral roll of the Polling station, where he/she is an ordinary resident. Having had an EPIC of similar number never enabled any such person to vote at any other polling station. Thus, the issue of a similar EPIC could not have impacted the results of any elections.

Arrangements For Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 Reviewed

Observer News Service

SAMBA: A review meeting to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 was held on Tuesday at the DC Office Samba under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi Thakur, with ADC Jagadish Singh also present. The meeting focused on the readiness of lodgment centres, availability of drinking water, power supply, sanitation, health ser-

vices, and traffic management. ADC Champa Devi Thakur urged departments to coordinate effectively and ensure that all necessary facilities are in place well before the Yatra begins.

DC Rajesh Sharma, while overseeing the preparations, has directed officials to work with dedication to ensure a smooth and safe experience for pilgrims.

The importance of installing digital screens, banners, and directional sign boards was also highlighted to strengthen information flow and feedback during the Yatra.

Terror Attack Cripples Pahalgam Tourism, Leaving Thousands Without Livelihoods

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The recent terror attack in Pahalgam has dealt a severe blow to the region's tourism industry, leaving thousands jobless. The once-bustling town now stands eerily deserted, as 5,000 horse operators and around 600 vehicle owners—along with their families—who relied on tourism for their livelihood have been left without work.

The scenic town of Pahalgam, once a vibrant hub of tourist activity in Anantnag, now appears abandoned. The serenity of Kashmir's Baisaran Valley—often called 'mini Switzerland' for its postcard-perfect views—was shattered on April 22, when a terror attack in Pahalgam claimed 26 lives.

The terror attack occurred at the beginning of the tourist season, which runs from April to October—a crucial period for businesses tied to hotels, transport, handicrafts, and local markets. Thousands of residents, whose livelihoods depend on the influx of tourists, are now facing an uncertain future with little to no income and dwindling hope.

Abdul Waheed Wani, President of Pony Walla Association, expressed deep concern for the thousands of horse operators now struggling to support their families. "There are



5,000 horse operators whose families have been affected by the recent terror attack in Pahalgam," he said.

He said that Pahalgam's entire economy depends on tourism, as all 13 villages in the area rely on its natural beauty.

"Those who carried out the terror attack made a grave mistake. We are citizens of this country, and if tourists stop coming here, the terrorists' objective will be achieved. The people responsible for the attack on innocent civilians in Baisaran wanted to disrupt peace. Tourists from across the country should visit and foil the agenda of such elements. The livelihoods of photographers, hoteliers, drivers, and pony wallas have all been affected," he added.

Gulzar Ahmad, President of

Sumo Stand Pahalgam, said that over 600 vehicle owners who provide transportation services to tourists have also lost their source of income. "In my union, there are around 600 vehicles that support the livelihoods of nearly 60,000 family members. Pahalgam's entire economy revolves around tourism. Without tourists, we have no work, no income. People are in distress," he said.

He further said that Pahalgam has always remained peaceful, which may have angered the enemies of peace.

"Pahalgam was shining like a star, and now the whole area has been plunged into darkness. The government should take steps to revive tourism in the Kashmir Valley," he added—(KNO)

TOURISTS FROM ACROSS INDIA should visit Kashmir and foil the conspiracy of terrorists to divide us.

Speaker To Set- Up House Committees Including 3 Financial Panels

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is set to constitute different House Committees, including three crucial financial committees.

Sources revealed that the process has begun to constitute these committees in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

"The Legislative Assembly secretariat has sought names of MLAs from different political parties for their inclusion in these committees," they said,



adding that representation of the parties in these committees would be proportionate to their strength in the House.

As per Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly, 13 House Committees have to be set-up for different functions.

Sources disclosed that the Speaker would first constitute

three financial panels- estimates committee, public accounts committee and committee on public undertakings.

Among other committees, the Speaker is likely to constitute the privilege committee, environmental committee, petition committee, subordinate legislation committee, government assurances committee, rules committee, general purpose committee and library committee.

The House Committees play a vital role in scrutinizing policies, reviewing government decisions. They present their reports/ recommendations to the Assembly—(KNO)

'Sufficient Stocks Of Essential Commodities Available'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Administration Poonch on Tuesday said that all essential services, including healthcare and supplies are functioning smoothly and that the needs of residents are being met efficiently.

"Hospitals across the district are fully operational with sufficient stocks of essential medicines and drugs. Ambulance services are readily available to ensure timely medical support. Banking services are functioning seamlessly, with all ATMs having sufficient cash to meet public needs" the District administration authorities said.

Regarding stock and supply position of essentials, the

authorities said that, there is adequate availability of all necessary commodities in the district, including food grains, petrol, diesel, and LPG. "The supply chain is stable, and no shortages have been reported from any region" they added.

It was further informed that the Power and Water Supply departments have successfully restored major supply lines. Regular electricity and clean drinking water are being provided, with prompt resumption of services in previously affected areas, the stakeholder officers said.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal assured the public that the administration is fully committed to the welfare of the residents add-

ing that the departments are working in close coordination to ensure uninterrupted support and assistance.

Meanwhile, the Revenue authorities have started assessing damages and losses in the cross border shelling affected areas. "Based on these assessments, appropriate relief measures will be provided to support impacted families" the authorities assured.

The District Administration has appealed to all residents to stay calm, adhere to official advisories and contact the helpline numbers - District Emergency Operation Cell (DEOC) Poonch: 01965-220888, Joint Control Room (PCR): 9086253188 / 01965-220258, for any assistance.

MCC&H Kangan Set To Be Completed Soon

Agencies

GANDERBAL: After nearly 20 years of delay, the much-awaited Maternity-cum-Child Care Hospital in Kangan is finally nearing completion, sparking optimism among local residents.

Final construction touches are underway, officials said, adding that the facility is expected to be fully operational in the coming weeks.

Proposed in 2005, the demand for a dedicated maternal and child healthcare center in Kangan has been longstanding. The project, executed by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 27.66 crore.

The initiative received a fresh boost last year following renewed assurances from



local MLA Mian Mehar Ali, who committed to seeing the hospital project through to completion.

Locals now credit the legislator and the administration for pushing the project forward after years of stagnation.

"We've waited for this facility for so long," said Yasmeen Bano, a local resident. "Our women had to travel to Soura or Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar

for deliveries and maternity care. This development is a major relief for the community."

Another resident, Bilal Ahmad Najar expressed gratitude and hope for improved healthcare. "This hospital is not just a building; it's a lifeline for the people here. We hope it will be staffed with qualified doctors and provide all necessary maternal services."

The hospital is expected to significantly improve access to maternal and pediatric care for residents of Kangan and adjoining areas, reducing the dependency on distant healthcare facilities.

An official said that "We are in the final stages of the hospital construction, and work is progressing steadily. We expect the project to be fully completed by the end of this month."—(KNO)

Admin Salutes Martyrdom Of ADDC Raj Kumar Thapa

Observer News Service



JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir administration expresses deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the martyrdom of Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who laid down his life during cross-border shelling while serving the nation with unwavering dedication.

Thapa was a highly respected and committed officer known for his integrity, discipline, and people-centric approach. His contribution during the Budhal crisis in Rajouri stands out as a shining example of administrative courage and responsiveness. Amid heightened tensions and difficult terrain, he played a crucial role in coordinating relief, maintaining peace, and ensuring the safety of civilians. His leadership in those testing times earned him immense respect across all sections of society.

His martyrdom is an irreparable loss not only to the civil administration but to the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K administration stands in solidarity with the family of Martyr Thapa in this hour of grief and honours his sacrifice with deep reverence.

The memory of his service and sacrifice will continue to inspire generations of public servants and citizens alike.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday offered high tributes to Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who attained martyrdom during the recent cross border shelling incident.

Expressing profound grief

over the tragic loss, Chief Secretary said, "Officers must carry forward their responsibilities with the same dedication and sense of duty as exemplified by Dr. Thapa." He lauded the ADDC's courage and integrity, calling his martyrdom a loss not only to the administrative machinery but also to the entire Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary said this while chairing a condolence meeting organised by the district administration Rajouri to pay homage to Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa.

The meeting commenced with officers observing a moment of silence as a mark of respect for the departed soul.

A heartfelt tribute was paid to Dr. Thapa for his supreme sacrifice and unwavering commitment to duty. His service to the nation and the district of Rajouri was remembered with deep reverence by all present.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma highlighted the invaluable contributions of Dr. Thapa during his tenure as ADDC. He recalled Dr. Thapa's leadership in key development projects, his people-centric approach and his unflinching commitment to public welfare.

DC Gbl Reviews Preparations For Kheer Bhawani Mela

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatinder Kishore on Tuesday directed all the concerned departments to ensure upgraded and timely completion of all preparations for smooth celebration of annual Kheer Bhawani Mela 2025 at Tullamulla Ganderbal.

The DC gave these directions during a review meeting held here in the VC Room to review the status of preparations for the Mela.

He issued specific instructions for ensuring uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, availability of adequate transport, sanitation and mobile toilet facilities and overall cleanliness in and around the temple premises.

DC reviewed the status of ongoing preparations like installation of street lights and drinking water facilities, provisions for mobile toilets, macadamization of roads, cleanliness, and setting up of stalls.

Directives were issued to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, adequate transport facilities, toilet

facilities, provision of sanitation in and around the temple premises.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat was directed to make arrangements for mobile toilets as per requirement with deployment of sufficient manpower for maintenance of these toilets.

The Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal, was instructed to oversee proper sanitation along the temple approach road and install dustbins at key locations.

Executive Engineer R&B was tasked with initiating macadamization work on all roads leading to the Kheer Bhawani Temple wherever required.

While interacting with the officers, DC said that the district administration is committed to ensuring a safe, convenient, and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees participating in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; ACP, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD and REW Ganderbal, EO MC Ganderbal and ARTO Ganderbal.

DC Poonch Visits Shelling Hit Areas In Mandi & Haveli,



Observer News Service

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday undertook a visit to shelling affected areas of Tehsil Mandi and Haveli to assess the damage to property. He also met the family of a person who fell to cross border shelling at village Kojra. He interacted with the affected families and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to providing necessary assistance and standing by them in this difficult time.

Accompanied by a team of officers, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the status of basic supplies and public services. He instructed concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted availability of the essential supplies and services for residents in the affected areas.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited village Baila in Tehsil Mandi to meet the family of a person who lost his life in Poonch city in the cross border shelling. He offered condolences to the be-

reaved, and assured them of all possible support from the district administration.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited affected areas in Block Nangali of Tehsil Haveli to assess the damage to property. He also met the family of a person who fell to cross border shelling at village Kojra. He interacted with the affected families and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to providing necessary assistance and standing by them in this difficult time.

To ensure a timely relief process, the DC directed the Mandi and Haveli Tehsildars to immediately start the assessment of damages to private property and submit detailed reports. He emphasized the importance of swift reporting so that relief and compensation measures can be initiated promptly.

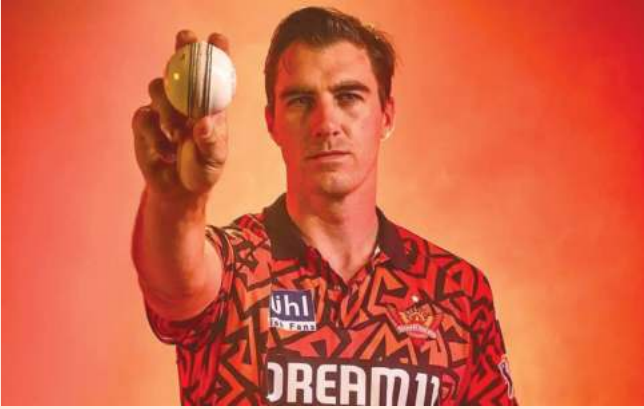
BCCI Ramps Up Pressure On Foreign Boards, Cummins Likely To Return

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI and IPL franchises have ramped up pressure on foreign boards to ensure that their players return for the league's resumption on May 17 despite some lingering safety concerns in the wake of India-Pakistan military hostilities.

The BCCI top brass has instructed IPL COO Hemang Amin to individually speak to the likes of Cricket Australia (CA) and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to allay the concerns that the players may have about returning to India.

All the 10 teams are involved in a lot of back and forth with their overseas recruits over their arrival plans in India a day after the IPL announced the revised schedule following necessary security



clearances from the government.

The world's biggest T20 league was suspended on May 9 due to an India-Pakistan military showdown, triggered by the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, south Kashmir. A day

after its suspension, a ceasefire between the two countries was announced, paving the way for IPL's resumption.

CA has left it on the players to decide on their participation and in matters like these, the

players' association has a role to play as well.

Team officials, on the other hand, told PTI that some of the foreign players remain anxious to return but majority of them should come back before the tournament resumes.

CSK's foreign players include Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra, Sam Curran, Jamie Overton, Noor Ahmad and Matheesha Pathirana.

Afghanistan's Ahmad and Pathirana from Sri Lanka are set to join the team while there are doubts over the availability of their New Zealand players.

Jos Buttler, who has contributed immensely to Gujarat Titans' campaign, will now need to choose between IPL and his England commitments.

At Punjab Kings, Australian

all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and compatriot Josh Inglis may not return to India, though head coach Ricky Ponting is trying his best to convince them.

Fellow Aussies Xavier Bartlett and Aaron Hardie along with Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai and South African Marco Jansen are expected to return.

Like CSK, SunRisers Hyderabad are also eliminated from the competition but the franchise is expecting captain Pat Cummins and batter Travis Head to return for the remaining three league games.

Delhi Capitals, who remain in contention for a top-four spot, contacted their overseas players on Tuesday morning and are waiting to hear back from them.

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc is among DC's key players.

Short TAKES

South Africa Name 15-Man Squad For WTC Final Against Australia

Fast bowler Lungi Ngidi returned to the squad for the first time since October last year as South Africa named a 15-member squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia, beginning at Lord's on June 11.

Kagiso Rabada, who has recently returned from one-month suspension from recreational drug use, is one of the six fast bowlers in the side which also includes two spinners in Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthusamy.

The Proteas bowling attack also includes bowling all-rounders Marco Jansen, Wiaan Mulder and Corbin Bosch.

Temba Bavuma will continue as the skipper.

South Africa squad: Temba Bavuma (c), David Bedingham, Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Dane Paterson, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne (wk).

Australia squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

PSL Set To Resume On May 17

The PCB on Tuesday confirmed the resumption of the Pakistan Super League on May 17, following a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman, Mohsin Naqvi announced on social media that the revised itinerary would be announced shortly.

The final will be played on May 25.

The PSL was suspend due to border conflict with India.

The PCB had initially announced the relocation of the league to the UAE but suspended it a day later.

A PCB source said that the remaining eight matches, including the eliminator, qualifier and final had been tentatively scheduled in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

"The main issue is getting all the overseas players with different franchises to return for the remaining matches. The Board and the franchises are working round the clock to ensure the PSL is completed with the best players," the source said.

Shami Blasts Retirement Rumours

Indian cricket's No 2 bowler Mohammed Shami has hit back at reports suggesting his retirement from Test cricket.

A report by media outlet claimed on Tuesday that following in the footsteps of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, India's veteran seamer will be walking into the sunset.

Citing the report as false, the 34 year old stated that such reports have 'destroyed his future' and urging scribes to say 'something good' about him sometime.

Shami took to Instagram story and sharing the report he wrote: 'Very well done maharaj apna job k din bhi gin loo kitna adieu hai badme dekh le hamara ap jaise ne satyianash kar diya future ka kabi to accha bol liya kare aaj ka sabse kharab story sorry (sic) (Very well done, King. Look at your job, too, first and count your days before focusing on me. Guys like you have destroyed my future. At least try to speak good things sometimes. This is today's worst story, I am sorry,)'

New JK United FC Joins Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: New JK United FC, owned by Mohammad Maqbool Lone of New JK Roadways, has joined the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, powered by Athwas Hyundai, as its second franchise team.

"This exciting development marks a significant milestone in the history of football in Jammu & Kashmir, with New JK Roadways, a well-established transportation company, venturing into the sports industry. Mohammad Maqbool Lone's passion for sports and commitment to excellence will undoubtedly bring a new level of enthusiasm to the team and the league," the KSL organisers said.

The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025 promises to be an electrifying tournament, featuring top teams and talented players from across the region. With New JK United FC on board, fans can expect thrilling matches, intense rivalries and exceptional sportsmanship.

"New JK United FC is committed to promoting football in Jammu & Kashmir and providing a platform for local talent to shine," said Mo-



hammad Maqbool Lone, Owner New JK United FC. "We are honored to be part of this prestigious league and look forward to an exciting season."

The league is set to kick off soon at TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir, featuring six corporate teams competing for the coveted title. Football fans across the region are eagerly awaiting the tournament, which promises to be an unforgettable experience.

The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025 is a professional football league in Jammu & Kashmir, powered by Athwas Hyundai. The league aims to promote football in the region, provide a platform for local talent, and entertain fans with high-quality matches.

YSS Department Pays Heartfelt Tribute To Famous Judo Coach

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Employees of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K, the office of the Joint Director Kashmir, and the District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar, came together to observe a two-minute silence.

Led by the Joint Director Kashmir, this solemn tribute was held to honour the memory of Varinder Sharma, a dedicated Physical Education Master and Judo Coach, who left an indelible mark on the sports fraternity of J&K.

"Sharma's untimely passing on Monday after a brief illness



has left a void in the department, and his colleagues and friends are deeply saddened by the loss. As the incharge warden of the Youth Hostel Nagrota Jammu, Sharma's commitment to his work and his passion for sports inspired countless young athletes. His humility, expertise, and dedication earned

him immense respect and admiration within the department," YSS said in a statement.

Director General YSS expressed profound grief over Sharma's sudden demise, remembering him as a capable employee who made significant contributions to the department.

DYSSO Budgam Congratulates Cyclists Representing J&K At KIYG

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Two talented cyclists from Zone Narbal and District Budgam are representing Jammu & Kashmir in the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games being held in

Patna, Bihar.

On Tuesday, the DYSSO Budgam and ZPEO Office Narbal extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Ajmal Ashraf, Arsalaan Ahmad Dar and Arfaat for their commendable achievement.

"Their selection is a testament to their hard work and the growing sports culture in the district," the Department said in a statement.

Thus far, J&K has won two medals at the games: a Gold in volleyball and a bronze.

28th year OF PUBLICATION

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