

# Kashmir Convener



SC Raps Rahul Gandhi For 'Irresponsible' Remarks On Savarkar, Stays HC Order

P/02



Waqf Row: Can't Order 'Blanket' Stay On Law By Parliament When Validity Presumed, Centre Tells SC

P/02



Pahalgam terror attack is grim reminder that terrorism global menace: VP Dhankhar

P/02

## Pahalgam terror aftermath

# CM lauds Kashmir's tourism industry for showing true grit, not greed: CM Omar

"HM assured of necessary protective measures to Kashmiris in other states"

Holds interaction with tourism, business stakeholders in Kashmir

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** In the aftermath of the recent terror attack on civilians at Baisaran, Pahalgam, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday convened a detailed interaction with business stakeholders from Kashmir's tourism, travel, and trade sectors at SKICC, Srinagar.

The meeting commenced with a minute of silence in memory of the victims, expressing solidarity with the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic incident.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister



Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretaries of Industries & Commerce and Tourism, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior police officials, and

other concerned officers.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "We collectively

>>SEE ON P-7

"IWT is most unfair document to people of J&K": CM Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Expressing strong disapproval over the Indus Water Treaty, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the pact which was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 is the "most unfair document" to the people of the Union Territory.

Addressing the media, Omar Abdullah said, "The government of India has taken some steps. As far as J-K is concerned, we have never been in favour of the Indus Water Treaty. We have always believed that the Indus Water Treaty has been the most unfair document to the people of J-K."

>>SEE ON P-7

## Every perpetrator of Pahalgam attack must be hunted down: LG

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that every perpetrator and supporter of the Pahalgam terror attack must be hunted down.

The LG reviewed the security scenario with the Army Chief and other top Army commanders of the Northern Command.

Officials said that the LG has asked the Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, who called on him here, to take effective steps not only to bring those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack to justice, but also to intensify efforts to crush the infrastructure of terrorism and its ecosystem.

"During the discussion, Lieutenant Governor said the nation has full faith in the bravery and valour of our Army, police and CAPFs, and they must work in close synergy to identify perpetrators, enablers and OGWs in the Pahalgam massacre case

and pursue the entire chain in a sustained manner and neutralise

security agencies.

The meeting was attended



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

The meeting also reviewed security mechanisms in place, various short-term, long-term measures and integration and coordination among the various

by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen M.V. Suchindra Kumar, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava. In a cowardly attack, terrorists killed 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and one local, in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam on April 22.

The attack shocked the nation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his

>>SEE ON P-7

## People of J&K supported nation against Terror: Rahul Gandhi

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the idea behind the Pahalgam terror attack was to divide the people of the



Badamibagh Cantonment to inquire about the injured.

"I met one of the injured, I could not meet the others because they have gone back. My love and affection to everybody who has lost

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

country and it was imperative that India stood united to defeat terrorism once and for all.

"It is a terrible tragedy and I came here to get a sense of what is going on and to help. The entire people of Jammu and Kashmir have condemned this terrible act. They have fully supported the nation," Gandhi told reporters in Srinagar. The Congress leader, who arrived in Srinagar Friday morning, visited the Army's 92 Base hospital at

family members. I want everybody to know that the whole nation stands together as one," he said.

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

"The idea behind what has happened is to divide society, is to make brother

>>SEE ON P-7

## HM Shah Asks All CMs To Ensure Return Of Pak Nationals

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with Chief Ministers on Friday and asked them to identify all Pakistani



nationals in their respective states, according to sources. Amit Shah is also talking to all chief ministers on the issue, asking them to identify all Pakistani nationals in their respective states and take steps to ensure their prompt return to Pakistan.

A decision has been made to cancel all types of visas, effective immediately. Shah has also asked the Chief Ministers to take steps to ensure the prompt return of the people to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Union Home Minister

will also hold a meeting regarding the Indus Water Treaty at his residence.

Besides the Home Minister and the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Patil, other senior government officials will attend this meeting.

Sources told ANI, "India has formally notified Pakistan in writing about the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty."

"Secretary of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Devashree Mukherjee, has informed the Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza, about this decision of the Indian government through a letter. India has issued a notice for changes in the treaty. The letter states that the Indian government has given notice to the Pakistani government for amendments to the treaty."

The notice mentioned that several fundamental aspects of the treaty have changed and require reconsideration. Population changes, the development of clean energy, and various factors related to water distribution, as outlined in the treaty, have occurred. Any treaty should be implemented in

>>SEE ON P-7

## Ensure exit of Pak nationals: LG Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting of all DCs and SSPs. In the meeting the Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to take appropriate and necessary action to ensure exit of Pakistani nationals as per the deadline notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As per the Ministry of Home Affairs' order all existing valid Visas, except Medical Visas, Long-term visas, diplomatic

>>SEE ON P-7

## NIA searches multiple locations across 6 states

KC News Network

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

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

According to the spokesman, the NIA teams are examining the seized items to unravel the entire conspiracy behind the smuggling and the



radicalization of individuals in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and other parts of India.

The searches were conducted on Thursday at the premises of suspected individuals connected to Pakistan-based entities in case RC-18/2024/NIA/DLI, registered by the anti-terror agency on 20th December 2024.

The suspects under the scanner are aligned with the ideology of proscribed unlawful

>>SEE ON P-7

## 'Will Support India To Hunt Down Perpetrators Of Pahalgam Attack': USA

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW YORK/WASHINGTON:** US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Friday said America stands with India as it hunts down those responsible for the heinous Pahalgam attack that killed 26 Hindus.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama

strike in 2019.

"We stand in solidarity with India in the wake of the horrific Islamist terrorist attack, targeting and killing 26 Hindus in Pahalgam," Gabbard said in a post on X.

"My prayers and deepest sympathies are with those who lost a loved one. PM @narendramodi, and with all the people of India. We are with you and support you

as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack," she said.

Earlier on Wednesday, US President Donald Trump strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam in a phone call with Prime Minister Modi and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of the "heinous attack." (Agencies)

## Houses Of 2 LeT Terrorists Destroyed In Blast



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The house of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including the prime suspect of the Pahalgam terror attack, were destroyed when explosives believed to be stored there went off, officials said on Friday.

The incidents took place during

the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, when the residences of Aadil Hussain Thokar and Asif Sheikh were being searched by security forces at Guree village in Bijbehara and Tral respectively in south Kashmir, the officials said.

Explosives were believed to have been found

>>SEE ON P-7

## Amarnath yatra not to be affected by Pahalgam attack: Dy CM

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The Pahalgam terror attack will not affect the annual Amarnath pilgrimage which passes through the south Kashmir tourist resort, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Friday.

Pahalgam is one of the key base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra and falls on the traditional 43-km route leading to the 3,880 metre high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

"Amarnath yatra is a religious event. Those who want to come for Amarnath yatra will come of their own will. Some people go to Kedarnath and some do not go because there is snow... The yatra shall not be affected just because of the Pahalgam terror attack," Choudhary told PTI Videos in an interview.

Terrorists struck at a prime tourist location in Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Tuesday, killing at least 26 people, mostly tourists, and injuring several others.

The Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister said while the Pahalgam terror attack was a big incident, it cannot shake the foundations of rich culture and tradition



in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Kashmiris will themselves facilitate the yatra as they have been doing over the years. I understand that innocent (tourists) have lost their lives but we cannot forget that there are people like Adil, a horse owner, who lost his life while saving the tourists. Jammu Kashmir has a rich culture," Choudhary said.

"This act of terror in Pahalgam, though it was big, cannot shake the foundations of brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

>>SEE ON P-7

## Safety Of J&K Residents

## CM Omar Deputes Cabinet Colleagues Across Country

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** In light of recent incidents and to reinforce a sense of security among students and businesspersons from Jammu & Kashmir residing in various parts of the country, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed the deployment of Cabinet Ministers to key cities across India.

These senior representatives of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have been tasked with coordinating closely with their counterparts in the respective State Governments. Their mandate is to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of J&K residents who may be facing distress, anxiety, or insecurity in the wake of recent developments.

"With a view to instilling a sense of security among our students and businessmen currently in other states, I have



deputed my Cabinet Ministers to various cities across the country. The purpose of these visits is to coordinate efforts with the respective State Governments and ensure the

>>SEE ON P-7



# Waqf Row: Can’t Order ‘Blanket’ Stay On Law By Parliament When Validity Presumed, Centre Tells SC

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Friday defended the amended Waqf Act in the Supreme Court and opposed any “blanket stay” by the court on a “law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament”. In a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit, the Centre urged the top court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, pointing out a “mischievous false narrative” surrounding certain provisions. “While this court would examine these challenges when the cases are heard, a blanket stay (or a partial stay) without being aware of the adverse consequences of such an order in a generality of cases (even on members of the Muslim community itself) were the petitions to be unsuccessful, would be uncalled for, especially in the context of the presumption of validity of such laws,” it argued. The Centre, as a result, urged a bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, set to hear pleas for passing interim directions on May 5, not to stay the law’s provisions. The government claimed a “shocking increase” of 116 per cent in the waqf properties since 2013. It also opposed the arguments over the necessary registration of “waqf by user”

properties till April 8, saying if the provision was interfered with by an interim order, it would amount to “creation of legislative regime by judicial order”. The affidavit rebutted the submissions that Muslims might be in the minority in the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards due to the change in the law. The law is a “valid and lawful exercise of legislative power”, one that strengthens the institution of waqf and aligns it with constitutional principles, and facilitates the wholesome realisation of waqfs in the contemporary era, it argued. The Centre contended it was settled position in the law that constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision, either directly or indirectly, and decided the matter finally. “There is a presumption of constitutionality that applies to laws made by Parliament,” it said. The affidavit added, “Considering the settled constitutional principles of presumption of constitutionality, intrinsic value behind democratic processes and high threshold to be met before passing any interim orders, it would be in the fitness of things



to decline any interim orders as was done in the original petitions.” Referring to the “reported misuse” of waqf provisions to encroach private and government properties, the affidavit said right before even Mughal era, pre-independence era and post-independence era, the total of waqfs created was 18,29,163.896 acre of land. “Shockingly after 2013, the addition of waqf land is 20,92,072.536 acres,” it said. On the amendment relating to “waqf

— creation of legislative regime by judicial order (and that too an interim order) wherein Parliament has by law, consciously taken it away,” it said. Countering the claims that Muslims would be in minority due to inclusion of non-Muslims in waqf bodies, the Centre said only four non-Muslims of the total 22 could be part of the Central Waqf Council. “In waqf boards of each state, there is a possibility of maximum three members who can be non-Muslims (if the ex-officio member happens to be a non-Muslim) out of 11 members,” it said. The Centre said when the legislature has enacted a law, presumed to be constitutional, replacing it would be “impermissible”. “Any order in the nature of one sought by the petitioners, would amount to a stay of the amendment act, validly passed by Parliament at an interim state, which is an exercise impermissible within the confines of judicial review envisaged under the Constitution,” it said. By removing major legal issues, the Centre argued, the Act reaffirmed the identification, classification and regulation of waqf property by subjecting it to legal standards and judicial

oversight. The law ensures no person is denied access to courts, and the decisions affecting property rights, religious freedom, and public charity are made within the bounds of fairness and legality, it added. “Through these changes, the Amendment Act brings judicial accountability, transparency, and fairness,” the affidavit said. The government also denied the argument that the law violated fundamental rights, and said it respected the essential religious practices of the Muslim community by leaving matters of faith and worship untouched, while legitimately regulating the secular, administrative facets of waqf management as authorised by the Constitution. “Parliament has acted within its domain to ensure that religious endowments like waqf are managed in a manner that upholds the trust reposed in them by the faithful and the society at large, without trespassing on religious autonomy,” it said. On April 17, the Centre assured the top court it would neither denotify waqf properties, including “waqf by user”, nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5.

## SC Raps Rahul Gandhi For ‘Irresponsible’ Remarks On Savarkar, Stays HC Order

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday censured Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for “irresponsible” remarks on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar at a rally in Maharashtra but stayed the criminal proceedings against him. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan said, “Let’s not mock our freedom fighters.” The bench further asked senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, whether he knew that even Mahatma Gandhi used the words such as “your faithful servant” in his communications to the Britishers. When Singhvi argued charges of promoting enmity and public mischief were not made out against Gandhi, the bench remarked, “You are most obedient... does your client know that Mahatma Gandhi also used ‘your faithful servant’ while addressing the viceroy? Can Mahatma Gandhi be called a ‘servant of Britishers’ merely because he addressed



himself to the viceroy as ‘your servant’. In those days, even I have seen, our judges of the Calcutta High Court used to address Chief Justice as writing ‘your servant’.” Justice Datta added, “Does your client know that his grandmother (Indira Gandhi), when she was the Prime Minister, also sent a letter praising this very gentleman (Savarkar)?” The judge went on, “So, let’s not make irresponsible statements about freedom fighters. You have made a good point on law, you are entitled to stay. We

Singhvi urged the court to not make any comments and said Gandhi did not intend to create enmity between the groups. The bench retorted, “This is not how you treat freedom fighters... when you don’t know anything about the history of India, you should not make any such comments.” Justice Datta further said, “He is a leader of a political party and why would you make a comment like this... you go to Maharashtra, he (Savarkar) is worshipped there. Don’t do this.” Singhvi said the message was loud and clear. The top court, however, stayed the criminal proceedings against Gandhi in the case lodged in Uttar Pradesh. Gandhi moved the apex court against an order of the high court. A case under various provisions for alleged offences such as promoting enmity between classes and public mischief was lodged against him by Pandey.

## After Cycling To France, Serbia’s Protesting Students Run To Brussels To Stir EU Attention

**NOVI SAD (Serbia):** After cycling all the way to France, Serbia’s protesting students on Friday embarked on a new endeavour — a nearly 2,000-kilometer run to Brussels aimed at drawing European Union attention to their months-long struggle against corruption and for the rule of law in the Balkan country. More than 20 students set off from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad for a relay-style “ultra-marathon” that is expected to last for 18 days. Cheered off by hundreds of people, the students headed toward the eastern Croatian town of Osijek, the first stop on their journey. Nikola Kojcin acknowledged that “it’s going to be really hard, but we’ll make it, we have to make it.” University students have been a key force behind a nationwide anti-graft movement in Serbia rattling populist President Aleksandar Vucic.



He is formally leading Serbia toward EU membership to “destroy Serbia” under orders from abroad. Almost daily demonstrations were sparked nearly six months ago by a deadly train station canopy collapse in Novi Sad which killed 16 people and which critics blamed on negligence and disrespect of safety regulations fuelled by rampant corruption in state-backed infrastructure projects with China. Symbolically, the student runners started their marathon journey to Brussels from outside the now-closed central railway station in Novi Sad where tons of concrete crashed without warning on the people standing or strolling underneath on Nov. 1. Many protesters in Serbia have faced attacks during traffic blockades and were questioned by police in the past months. He told Informer TV on Thursday evening that Serbia has been “attacked” and blamed the protests for alleged huge damage to the country’s economy. The students said in a press release that they “are not asking to be rescued” by the EU but are “sending a clear reminder to Europe. democratic values ... must be upheld not only in official declarations but in public awareness and collective action.” The runners are carrying a letter they hope will be read at

the EU institutions “so people could hear a bit more about the deep political and social crisis in Serbia,” explained student Aleksa Dimitrijevic. Almost daily demonstrations were sparked nearly six months ago by a deadly train station canopy collapse in Novi Sad which killed 16 people and which critics blamed on negligence and disrespect of safety regulations fuelled by rampant corruption in state-backed infrastructure projects with China. Symbolically, the student runners started their marathon journey to Brussels from outside the now-closed central railway station in Novi Sad where tons of concrete crashed without warning on the people standing or strolling underneath on Nov. 1. Many protesters in Serbia have faced attacks during traffic blockades and were questioned by police in the past months.

## Pahalgam terror attack is grim reminder that terrorism global menace: VP Dhankhar



**UDHAGAMANDALAM (Tamil Nadu):** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Friday that the Pahalgam terror attack was a grim reminder that terrorism is a global menace that needs to be addressed by humanity in unison. He also appealed to the people to rise above political, personal and other interests to prioritise national interest. Bharat, he said was the world’s most peace loving nation and her civilisation ethos reflected in ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the doctrine that sees

the world as a family) was getting global resonance. “We observed silence at the commencement of this conference. I join the nation in expressing profound grief and outrage at the heinous attack in Pahalgam that claimed innocent lives,” the Vice President said speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day Vice Chancellors conference of state, central, and private universities of Tamil Nadu at the Raj Bhavan, Udhagamandalam. Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, and Vice Chancellors joined the Vice President in observing a minute’s silence in memory of those killed in the Pahalgam terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22. The visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was in his third term, was our greatest assurance that a nation’s rise cannot be handicapped by any situation, internal or external. “But we all have to bear in mind that national interest is supreme,” he said quoting BR Ambedkar. Dhankhar stressed the need to always keep national interest which cannot be intertwined with partisan interest, uppermost. “It cannot be subservient to other interests, political, personal or for a group. It was with this spirit that we observed silence,” he said.

## Pahalgam Terror Attack A ‘Murder Of Humanity’: Kerala Governor

**Kochi:** Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Friday said here that the terror attack in Kashmir’s Pahalgam was the “murder of humanity” and that the terrorists were trying to “wipe out” all the work that was done there by the Central government in the last few years. Arlekar also said that in the current circumstances citizens of India need to stand together as a nation, in an apparent reference to criticisms of security lapses from some quarters, including the Congress and the CPI(M). The Governor was speaking to reporters after paying his respects to the mortal remains of N Ramachandran, a resident of Edappally here, who was gunned down in the April 22 terror attack that claimed 26 lives. “It is a very sad moment not only for Kerala, but the entire country. In fact, what happened in Pahalgam was against humanity. This was a murder of humanity and we all are so saddened that we cannot express it,” he said. “All that was done in the last few months and years is being wiped out by some extremists or terrorists who want to show they are against the meaning of India,” he said. Arlekar said that such attempts will not succeed due to the efforts of the security forces and the Central government. At the same time, the Governor also called for everyone to stand together as a nation and show the enemies of the country that “we are not going to surrender before terrorist activities”.

## Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, League of Arab States strongly condemn Pahalgam terror attack



**NEW DELHI:** Qatar, Jordan and Iraq and the League of Arab States’ mission in New Delhi have “strongly condemned” the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam, and extended solidarity to India and condolences to the families of the victims. Jammu travel guide Terrorists struck a prime tourist location in Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Tuesday, killing at least 26 people, mostly tourists, in cold blood and injuring several others. Messages of solidarity have poured in from multiple countries and their governments in the aftermath of the deadly attack. The Delegation of the European Union to India on Thursday posted on X an image of the national flag of India standing next to the EU flag and a candle placed on a table in memory of the victims. “EU Ambassadors & the Board of the Federation of European Business in India #FEBI gathered to observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the horrible #Pahalgam terrorist attacks. Team Europe/EU family in India stands together with in this moment of mourning,” it posted on the micro-blogging platform. President of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in a post on X on April 23 described it as a “vile terror attack” in Pahalgam that “stole so many innocent lives” and expressed her condolences. Qatar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in a statement on Wednesday extended its condolences to the families of the victims and the government and people of India. “State of Qatar expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the attack that took place in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir which resulted in casualties and injuries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates the State of Qatar’s stance against violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of their motivations and justifications,” it said. “The Ministry extends its condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of the Republic of India, and wishes a swift recovery to the injured,” the statement said. Jammu travel guide Iraq’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it “affirms its full solidarity with the Republic of India during this difficult time”. “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the Republic of Iraq’s strong condemnation of the heinous attack that occurred in the Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of several individuals and impacted hundreds of innocent civilians,” it said. The ministry said it affirms its full solidarity with India during this difficult time and “reiterates Iraq’s unwavering stance in rejecting all forms of terrorism and violence, regardless of motive or justification”.

## BSF Jawan’s Father Says Family Anxiously Waiting For Son’s Return

**KOLKATA:** The father of BSF jawan P K Sahu, who was detained by Pakistan Rangers after he inadvertently crossed the international border in Punjab, on Friday said that the family was anxiously waiting for his return. Bholanath Sahu, the father of the detained jawan, said that the commanding officer of his son’s battalion had called him up over phone on Thursday night and said that a “flag meeting was being held” between officers of the BSF and Pak Rangers to secure his safe release. “My son is serving the country and I am sure all efforts will be made to secure his safe release,” Sahu said. “I am yet to get any more information on my son’s whereabouts,” Sahu said.



He said that his son had come home for Holi and had gone back to work about three weeks back. Sahu, posted with the 182nd battalion of the BSF at the Ferozepur border in Punjab, was taken into custody by Pakistan Rangers on Wednesday.

According to official sources, the jawan was in uniform and carrying his service rifle when the incident occurred. Sahu, who hails from Harisabha area of Rishra in Hooghly, was reportedly accompanying a group of farmers near the border when he walked ahead to rest under a tree and inadvertently crossed over into Pakistan territory, where he was apprehended. The BSF jawan’s wife Rajani, who lives at Rishra with the family comprising their seven-year old son and Sahu’s parents, has been inconsolable since coming to know of the incident. Stating that she had last spoken to her husband on Tuesday night, Rajani said that the family wants him to return as soon as possible.



## DC Bandipora reviews Departmental Proposals for Capex Budget 2025-2

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to discuss the formulation of the District Capex Budget Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting discussed threadbare department-wise action plans proposed under the District Capex Budget.

District officers of various departments presented their proposed works, outlining developmental priorities and project requirements.

While addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri directed all departments to accord top priority to ongoing works under the Capex plan to ensure their timely completion and continued progress.

He stressed the need for tangible asset creation that can have a lasting developmental impact at the grassroots level. Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all proposed works are free from any land disputes thereby facilitating smooth and timely execution.



He emphasized coordinated approach among departments and called for early submission of the finalized Action Plan to be incorporated in the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

Among others the meeting was attended by District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan, Divisional Forest Officer Bandipora Waseem Farooq Mir, Joint Director Planning Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD, District officers of various Departments and other concerned.

## J&K Students Association Seeks Urgent Steps for Safety of Kashmiri Students

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association met Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in Srinagar on Friday to express serious concerns over rising incidents of harassment, intimidation, and threat calls being received by Kash-



miri students studying in various parts of the country.

Profiling, ensure their protection on university campuses, and establish efficient redressal mechanisms to address distress cases swiftly.

Expressing concern, Rahul Gandhi strongly condemned the recent spate of targeted incidents against Kashmiri students, saying, "It is very important that all of us stand together, stay united, and fight this nasty and divisive mindset. We must defeat hate in all its forms and confront terrorism with unity, not by targeting the innocent."

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

Led by the Association's National Convener Nasir Khuehami, the delegation held a detailed one-on-one meeting with Rahul Gandhi that lasted over 30 minutes. Khuehami apprised the senior Congress leader of the growing insecurity and psychological stress among Kashmiri students, particularly during politically charged events and amid polarising rhetoric.

Khuehami urged the Congress leader to initiate urgent and time-bound measures to ensure the safety, dignity, and mental well-being of students from Jammu and Kashmir. He called for institutional safeguards to prevent

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## Chinar Yuva Centre Baramulla bags award for Sustainable Innovation

**BARAMULLA:** In a moment of pride for the district Baramulla, the Chinar Yuva Centre Baramulla has been honoured with the prestigious



award in the "Sustainable Product Innovation" category at the CASCA 2025 (Climate Action and Sustainability Conference and Awards) held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

Chinar Yuva Centre is a public outreach initiative by Northern Command and Chinar Corps

of the Indian Army for Kashmir Valley to help youth to be part of the main stream development.

Presented by the M3M Foundation and organised by the CSR Universe, CASCA 2025 is one of India's leading platforms celebrating exemplary efforts in sustainability and climate action. The event brought together global leaders, policymakers, environmental experts, and innovators committed to fostering a greener and more sustainable future.

The Chinar Yuva Centre's recognition stems from its groundbreaking work in youth led innovations in climate conscience, circular product design and eco-friendly practices that significantly reduce environmental impact.

Speaking on the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, congratulated the team and said, "This award is a testament of the youth of Baramulla and their commitment to sustainability. It also reflects our district's growing role in contributing to India's climate action goals."

## Dr. Farooq offers condolences on GN Shaheen's demise

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Friday visited the grieving Shaheen family at Pir Bagh Srinagar to offer his condolences on the passing of Former MLC and ex-Provincial President JKNC Ghulam Nabi Shaheen.



Accompanying Dr. Farooq were Senior leaders Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Mubarak Gul, Dr. Sameer Koul, and Mir GM Saqi. On the

occasion, he offered solidarity with the bereaved including Sara Hayat Shah, Yawar Hayat Shah, and Salman Ali Sagar.

Dr. Farooq offered prayers for the departed soul and expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved household, especially Yawar, Sarah, and their mother. He fondly remembered the late Shaheen's unwavering dedication to the party, particularly during challenging times, highlighting his ability to unite party members and connect with grassroots workers as a defining moment in his career, especially post-1996.

Following the visit, Dr. Farooq Abdullah offered Friday congregational prayers at Asar-e-Sharif Dargah Hazratbal.

## ACS chairs SCERT's workshop held under Oasis Jyotirdhar Initiative

**JAMMU:** In a significant stride towards educational rejuvenation, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office, Jammu, hosted a workshop and training under OASIS JYOTIRDHAR Movement phase-3, for the Heads of Institutions in Partnership with Department of School Education and SCERT Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu.

The ACS, on the occasion, inaugurated an exhibition showcasing a diverse array of curriculum enrichment tools including academic documents, books and educational aids developed by SCERT Jammu Division. It served as a visual narrative of the institution's academic journey.

In his address, the ACS applauded the vision



of the proactive endeavours of SCERT in advancing educational innovation and excellence. He encouraged all stakeholders to remain cognizant of evolving pedagogies and adapt to the dynamic educational landscape through continuous reflection and innovation.

## Pensioners United Front & JK Civil Society Unit Bandipora Condemns Pahalgam Tourist Attack

**BANDIPORA:** In a strong display of solidarity and condemnation, the Jammu and Kashmir Local Pensioners United Front (JKLPUF)



and JK Civil Society Forum (JKCSF) Bandipora unit convened an emergency meeting at their central office in Naz Colony on Wednesday to denounce the brutal killing of innocent tourists in Pahalgam.

Core group members, including the presidents of both organisations, Mr. Lone and Mr. Rafiq, unanimously passed a resolution condemning the heinous attack. They termed the massacre as an inhuman and barbaric act that

has shaken the conscience of every peace-loving citizen.

The gathering expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Members emphasized that such acts of violence have no place in a civilised society and must be condemned by all sections of the community.

Calling for collective efforts to restore peace and uphold communal harmony, the group urged people to stand united against forces attempting to disrupt Kashmir's age-old traditions of brotherhood and hospitality.

The meeting concluded with special prayers led by Niyaz Sahib (Ex-ZEO), seeking strength and patience for the affected families and peace for the souls of those lost in the tragic incident.

The members reiterated their commitment to peace, justice, and unity, urging authorities to ensure justice is delivered swiftly.

## Indian Army Distributes Sleeping Bags, Mosquito Nets to Bakarwal Community in Poonch

**POONCH:** In a humanitarian initiative aimed at improving the living conditions of the nomadic Bakarwal community, the Indian Army distributed sleeping bags and mosquito nets in the remote Salani area of Poonch district on Friday.

The effort is part of the Army's continued outreach to marginalized groups in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in areas with harsh terrains and limited access to basic healthcare and amenities. The distribution drive witnessed active participation from local leaders and community elders.

With the onset of summer and transitional weather conditions, the Army provided sleeping bags to ensure warmth during chilly nights, particularly benefiting children and elderly members of the community. Additionally, insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed to help combat vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, which are prevalent in the region due to stagnant water sources.

Community members lauded the Indian Army's gesture, describing it as timely and impactful. They emphasized how such support makes a tangible difference in their daily lives and safety, especially as they move through forested and mountainous routes during seasonal migrations.



"This support strengthens the bond between the Army and the local communities. It reflects our commitment not only to national security but also to the well-being of citizens in remote and underserved areas," said a senior Army officer.

The Army reiterated its pledge to continue supporting the tribal population through similar initiatives in the future, further cementing its role as a pillar of support in the region.

## Grand Quiz Competition Held at Boys Middle School Nathpora

**NATHPORA:** A grand quiz competition was organized today at Boys Middle School Nathpora after Friday prayers. The event was jointly conducted by the parents of the students and the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum, Bandipora district.

The programme was held under the guidance of the school headmaster, Mr. Shaukat Ahmad Wani. Mufti Imran was the chief guest on the occasion, while the organizing team included Inam-ul-Hassan, Mohammad Shafi Dar, Mohammad Abdullah, Mansoor Ahmad, Mohammad Yaseen, and Naseer Ahmad.



Students were divided into four groups for the competition, and each participant was given 30 seconds to respond to questions. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, who showcased their academic talents and quick thinking.

Students who performed exceptionally well were awarded attractive prizes. Their efforts were recognized and they were encouraged to continue striving for excellence in their educational journey.

Speaking at the conclusion of the event, Chief Spokesperson of the Teachers Forum, Bandipora district, Mr. Anjum Nisar expressed gratitude to all the organizers, teachers, parents, and students. He emphasized that such programmes not only enhance students' academic performance but also boost their confidence. He assured that more such educational and skill-building events would be organized in the future.

## Airtel Unveils India's First Unlimited International Roaming Plans

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move to simplify international travel for its customers, Bharti Airtel has announced new additions to its International Roaming (IR) portfolio, unveiling India's first unlimited IR plans that offer unrestricted data usage across 189 countries.

The telecom major stated that the newly introduced plans are aimed at making global connectivity more convenient, affordable, and entirely hassle-free for Indian travellers.



For the long-staying NRI community, Airtel has also launched a unique recharge plan priced at 4000 with a validity of one year. Under this plan, customers will get 5GB of data and 100 voice minutes for use while abroad. When used in India, the same plan will provide 1.5GB of data per day along with unlimited voice calls, allowing customers to use a single plan without the need for separate recharges or switching SIM cards.

Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO - Connected Homes at Bharti Airtel, said that the company is committed to simplifying the lives of its customers by delivering greater value and convenience. He added that the newly simplified IR plans are designed to give customers the freedom to use data and voice services generously while travelling around the world. According to him, Airtel's efforts are focused on addressing the ever-evolving needs of customers, especially those who travel frequently.

The revamped IR plans will continue to offer additional benefits including in-flight connectivity and automatic activation of services upon landing overseas. Airtel also highlighted that these plans eliminate the confusion of selecting different packs for different zones or countries and come with an auto-renewal feature for frequent travellers. Customers can manage all aspects of their international roaming services, including tracking usage and billing, through the Airtel Thanks app, which provides real-time updates and options for adding data or voice minutes as needed.

By offering a single plan valid across 189 countries and eliminating the hassle of acquiring multiple local SIM cards, Airtel's new IR plans are set to redefine global travel for Indian users. The company believes this initiative will bring unmatched convenience and peace of mind to international travellers, ensuring that they stay connected seamlessly, wherever they go.

## BRO Rescues 20 Vehicles Stranded Near Razdan Pass

**BANDIPORA:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) carried out a swift rescue operation during the night near Razdan Pass on the Bandipora-Gurez road after a sudden snowstorm left nearly 20 vehicles stranded.

According to BEACON authorities, the snowstorm hit the Razdan Pass area around 2 AM, catching commuters off guard. Despite the harsh weather conditions, BRO teams promptly mobilized machinery and rushed to the spot to assist those stranded.

All vehicles were safely evacuated due to the timely and efficient response by the BRO. The drivers, expressing relief and gratitude, praised the BRO's swift action and thanked them for ensuring their safety in the extreme weather.





# A True Contrary Of Transitory ‘I’

## (A Tribute to Nasir Ahmad Sofi)



SHOWKAT AHMAD WANI

Allah proclaims the virtues and essence of a “Momin” in the Quran; “And those who recoil from the vilest sins and depravities; and who, when fury ignites within them, swiftly pardon” (23:27). Verily, they are the ones who quake with awe and dread before their Lord. They are steadfast in their faith in His Revelations, refusing to entwine partners with their Sovereign. They pour forth their wealth in Allah’s path with open hands, yet their hearts tremble, fearing their offerings might falter before their Lord’s judgment (lest they be cast aside). These souls race toward righteousness, amassing good deeds, and they outstrip all others in this sacred chase (23:57-61). The Prophet Muhammad ( ) declared, “The world is a dungeon for the believer and a lavish Eden for the heed-less” (Sahih Muslim 2956).

Humanity now reels beneath a torrent of crises, stripping away the divine raiment bestowed by God—once crowning us as the pinnacle of creation—only to embrace the base existence of a mere beast.

Present man exhausts his toil and talents chasing transitory cravings, crowning material riches as the supreme and solitary prize of life. For centuries, the relentless quest of all has been to carve out a blissful, solitary identity. Thus, we sought to bind our essence to the “Self” and the “Social”, yet both unions have plunged into an abyss of ruin. We dwell amidst a tempest of crises—the crisis of existence and the crisis of love and kinship. If joy hinges on “I,” then “We” becomes a hollow falsehood; if bliss resides in “We,” then “I” loses all true weight. To deny the pulse of “I” is a terror in its rawest form, while “We” stirs as a fragile, deceptive mirage. In truth, “I” and “We” diverge only faintly, each nesting within a single soul.

In our mystical tradition, there are those whose every fiber, from the first spark, is irresistibly drawn to the Absolute. They surrender the ephemeral treasures of their own self, dissolving into “Him” by spurning the ephemeral, subjective “I” to grasp the eternal “I.” Even now, rare souls embody the rapture of “Jazb—divine attraction—while clinging fiercely to the sacred rites and their unyielding core. Among them was Nasir Ahmad Sofi, a luminary from my native soil.

This is no mere elegy, no Amitow Ghosh crafting a tribute to Aga Shahid Ali after his passing. It is a keener, truer testament—a piercing glimpse into Nasir’s inner “anfoss”, a captivating study of the ultimate enigma, radiant with allure.

Nasir Ahmad Sofi resided in Kaloosa Bandipora until his earthly tenure concluded on May 10, 2024. For over two decades, we improved to an indelible camaraderie, an alliance of souls. His existence was imbued with a profound spiritual inclination, outwardly unassuming yet intricately woven with the threads of philosophical and metaphysical profundity.

Nasir Ahmad Sofi burned with an unrelenting passion for Rumi’s Fana, a fierce mystical creed that demands the ego’s obliteration in a torrid plunge into divine unity. An impassable ideological abyss tore us apart in our quest for transcendent truth. I stood as an indomitable adversary, wielding Iqbal’s Khudi—the ironclad doctrine of self-forging as the supreme conquest of human existence. Our convictions, like clashing titans, carved irreconcilable paths through the crucible of our resolute ideologies.

The audacious doctrine of Khudi (selfhood), presented by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and the transcendent vision of Fana (annihilation), proclaimed by Jalaluddin Rumi, clash as titanic philosophical and spiritual edifices within Islamic thought. Anchored in the incandescent depths of Sufism and Islamic metaphysics, these luminaries carve irreconcilable paths. Iqbal’s Khudi exalts the indomitable self, a blazing force ascending toward divine sovereignty, while Rumi’s Fana demands the utter obliteration of ego, consumed in the rapturous inferno of the Divine. Their doctrines, though entwined in mystic heritage, ignite fiercely

distinct revelations of the self’s core, its sacred bond with the Absolute, and the relentless odyssey to spiritual apotheosis.

Khudi is Iqbal’s cataclysmic doctrine of the self—a blazing, indomitable essence, a divine ember within the soul that surges toward transcendent self-mastery and cosmic dominion.

Iqbal’s Khudi commands the forging of an invincible, singular self, a titanic creative force unleashed through unrelenting self-awareness, adamant discipline, and ferocious action. It scorns petty egoism, exalting instead the apotheosis of one’s sacred destiny.

Anchored in Iqbal’s audacious refuge of Islamic truth, Khudi springs from the Quranic mandate of human sovereignty, duty, and the exalted mantle of God’s viceroys (khalifa) on Earth. Fused with the searing intellect of Nietzsche and Bergson, Iqbal transmogrifies their thought into an unyielding Islamic crucible. It summons the creation of an unbreakable, sovereign self, fused with divine purpose, to drive the universe’s ascent through fearless creativity, unstoppable action, and relentless moral conquest.



Rumi’s Fana signifies the profound obliteration of the ego in the divine presence, a mystical surrender where the self dissolves to unite with the Supreme. It embodies the complete relinquishment of individuality, an ecstatic annihilation where the self merges wholly with the Divine Essence, transcending all personal boundaries. Rooted in Sufi mysticism, Rumi’s Fana draws from Quranic principles of divine return and Prophetic traditions of spiritual cleansing, echoing the radical self-dissolution championed by Sufi luminaries like Al-Hallaj and Attar in their pursuit of divine love. Its ultimate aim is Baqa, the eternal subsistence in God, where the ego’s annihilation ushers in a perpetual state of divine unity, immersed in boundless love and ultimate truth.

Nasir Amad Sofi, a transcendent archetype of piety, sculpted his existence in unwavering fidelity to the Quran and Sunnah, embodying the sublime virtues of taqwa (God-consciousness), tasawwuf (spiritual transcendence), zuhd (worldly renunciation), and fana (self-annihilation in Allah). His life was a radiant beacon, illuminating the path of divine communion, emancipation from material fetters, and relentless pursuit of the eternal Hereafter. Let us traverse the sanctified journey of Sofi’s life through these four pillars, each a testament to his resolute adherence to divine edicts.

Taqwa was the bedrock of Sofi’s soul, an unyielding fortress of

righteousness. The Quran thunders:

“O you who believe, fear Allah with the fear due to Him, and do not die except in a state of submission to Him.” [Al-Imran: 102]

Sofi lived in perpetual awe of Allah’s omniscience, his every deed saturated with divine mindfulness. He not only eschewed sin but recoiled from the faintest shadow of ambiguity. His taqwa blazed in his unassailable integrity, scrupulous trustworthiness, and boundless compassion. He disciplined his tongue, veiled his gaze, and fortified his heart, ever cognizant of Allah’s vigilant gaze. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) proclaimed:

“Taqwa resides here,” gesturing to his heart. [Sahih Muslim]

This divine fear armed Sofi with indomitable fortitude, enabling him to confront tribulations with stoic patience and fervent gratitude. He surrendered his will to Allah’s decree, anchoring every choice in the immutable laws of Shariah.

Tasawwuf was Sofi’s sacred crucible, where he forged an ineffable bond with the Divine. Far beyond rote rituals, he embraced tasawwuf

as the alchemy of heart purification and the quest for Allah’s love. The Quran decrees:

“Those who strive in Our cause—We will surely guide them to Our paths.” [Al-Ankabut: 69]

Sofi waged an unrelenting jihad against his baser self, deeming it the paramount struggle. Through ceaseless dhikr (divine remembrance), profound meditation, and soul-stirring Quranic recitation, he bathed his heart in celestial light. In the hallowed stillness of the night’s final hours, he stood in Tahajjud, beseeching forgiveness for his frailties. The Prophet (peace be upon him) declared:

“The most exalted means of nearing Allah is the Tahajjud prayer.” [Sahih Bukhari]

Sofi’s tasawwuf unshackled him from worldly chains, enthroning Allah’s love as the sovereign of his soul. Guided by his spiritual mentor, he pursued tazkiya (soul purification), vigilantly purging his heart of hubris, envy, and rancour with every breath.

Zuhd suffused Sofi’s life with a resolute disdain for transient worldly gains. He perceived wealth, fame, and pleasures as fleeting mirages, fixing his gaze on the eternal horizon of the Hereafter. The Quran admonishes:

“The life of this world is but the enjoyment of delusion.” [Al-Imran: 185]

Sofi embraced an austere existence, scorning the accumulation of

riches and the pursuit of decadence. He pared his needs to the barest minimum, channelling his resources into Allah’s path with unstinting generosity. The Prophet’s (peace be upon him) life of ascetic nobility was his lodestar, a model of unparalleled simplicity. The Prophet (peace be upon him) taught:

“Zuhd is not to forbid the permissible, but to place greater trust in what lies in Allah’s hands than in your own.” [Tirmidhi]

Sofi’s zuhd was a bulwark against avarice and greed. He epitomized selflessness, deriving profound fulfilment in uplifting others, his heart untainted by the ephemeral seductions of this world.

The philosophy of fana crowned Sofi’s spiritual odyssey, where he dissolved his very being into the ocean of Allah’s will. The Quran commands:

“Say, ‘My prayer, my sacrifice, my life, and my death are for Allah, Lord of all worlds.’” [Al-An’am: 162]

Sofi enshrined this verse as his life’s credo. He obliterated ego, pride, and selfhood, prostrating his soul before Allah’s sovereign decree. His fana exalted him to a realm where he embraced every divine dispensation—be it bliss or affliction, prosperity or adversity—with serene submission. The Prophet (peace be upon him) affirmed:

“Whoever lives for Allah, Allah becomes his sufficiency.” [Sahih Bukhari]

This philosophy of annihilation emancipated Sofi from worldly shackles, endowing his heart with celestial tranquillity. He knew his true destiny lay in attaining Allah’s pleasure and the everlasting bliss of Paradise.

Sofi’s life was a majestic tapestry, interwoven with the resplendent threads of taqwa, tasawwuf, zuhd, and fana. Guided by the luminous Quran and Sunnah, he transformed every moment into an act of worship, a relentless pursuit of divine favour. His legacy endures as a towering exemplar, illuminating how one may dwell in this fleeting world while anchoring the soul in eternity. Sofi’s life proclaims that ultimate triumph lies in unyielding devotion to Allah, a heart cleansed of impurity, renunciation of worldly vanities, and the sublime dissolution of self in the Divine.

“Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him.” [Al-Ma’ida: 119]

Thus was Sofi’s sanctified existence—a luminous paradigm for every believer yearning for divine proximity.

In gloom profound, where quiet reigns, My soul for Sofi fiercely yearns. A year estranged, the anguish surges, For love so pure, now lost to urges.

Your mirth resounds within my core, A priceless gem, I failed to store. Though distance severs, my heart’s outcry, In every line, my love defies.

- Thy parting cast the lanes of joy to shade,
- Where laughter waned and sorrow claimed the dark.
- The stars that once had sung of light and peace
- Now shiver cold and tremble in the void.
- The morning wind, now heavy-laden, sighs,
- And bears the breath of death upon its wings.
- The rising sun, no longer soft with gold,
- Now lifts its crown in flames that burn the sky.
- The rain descends in solitary grief,
- And every drop resounds with loss and woe.
- When misery unchains its iron weight,
- I writhe within the fire of joy and pain.
- I bid my weary eyes to close in dream,
- That I might see thee near, if only there.
- But sorrow’s watchful sentinels remain,
- And guard the gates that keep me far from thee.
- The storm within my gaze returns to me,
- And leads me back to halls of endless dusk.
- The fortress waits in silence, cold and vast,
- Where echoes call thy name and fade unheard.
- When winter’s breath beats soft upon the door,
- Or winds disturb the heavy-curtained gloom,
- A flicker stirs, as if thou standest near,
- Yet only air and silence fill the space.
- Then all the walls lean inward, waiting still,
- The marble hushed, attuned to welcome thee.
- But thou, unseen, unbidden, dost not come,
- Nor tread upon the stones that call thy name.

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# Crying mountains, bleeding stones

Danish Ashraf Khan

When Kashmir’s valleys found their voice,  
They shared their grief—they had no choice.  
On stones so still, their stories stayed,  
Of all the storms we faced, betrayed.

Beneath the snow, our pain was deep,  
In every flake, a tale would weep.  
They burned our dreams to ash and dust,  
But still we chose to love, not fuss.

Our wounds were wide, they never healed,  
But still, no guiltless life we sealed.  
They called us names, they gave us shame,  
Yet still we played no hateful game.



In Pahalgam, the silence cried,  
And pain lived deep where hope once died.  
We held our tears, we bore the strain,  
With quiet hearts and silent pain.

We stood with truth, with strength, with grace,  
But hurt the most by our own face.  
Now every step feels lost, unsure,  
Each gaze is heavy, hard to cure.

Why did our own forget what’s right,  
And steal our dreams, our peaceful night?  
We won’t give in, we will not fall—  
We live for truth, we’ve given all.

Kashmir is pure, its soul is kind,  
Don’t link it with a hateful mind.  
Though we have scars from days gone past,  
We still believe that peace will last.

Don’t darken Kashmir’s gentle name,  
Don’t set our tears alight with blame.  
We only asked for calm, for peace—  
So let this blame and battle cease.



# CM's Raabita office Establishes Helpline for J&K students

SRINAGAR, APRIL 25: In the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and alarming reports of assaults, harassment, and threats targeting students from Jammu & Kashmir across various parts of the country, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has taken swift and decisive action to ensure the safety and welfare of its students studying outside the Union Territory.

A dedicated toll-free helpline – 1800-8900-166 – has been set up at the Raabita Office in Srinagar to extend support and assistance to any student facing intimidation or threat. The helpline will operate round-the-clock and is equipped to address grievances, offer assistance, and coordinate with local authorities wherever needed.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep concern over the unfolding situation and reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to uphold the rights, dignity of every student from Jammu & Kashmir and ensure a safe environment for them, no matter where they are pursuing their education.

"We humbly and earnestly appeal to the governments of all States and Union Territories, in these trying times, to come forward with unwavering commitment to protect the Kashmiri students and citizens who find themselves far from home. These individuals, whether traveling or residing outside Jammu and Kashmir, must be safeguarded against any form of harassment, discrimination, or intimidation," – pronounced by a resolution passed yesterday at the All Party Meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.



The Government of Jammu & Kashmir urges all educational institutions and state administrations across the nation to ensure the safety of students from J&K and to take firm action against any individuals or groups attempting to disrupt communal harmony.

Students and their families have been asked to report any incident or concern via the toll-free helpline. The government assures swift response and necessary support in every genuine case reported.

For assistance, those in distress have been asked to call: 1800-8900-166 (Toll-Free).

## Bumper Wheat harvest begins along Zero Line in Hiranagar Sector

KATHUA: Marking a significant milestone in the district's agricultural landscape, the harvesting of ripened wheat crop commenced today across the fence in Chak Changa village, along the Zero Line of Chandwan Border Outpost in the Hiranagar



IB sector. The initiative, carried out under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, is a result of the seamless coordination between the Agriculture Department, Border Security Force (BSF), and local farmers.

The harvesting process was formally launched by Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, along with Company Commandant BSF, Insp. Mahesh Kumar.

It marked a remarkable achievement for farmers of the border belt, who are celebrating a bumper wheat harvest this season. Expressing their gratitude, the farmers acknowledged the District Administration, Agriculture Department, and BSF for their unwavering support in ensuring security and providing essential logistical assistance.

The Agriculture Department has deployed 15 tractors and 2 combine harvesters to facilitate the swift harvesting of wheat crops sown over 350 acres across the fence during the Rabi 2024–25 season.

The initiative, which began as a pilot project in Rabi 2021–22, has now expanded significantly, with 90 farmers from villages including Chak Changa, Chak Tanda, Krol Krishna, Karol Maithrain, and Maniyari actively participating in cultivation beyond the fence.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Sanjeev Rai Gupta, stated, "Our persistent efforts, coupled with technical assistance and the security support of BSF, have resulted in a successful harvest this year. We are committed to empowering border farmers and ensuring they receive the necessary resources for sustainable agriculture. The harvesting operations will be completed in the next 2–3 days."

A local progressive farmer, Ram Raj, shared his achievement, stating, "This season, I have reaped an impressive 240 quintals of wheat from 12 acres of cultivated land. The Agriculture Department, especially CAO Kathua, has been instrumental in guiding and supporting us from sowing to harvesting."

## GDC Anantnag organized solidarity march

**Srinagar:** The Government Degree College (GDC), Anantnag, on Thursday organized a solidarity and condolence march to mourn the tragic loss of more than 26 innocent lives in the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The march was led by the Principal Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Malik in which teaching, non-teaching staff and students, came together to express their grief and condemned the heinous and barbaric act.

The college administration expressed their solidarity with the families of the victims. The college staff expressed their deep regret on the loss of innocent lives and expressed solidarity with the deceased families to bear the irreparable loss of their loved ones.

While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolence, the staff members prayed for the peace to the departed souls and patience for their near and dear ones and recovery of the persons injured during the incident.

The smooth conduct of march was facilitated by J&K Police Anantnag.

## JKEDI starts 6-day Entrepreneurship Development Program at ITI Ganderbal

**GANDERBAL:** Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) District Centre, Ganderbal on Thursday started a six-day Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The EDP is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to establish and manage their business ventures successfully.

It seeks to nurture entrepreneurial talent and encourage innovation, particularly among rural youth.

The inaugural session was attended by the Principal ITI, Mubashir Hafiz Jan, who emphasized the critical role of skill development and entrepreneurship in driving economic progress.

He commended JKEDI's efforts in nurturing entrepreneurial talent and urged participants to fully engage in the program to transform their ideas into sustainable businesses.

District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Ganderbal highlighted that the EDP is tailored to address regional entrepreneurial challenges.

The program included interactive workshops, practical case studies, and expert-led sessions to deliver actionable learning outcomes.

## Deputy CM to Visit Mumbai on April 26 To meet J&K students, Business community in Wake of Pahalgam attack

**JAMMU:** In light of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and with the objective of reassuring and instilling a sense of security among students and businesspersons from Jammu and Kashmir currently residing in Maharashtra, Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, Surinder Choudhary, will be visiting Mumbai tomorrow on April 26.

During his visit, the Deputy CM will be available to interact with students, business community and other members of J&K community at the Sahyadri Guest House, BG Kher Road, Krishnaraj Society, Walkeshwar, Malabar Hill, Mumbai.

All interested student groups, business leaders or individuals from J&K wishing to meet the Deputy Chief Minister are requested contact Vikas Sethi, Additional PRO to Deputy CM, at 7780926074 or 9622491579.



## Jal Shakti Minister reviews Water Supply Schemes in Kashmir



**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a meeting with Superintending Engineers of the department at Civil Secretariat to review the progress on different Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) being executed in Kashmir division.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also participated in the meeting.

Javed Rana had a detailed review of the department functioning focusing on implementation of JJM in J&K, completion of different schemes, physical targets achieved besides fund utilisation under various schemes.

While addressing the meeting, Rana directed the Superintending Engineers to keenly monitor working of all water supply schemes, ensuring these function unhindered. He directed the concerned officials for fast-tracking completion of pending projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other ongoing water supply schemes. He also asked them to increase their visibility on ground and take proactive initiatives like a complaint redressal system to address the problems of the general public.

He emphasized upon the officers to focus on effective grievances redressal mechanism so that people do not face any kind of inconvenience on this account. He called upon the officers to regularly monitor the execution of works so as to maintain quality standards.

Maintaining that the government is committed to provide quality water to all households, he asked for ensuring that all water quality standards are met at all levels without any compromise.

The Minister asked the officers to ensure removal of all bottlenecks and hindrances in project execution in coordination with other departments for timely completion of works.

## GCW Srinagar organises workshop on ‘Media and Information Literacy’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. Suhail Ahmad said the department has been conducting



fact-checking workshops with Google certified trainers on regular basis in recent years.

"We have all been complaining about fake news. Even a section of mainstream media has been found guilty of peddling fake news so much so that these days you don't feel like watching TV news sometimes. That is why such workshops are so important," Dr. Suhail added.

The workshop was part of the FactShala University Network programme supported by Google News Initiative and developed by DataLEADS, an award-winning digital media and tech company with focus on information ecosystem, data research and media literacy.

The workshop concluded with a discussion session in which participants shared their personal experiences about the deluge of information and the difficulties faced in verifying the authenticity of online content these days.

## DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Revenue Department

**GANDERBAL,** APRIL 25: In a bid to strengthen the efficiency and transparency of the Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal gave a detailed presentation highlighting key aspects and current status of the department's functioning. The discussion covered various critical areas including the progress under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), land acquisition cases for developmental projects, issuance of land passbooks, disposal of grievances on JK SAMADHAN, and pending



mutations, including those related to defense land.

The DC underscored the importance of timely and efficient service delivery, calling on all concerned officers to expedite the resolution of pending cases to bolster public trust and transparency in the system.

Reviewing the status of online grievance redressal and service delivery, the DC directed all Tehsildars to personally monitor the relevant online portals and ensure prompt and high-quality disposal of grievances. He further instructed that there should be zero pendency in online services so that applicants do not face unnecessary delays.

Interacting with the officers, the DC emphasized the need to address public concerns effectively and ensure seamless service delivery across the district.

## SKUAST-K conducts awareness cum seed distribution prog for tribal farmers at Budgam

**SRINAGAR:** The KVK Budgam in collaboration with KVK Pulwama held a Seed Distribution cum Awareness Programme of Tribal Farmers of Budgam under the project 'Outreach of

and maize. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming in Tribal Areas of Kashmir.



Technology and Distribution of Farming Tools for ST and Low-Income Farmers funded under the Tribal Sub-Plan.

The aim of the programme was to distribute high quality potato and maize seeds among Tribal farmers. About 60 farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block participated in the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof Raihana H. Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K who was the chief guest on the occasion.

In her address to farmers, she encouraged them to come forward for such developmental initiatives to augment agriculture in their region & to optimize production for sustenance and commercial viability using new technologies.

She also stressed on adoption and dissemination of these high yielding varieties of potato

Dr. Javid A. Mughal, Principal Investigator of the project, shared the key highlights of the project in enhancing livelihood of farmers. Dr. Bilal A. Lone, Prof & Head KVK Budgam, briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating such programmes through on farm trials and front-line demonstrations at farmers field.

Dr Ambreen Nabi, Scientist KVK, deliberated upon the Packages of Practices of Potato (Kufri Jyoti) to be adopted throughout the Tribal Area. Farmers of Lobrin have been hand-held by KVK Budgam for creating sustainable production systems in oilseeds, paddy & other crops through provision of farming tools from time to time.

Scientists from SKUAST-K and KVK Budgam and technical staff also attended the programme.

## DIC Shopian organizes awareness prog under RAMP

**SHOPIAN:** The District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative, organized an awareness-cum-outreach



programme at ITI, Shopian today.

The event witnessed the participation of senior officers, including General Manager, DIC Shopian, Lead District Manager Shopian, Block Development Officer, Shopian, District Nodal Officer, EDI Shopian, Superintendent, ITI Shopian along with representatives from the Departments of Handicrafts, Banks, and officials from DIC Shopian were also present.

More than 150 beneficiaries from various sectors, including Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM, EDI trainees, ITI trainees/Passouts and MSME entrepreneurs actively participated in the programme.

During the inaugural session, participants were sensitized about the significance of Udyam Registration and its role in empowering businesses and industrial establishments. Emphasis was laid on how collaboration with government initiatives and flagship schemes can help enterprises grow and succeed.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was delivered, outlining the udyam registration process, associated benefits, and available support systems.

On the occasion, the General Manager DIC Shopian, Lead Bank Manager Shopian, Functional Manager DIC Shopian, District Nodal Officer EDI Shopian and Industrial promotion officer DIC Shopian also addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of Udyam Registration. They interacted with participants, discussed various entrepreneurship opportunities, and encouraged them to leverage government schemes to scale their ventures.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, during which participant's queries were addressed, reinforcing DIC Shopian's commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and MSME development in the district.



PART II

# The Soul Of Kashmir: Toward A Transformative Encounter



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

To truly encounter Kashmir is to offer yourself wholly-mind, heart, and spirit-to its sacred and natural presences. Baba Reshi, Payamuddin Reshi, Baba Shukruddin Reshi, Makhdoom Sahib, Charar-e-Sharief, Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, the ancient Martand temple in Anantnag, the mysterious caves of Kalaroos in Kupwara-all these are not merely structures but living thresholds into silence, surrender, and sanctity. The Mughal gardens-Nishat, Shalimar, Achabal-flow like verses of paradise, while Dal Lake and Wullar Lake reflect the eternal in their stillness. Jhelum and Sindh rivers carry ancestral memory, and the alpine meadows of Bangus, Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, and Gulmarg breathe freedom into the soul. The highland pastures of Lidder Valley,

From the grandeur of Martand Sun Temple to the grace of Sufi shrines like Baba Reshi, Makhdoom Sahib, and Charar-e-Sharief, every structure breathes devotion. Wooden mosques like Jamia Masjid and Khanqah of Shah Hamdan blend Persian, Central Asian, and local aesthetics, with intricate carvings and sacred geometry. Mughal gardens-Nishat, Shalimar, Chashme Shahi-translate paradise into space, where water, symmetry, and silence speak. Crafts like papier-mâché, walnut carving, and Pashmina weaving echo the valley's soul. In Kashmir, art is remembrance in pigment and pattern in wool and architecture is prayer in stone and wood. However concerned certainly need guided interventions/empowerment by state and central governments to sustain and flourish locally and globally.

Kashmir's spiritual and cultural legacy is vividly voiced by scholars who illuminate its plural soul. Prof. Mohammad Ishaq Khan revealed the Rishi-Sufi synthesis as a lived moral tradition of interfaith harmony. Dr. Abdul Qayoom Rafiqi interpreted sacred architecture as contemplative spaces of shared heritage. Dr. Nyla Ali Khan emphasized memory and inclusive identity as keys to reclaiming Kashmir's plural past. Prof. Shafi Shauq upheld Kashmiri language and poetics as vessels of metaphysical depth. Zareef Ahmad Zareef preserved folk spirituality through verse and oral tradition. Prof. Fida Mohammad Hassnain envisioned

from its suffering-rather, the two interpenetrate to form a unique aesthetic of poignancy.

This transformation echoes globally. Indigenous philosophies from Maori to Navajo traditions emphasize that land is not owned-it is kin. In Buddhist epistemology, the concept of inter-being (coined by Thich Nhat Hanh) implies that we do not simply live in a place-we live with it, as it lives through us. In the Christian mystical tradition, Thomas Merton noted that "the geographical place becomes a sacrament of the interior journey." Kashmir, in this sacred cartography, is not a destination but a mirror. It reflects, refracts, and reshapes the soul of the one who dares to behold it with reverence.

And yet, in our contemporary obsession with collecting experiences-be they Instagrammable moments, curated itineraries, or bucket-list conquests-falls short of the ethical and existential engagement Kashmir calls for. The valley does not reward the hurried visitor. It opens itself only to the one who arrives empty of ego and full of wonder, who listens without demanding, who gazes without conquering. To be changed by Kashmir is to learn a new and deeper grammar of being-where presence matters more than possession, and resonance outlasts record. As Iqbal profoundly reminds us:



Lolab, and Gurez whisper ancient prayers in the wind. To walk among them is not to collect experiences but to let them dissolve the boundaries of self. Let the land, the shrines, the waters read you. Let Kashmir transform the way you experience yourself.

Yet to receive the gift of Kashmir's spirit is also to acknowledge the gravity of its grief. The land's beauty, so achingly sublime, exists not apart from its sorrow but within it. The scars of conflict, the silence of loss, the fractured narratives of exile, migration, and memory-these are not marginal details but integral to its identity. To engage with Kashmir deeply is not to bypass its pain but to bear witness with humility and attentiveness. Political instability, disrupted education in earlier times, and intergenerational trauma echo through the streets and the quietude of the valley alike. Still, even in this crucible of suffering, the dignity of life, the poetry of resistance, and the resilience of daily existence shine with luminous clarity. Kashmir teaches not merely through what it offers, but through what it endures. Its beauty is not separate from its sorrow-they interpenetrate, giving rise to a poignant aesthetic that both breaks and blesses the heart.

From this confluence of splendor and sorrow emerges art in Kashmir, thus, offering transcendence through form. The pashmina weaver, the papier-mache artist, the namda embroiderer, the calligrapher-all participate in a tradition that is not merely economic or decorative but sacred. These are not crafts but meditations. They embody what Islamic aesthetics call ihsan-beauty aligned with excellence, skill infused with sincerity. As Hamid Dabashi and Seyyed Hossein Nasr have noted, Islamic art is not representational but participatory; it reveals rather than depicts. Kashmiri artistry, then, is a metaphysical act, an invocation, a quiet act of remembrance. To observe it patiently is to be inducted into a way of seeing that transforms the observer and sanctifies the seen.

Kashmir's art and architecture are where spirit meets form.

Kashmir as a mystical confluence-a "spiritual university where sages, seekers and storytellers converge. "Remembering the Unforgettable : Kashmir as She made me" as deep nostalgic gem-like reollection in "Kashmir" book stand as moral bulwark against magritarian simplifications. His humanistic critique defends Kashmir's syncretic ethos and cultural autonomy and unwavering clarity and his tribute poems like Mauj Kashir/My Bulbul Calls/Lal-Ded/Retriving The Lost Paradise/Raj Begum/ Joan Baez/ etc in "Stout and Tender" poetic collection by Prof. Badri Raina all shimmering with affection and ritical depth.

It is Mridu Rai's inclusive and interdisciplinary scholarship weaves history, law, theology, and politics in "Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects" into a profoundly enlightening account of Kashmir's enduring struggle for dignity and self-definition. Mridu Rai unveils how Dogra rule, sanctified by Hindu ritual and colonial law, politically marginalized Kashmir's Muslim majority. She shows how religion became a mechanism of control, not identity, exposing the deep roots of disenfranchisement and the historical construction of rights and resistance. Together, these voices affirm that Kashmir is not a periphery but a sanctuary of spirit, beauty and coexistence -a civilizational memory resisting the violence of forgetting.

However, Kashmir cannot be known without acknowledging its wounds. The scars of conflict, the silence of loss, the fractured narratives of exile, migration, and memory-these are integral to its identity. To engage with Kashmir deeply is not to bypass its pain but to bear witness with humility and attentiveness. Political instability, disrupted education, and intergenerational trauma echo through the streets and silence of the valley. Yet, even within this crucible of suffering, the dignity of life, the poetry of resistance, and the resilience of everyday living shine with luminous clarity. Kashmir teaches not merely through what it offers, but through what it endures. Its beauty is not divorced

**"This is the mark of living nations through time,  
That their destinies shift with each dawn and dusk."  
"In the soil whose conscience carries the fire of the chinar,  
It is impossible for that earth to ever grow cold or desolate."**

In the final reckoning, to encounter Kashmir deeply is to accept a kind of initiation-an aesthetic, ethical, and ontological transformation. Kashmir is not a souvenir, a landscape to be domesticated through photographs, or a conflict to be politicized from afar. It is a presence that reveals more about the observer than itself; a mirror that demands stillness, humility, and surrender. As historians like Chitralekha Zutshi and travelers like Walter Lawrence have shown, the region has long resisted reductive narratives and instead offered itself as an evolving palimpsest of cultures, faiths, and identities. Its Sufi shrines and Shaivite texts, its Buddhist relics and Mughal gardens, its embroidered shawls and resilient poetry all invite us to inhabit a consciousness that is plural, wounded, luminous, and alert. The soul of Kashmir is best known not by adding it to one's list of places visited but by allowing it to reform the structure of one's perception, values, and awareness. In Kashmir, beauty and sorrow walk hand in hand, and only those willing to walk beside both can hope to know its truth. In Kashmir, beauty and sorrow walk hand in hand, and only those willing to walk beside both can hope to know its truth. To be deep with Kashmir, then, is to learn to be deep with oneself, with history, with the sacred, and with the ineffable to truly sustain and flourish across. .

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Kashmir's art and architecture are where spirit meets form. From the grandeur of Martand Sun Temple to the grace of Sufi shrines like Baba Reshi, Makhdoom Sahib, and Charar-e-Sharief, every structure breathes devotion. Wooden mosques like Jamia Masjid and Khanqah of Shah Hamdan blend Persian, Central Asian, and local aesthetics, with intricate carvings and sacred geometry. Mughal gardens-Nishat, Shalimar, Chashme Shahi-translate paradise into space, where water, symmetry, and silence speak. Crafts like papier-mâché, walnut carving, and Pashmina weaving echo the valley's soul. In Kashmir, art is remembrance in pigment and pattern in wool and architecture is prayer in stone and wood. However concerned certainly need guided interventions/empowerment by state and central governments to sustain and flourish locally and globally.



# Continued From P1...

## CM lauds Kashmir’s

condemn the Pahalgam terror incident, mourn the loss of 26 innocent lives, and extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.”

He noted the pain of meeting the victims’ families—many of whom were visiting Kashmir on their honeymoon or family vacation. “As the Tourism Minister myself, I found it extremely difficult to meet their families. I was at a loss for words,” he added.

Highlighting the collective outrage and unity across the Valley in the wake of the attack, Omar Abdullah said this unified response sends a powerful, silent message to those who seek to sow fear and division.

He commended the business community for taking a principled stand, saying, “You’ve clearly said this act was not in our name—neither have we ever supported such violence, nor will we ever in the future.”

The Chief Minister assured that all constructive suggestions offered during the meeting would be seriously considered to help prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Addressing concerns regarding harassment faced by Kashmiri students and traders outside Kashmir, he informed the gathering that he had spoken directly with the Union Home Minister, who assured him of necessary protective measures. An advisory will be issued in this regard, and the Home Minister has also personally reached out to several state Chief Ministers. Omar Abdullah said that he too has spoken to his counterparts in other states to ensure the safety of Kashmiris across India.

He lauded the tourism and business stakeholders for not focusing on financial losses or seeking compensation, saying, “Business will come and go. Right now, our primary concern is to express our grief and stand in solidarity with those affected by this senseless attack.”

He added that discussions on economic impact can take place later, once the immediate pain of the tragedy has been addressed.

Referring to the two-minute silence observed at Jamia Masjid Srinagar earlier today, the Chief Minister called it “a strong and dignified response” to the propaganda peddled by some news channels against Kashmiris.

He paid special tribute to Syed Adil Hussain, a local who lost his life while trying to save tourists during the attack, calling him a “symbol of Kashmiri hospitality.” Omar Abdullah assured that his government would take steps to honour his memory and support his family.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani said, “This incident has shaken us to the core.” He appreciated the people of Kashmir for rising in protest against the attack and sending a clear message across the country and the world that “this act has no place in our society or our religion.”

Earlier, stakeholders from the tourism sector unanimously condemned the attack, calling it a “murder of humanity.” They emphasized that the Valley is in deep mourning and that commercial concerns are secondary at this time.

They proposed several measures, including: formation of a coordination committee comprising administration, security agencies, and tourism stakeholders; protection and welfare of Kashmiri students and businesspersons outside Kashmir.

Besides, they suggested the Establishment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs) at key tourist destinations and countering misinformation and biased media narratives.

The Chairman of Raja & Rani Tour and Travels informed the gathering that the Maharashtra Tour

and Travel Operators’ Association has pledged to adopt Syed Adil Hussain’s family.

The association will support the educational needs of his children and provide long-term assistance to his family.

Furthermore, the association has decided that no tour bookings to Kashmir will be cancelled, in a strong show of support and solidarity.

### “IWT is most unfair

Chief Minister also discussed assurances received from the Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the safety of J-K residents in other states.

“It is regrettable that this attack took place and we ensured that whatever issues that were kept in front of us in the meeting, we will work on them. During this meeting, I spoke with the Union Home Minister and he assured me that all steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the people of J-K who are staying in other states...An advisory will be issued by the Home Ministry and the Union Minister also spoke with the Chief Ministers of many states,” he added.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a meeting regarding the Indus Water Treaty at his residence in the national capital on Friday evening.

Besides the Home Minister and the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Paatil, other senior government officials will attend this meeting.

Sources told ANI, “India has formally notified Pakistan in writing about the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.”

Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, as informed the Secretary of Pakistan’s Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza, about this decision of the Indian government through a letter. India has issued a notice for changes in the treaty. The letter states that the Indian government has given notice to the Pakistani government for amendments to the treaty.

This decision was made at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) held on April 23, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.

This comes after terrorists attacked tourists at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen while leaving several others injured.

### Every perpetrator

first reaction to the terror attack that the terrorists, their handlers and backers would get such punishment that they cannot even imagine.

The PM said that the time had come when the shrinking space of the terrorists must be destroyed.

### NIA searches

associations/terrorist organisations, as per NIA investigations, the statement reads.

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

### Ensure exit of Pak

and official visas, issued by Government of India to Pakistani nationals stands revoked with immediate effect from 27th April 2025. Medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals will be valid only till 29th April 2025.

# ‘Terror-Enabling’ Remarks: Petition demands dismissal of Aga Ruhullah Mehdi from Lok Sabha



**SRINAGAR:** A group of concerned citizens from the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency has filed a petition calling for the disqualification of their Member of Parliament, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi.

The petition, addressed to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Election Commission of India, and the Director General of Police, Jammu & Kashmir, alleges that Mehdi’s recent remarks in a televised interview have contributed to a dangerous ideological environment that may have emboldened extremist violence, including the recent massacre in Pahalgam.

The petition comes in the wake of the tragic Pahalgam attack on April 22, where 26 innocent tourists were brutally killed by terrorists. In a chilling justification issued after the attack, the TRF claimed the act was in response to what they termed a “demographic onslaught” and “cultural invasion” in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a recent interview, Mehdi had described the growing influx of tourists and new settlers into Kashmir not as development, but as a deliberate

“cultural invasion.” He claimed that a “particular set of people” were being brought in “by design” to disturb the cultural environment of the region. Further, he alleged that the RSS was behind a broader strategy aimed at erasing Kashmiri Muslim identity, drawing comparisons with past events in Punjab.

According to the petitioners, such statements do not merely represent political dissent but amount to an ideological prelude that aligns disturbingly with the narratives of terrorist outfits. They argue that Mehdi’s words have the effect of legitimizing extremist views and providing indirect justification for acts of terror under the guise of cultural preservation. The petition emphasizes that while the freedom of speech is fundamental, it cannot be used as a shield for speech that enables or rationalizes violence.

Citing constitutional provisions, the petition appeals for Mehdi’s disqualification from the Lok Sabha, claiming he has violated the spirit of his oath and undermined national sovereignty. It also urges the Election Commission to examine whether his remarks breach electoral laws by promoting enmity and divisiveness, and requests the police to investigate any links between his statements and the terror attack, potentially invoking provisions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The signatories describe this petition as a civic duty in defense of democracy and peace. They express deep concern that when elected representatives use their platforms to echo the justifications of terrorists, they blur the line between political speech and ideological provocation.

There has been no official response from Aga Ruhullah Mehdi at the time of this report, but the petition is expected to spark significant debate across political and civil society circles.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the officials to implement security measures and procedures as discussed in the previous meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: “Chaired a meeting of DCs and SSPs. Directed them to take appropriate and necessary action to ensure exit of Pakistani nationals from J&K UT as per the deadline notified by Ministry of Home Affairs”.

### HM Shah Asks

good faith, but Pakistan is promoting cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The letter stated that India has sent notices to the Pakistani government seeking modification of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 (the Treaty) under Article XII (3) of the Treaty.

“These communications cited fundamental changes in the circumstances that have taken place since the Treaty was executed that require a reassessment of obligations under the various Articles of the Treaty read with its Annexures,” the letter said.

“These changes include significantly altered population demographics, the need to accelerate the development of clean energy and other changes in the assumptions underlying the sharing of waters under the Treaty,” it added.

The Indian government has taken a significant step following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

This comes after terrorists attacked tourists at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen while leaving several others injured.

### People of J&K

fight brother and it is very important that every single Indian stands united, stands together so that we can defeat what the terrorists were trying to do,” Gandhi said.

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

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

On the alleged harassment of Kashmiris elsewhere in the country, Gandhi said, “It is sad to see that some people are attacking my brothers and sisters from Kashmir ... I think it is very important that all of us stand together, stand united and fight this nasty action that has been taken and defeat terrorism once and for all.” The Congress leader earlier met delegations of traders, students leaders, and those related to tourism. (Agencies)

### CM Omar Deputes

safety and well-being of J&K residents,” Office of Chief Minister, J&K posted on X.

“The J&K Government will stand with its people—anywhere, everywhere,” stated the Chief Minister, reaffirming the administration’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of its citizens beyond the territorial boundaries of Jammu & Kashmir.

### Amarnath yatra

The annual Amarnath yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 and culminate on August 9 this year.

On the fallout of the Pahalgam attack on tourism in Kashmir, Choudhary said, “We did not want the tourists to leave in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. We wanted the tourists to complete their tour which they had planned.

“However, we have provided all possible assistance to the tourists who wanted to return. At the same time we have asked people to tell their governments to ensure the safety of people of Jammu and Kashmir who are studying or working in their states because an ordinary Kashmiri has no role in these incidents,” he said.

On the role of Pakistan in terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the deputy chief minister said Islamabad will have to introspect why fingers are always pointed at it whenever anything goes wrong.

“Pakistan will have to understand why the blame is always pointed at it. Why is no other country named in such incidents? Pakistan may deny as much as they want but it is a fact that the roots of terrorism are there,” he added.

### Houses Of 2 LeT

at the premises during the search operation,

prompting the security forces to evacuate the occupants of the houses as well as neighbours to safety, the officials claimed.

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

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

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

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

### 3 Persons Including 2 Navy Personnel Held For Extorting Money From Agniveer Aspirants

**BHUBANESWAR:** Odisha Police arrested three persons including two serving Navy personnel in Khurda district, on the charge of extorting money from Agniveer aspirants during a recruitment drive in November 2024, an officer said on Friday.

The arrested persons were identified as Satyam Chahar, currently working at INS Kesari, Andaman and Nicobar, Vinay Kumar Ray, presently posted at INS Chilika and retired Navy official Bhoosan, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, the officer said.

The trio were arrested based on a complaint lodged by Lieutenant Commander Adwitiya Singh, a training correspondence officer at INS Chilka, at Balugaon police station on April 19. The case was registered under charges of cheating and extortion.

Khurda SP Sagarika Nath said that the arrested trio was accused of extorting a huge amount of money from Agniveer aspirants by promising them assistance in police verification, physical examination, and securing a job.

“We have arrested three people and in search of two others allegedly involved in the scam. Hope to nab the remaining two soon,” Nath told PTI, adding that the police have informed the Navy to verify whether any candidate fraudulently got into Agniveer.

The SP said police have seized several transaction proofs and bank documents during the course of their investigation. “Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had been collecting huge money from job seekers with false promises of getting them employment in the Navy. Further investigation is in progress to ascertain the exact network of the scam.

She said police have also seized some transaction proofs and bank documents during the course of their investigation.

“As per intelligence inputs, two more persons are suspected to be involved in the racket. Police have so far frozen 12 bank accounts linked to the fraudulent activities,” the SP said. (AGENCIES)

Canadians put off by Trump’s bluster, border arrests booking far fewer US visits

**VANCOUVER:** Diana and Rick Bellamy initially planned to take a Caribbean cruise out of Houston before heading to Laurel, Mississippi, to visit the home of one of their favourite HGTV shows, “Home Town.”

The Calgary couple scrapped those plans and vacationed last month along Mexico’s Pacific coast instead, put off by US President Donald Trump’s trade war with Canada, the insults he’s hurled at their homeland, and stories about American border agents searching people’s phones and detaining foreigners for minor reasons.

She found it ironic that she felt more comfortable travelling to Mexico than the US.

“I never thought I would hear myself say that,” Diane Bellamy said.

Trump’s attacks on Canada’s economy and threats to make it the 51st state have infuriated Canadians, who are cancelling trips to the US in big numbers. They also seem to have also flipped the narrative heading into Canada’s parliamentary elections on

Monday, with Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal Party surging after trailing far behind in the polls just a few months ago.

A steep decline

The US gets more visitors from Canada each year than from any other country, according to the US Travel Association, an industry trade group, which said the 20.4 million visits from Canada last year generated USD 20.5 billion in spending.

But there has been a big drop in foreigners travelling to the US since Trump took office, and Canadians are no exception. There were more than 910,000 fewer land border crossings from Canada into the US last month than in March of 2024 — a more than 22 per cent drop — according to US Customs and Border Protection data.

An Air Canada spokesman, meanwhile, said Canada-US flight bookings for April through September are down about 10 per cent.

Trump brushed aside the decline in tourism to the United States on Wednesday, saying, “There’s a little nationalism there I guess, perhaps. It’s not a big deal.”

Traveller worries

Since Trump started his second term, there have been well-publicised reports of tourists being stopped at US border crossings and held for weeks at immigration detention facilities before being allowed to fly home at their own expense.

On March 3, Canadian Jasmine Mooney, an actor and entrepreneur on a US work visa, was detained by US border agents in San Diego. She was released after 12 days detention.

Before Mooney’s release, British Columbia Premier David Eby expressed concern, saying: “It certainly reinforces anxiety that ... many Canadians have about our relationship with the US right now, and the unpredictability of this administration and its actions.”

The Canadian Association of University Teachers, which represents faculty and staff at Canadian universities, warned its members against nonessential travel to the US due to the “political landscape” under Trump and reports of Canadians encountering difficulties crossing the border.

Academics who have expressed negative views about the Trump administration should be particularly cautious about travelling to the US, said the group.

“People are scared to cross the border. I don’t know what Americans are thinking, quite frankly. Are they that oblivious?” said former Quebec Premier Jean Charest, who has family in Florida.

Mike Sauer, who runs a community policing centre in Vancouver, said he and his partner have no interest in travelling to the US now because of Trump’s politics and border fears. One of Sauer’s concerns is that if a border guard were to check his cellphone, the guard might see his past purchases of marijuana, which is legal to buy in Canada and about half the 50 states but is still illegal under US federal law.

“The States have a different view on drugs. They could certainly look at my phone and see I’m 420-friendly,” he said, meaning he’s marijuana-friendly. “I think it kind of depends on which border guard would have a problem with that and which ones wouldn’t.”

Dieta Wilson, 32, said when she was younger, she often visited Detroit, which is just across the border from Windsor, Ontario, where she and her husband, Ben, own a secondhand shop. She hasn’t visited much in recent years, though, and she said she’s heard of people’s worries about crossing the border since Trump moved back into the White House.

“It’s worrisome,” she said.

Ben Wilson, 37, also has qualms about trying to cross.

“Why would I want to?” he said. “Regardless of the tariffs, if I’m going to be stopped at the border for my phone or something somebody texted me, why go?”

Industry worries

The drop in Canadian tourism to the US led California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a frequent target of Trump, to announce an ad campaign this month meant to lure Canadians back to his state, citing a 12 per cent year-on-year drop in February.

McKenzie McMillan, a consultant with a Vancouver-based travel agency, The Travel Group, said the company’s bookings to the US have dried up. “We have seen a near-total collapse of US business,” he said. “Probably about a 90 per cent drop since February.”

Lesley Keyter, the CEO and founder of the Travel Lady agency in Calgary, said she’s seen people actually forfeit money to cancel their US trips. “Even if they’re going on a Caribbean cruise, they don’t want to go down to Fort Lauderdale to get on the cruise ship,” she said.

## NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK-1520120004411, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Javid Ahmad Bhat, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Javid Ahmad Bhat. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Javid Ahmad Bhat.**  
**S/O Gh Ahmad Bhat.**  
**R/O Aloosa, District Bandipora**  
**jammu and kashmir, pin code:**  
**193502.**



## Brazen Violation of SMC Rules in Baghander Humhama Sparks Public Outcry

**SRINAGAR:** The peaceful locality of Baghander Humhama is fast becoming a hub of lawlessness, as illegal construction activities gain momentum right under the nose of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). Despite the area being officially notified by the Town Planning Division with a strict ban on new constructions, several violations have recently surfaced—raising serious questions about the enforcement of municipal laws.

According to local residents, one of the most glaring violations involves the construction of a massive 16-foot-high boundary wall. The wall not only lacks proper permissions but also directly contravenes the SMC’s own boundary wall byelaws, which prescribe a maximum height of 2.1 metres. Moreover the ground level is also being raised far more than the prescribed limit of 0.3 mtrs from the nearest street level.

The situation worsened when, following a brief and symbolic intervention by the SMC—where a few bricks were removed—the construction resumed with renewed speed and audacity. “It appears the

action taken was nothing more than a formality and now the wall is being built like a fortress,” a concerned resident told this reporter on condition of anonymity.

Locals allege that the token demolition was staged to give an illusion of enforcement, only to later allow the illegal activity to continue unhindered.

Adding insult to injury, the offender has also caused extensive damage to the adjoining roads by using heavy machinery like dumpers for unlawful land fillings. The unchecked movement of such equipment has not only

deteriorated public infrastructure but also sparked fears of further environmental and structural degradation in the area.

Residents are now urging the SMC Commissioner to take urgent and effective action to restore faith in the rule of law.

They demand that the boundary wall be immediately reduced to legal height and that all land-filling activity be halted to prevent further destruction.

As the civic body remains silent, the people wait and expect that accountability will not remain just a word on paper.



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