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India suspends IWT...

High Commissions are deemed annulled. Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions," he said.

"The overall strength of the High Commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by May 1," he said.

The CCS was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack on Tuesday in Pahalgam that left 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen dead.

"A number of others sustained injuries. The CCS condemned the attack in the strongest terms and expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and hoped for the early recovery of the injured," Misri said.

"Strong expressions of support and solidarity have been received from many Governments around the world, which have unequivocally condemned this terror attack," he said.

The foreign secretary said the CCS recorded its appreciation for such sentiments, which reflect zero tolerance for terrorism.

In the briefing to the CCS, the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out, he said.

"It was noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in the Union Territory (Jammu and Kashmir and its steady progress towards economic growth and development," he said.

Misri said the CCS reviewed the overall security situation and directed all forces to maintain high vigil.

"It resolved that the perpetrators of the attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors held to account," he said.

"As with the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana, India will be unrelenting in the pursuit of those who have committed acts of terror, or conspired to make them possible," he said.

HIGHLIGHTS...

The Defence/Military, Naval and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi are declared Persona Non Grata. They have a week to leave India. India will be withdrawing its own Defence/Navy/Air Advisors from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. These posts in the respective High Commissions are deemed annulled. Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions.

The overall strength of the High Commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by 01 May 2025.

J&K Govt condemns...

transportation of mortal remains with utmost dignity.

The Council of Ministers has appealed to all the communities, religious leaders, civil society and political parties to maintain calm and stand united against such forces that seek to divide and destabilize our region.

The Council of Ministers reiterated that the resolve of the Government and the people of Jammu and Kashmir shall not be shaken by such cowardly acts of violence. It urged every resident to remain united, vigilant and resilient.

"Let us reject fear and division and reaffirm our commitment to peace, unity, and the timeless spirit of harmony and shared resilience that defines our land", resolved the Council of Ministers.

CM calls all...

and the anguish inflicted upon innocent citizens have deeply shaken us all. This is not mere a tragedy for a region or party -- it is a wound upon the very soul of Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah wrote in the letter to various political party heads.

The chief minister said it was the collective responsibility of the political leaders as representatives of the people and "custodians of democratic values" to come together and stand united in response, irrespective of political affiliations.

Pahalgam massacre probe...

The terrorists were carrying body cameras to record their barbaric act, the officials said quoting eyewitnesses.

At least six to seven pictures were shown to eyewitnesses out of which one identified Aadil as the terrorist who was pulling the trigger, the officials said, adding after the incident the terrorists vanished into the thick pine tree jungles of Pir Panjal.

The officials said that while dozens of people had been rounded for questioning, efforts had been scaled up to nab the actual perpetrators of the heinous crime.

Security agencies also released the sketches of three men suspected to be involved in the terror attack. The men, all three Pakistanis, are Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha, officials said.

They had code names -- Moosa, Yunus and Asif -- and were involved in terror-related incidents in Poonch.

Police also announced a bounty of Rs 20 lakh for information leading to the neutralisation of terrorists involved in the gruesome killings.

NIA team reaches...

terrorist strike, they said.

Security agencies have released sketches of three men suspected to be involved in the gruesome attack.

The trio, identified as Pakistanis, are Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha, officials said.

The sketches were prepared with the help of the survivors' description of the attackers, they said. The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Bharat will not...

this sadness. "I assure all these families and the whole country that these terrorists killing innocent people will not be spared," he said.

Shah arrived here within hours of the attack on Wednesday night and was briefed about the situation by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat.

The Home Minister also chaired a security review meeting, which was also attended by the Lieutenant Governor.

Shutdown against terror...

were open, the officials said.

The effect of the shutdown was also witnessed in the other district headquarters of the valley, they said.

Peaceful protests were also held at several places in the valley, with the protestors denouncing the attack. They called for stopping the killing of innocent people.

Several political parties, socio-religious organisation, trade bodies, and civil society groups called for a shutdown in Kashmir to protest against the attack in Baisaran meadows of the Pahalgam resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Mutahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) -- an amalgam of several religious bodies -- which is headed by Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq -- appealed to the people of J-K to protest the heinous crime by marking a shutdown on Wednesday.

"The Islamic fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir through Mutahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) in support and solidarity with the bereaved families of those killed appeal to people of Jammu Kashmir to peacefully protest this heinous crime tomorrow by a shutdown," Mirwaiz said.

Kashmir's trade and tourism bodies, including Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation, had also called for a shutdown.

As a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims and their families, the Private Schools' Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) announced the closure of all private schools across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

The Kashmir University has postponed all examinations scheduled on Wednesday. Security has been beefed up across the Kashmir valley, the officials said.

They said security personnel were deployed in strength at vital installations, important tourist spots and the entry and exit points of the city as well as other districts.

Several prominent newspapers in Kashmir on Wednesday printed their front pages black to protest the brutal terrorist attack.

The striking act of protest by the newspapers, each bearing powerful headlines in white or red, was a powerful public display of solidarity and grief, symbolising the collective sorrow felt by the residents and the media over the inhuman act.

The change in format by leading English and Urdu dailies, including Greater Kashmir, Rising Kashmir, Kashmir Uzma, Aftab and Tameel Irshad, serves as a stark reminder of the violence that has plagued the region for decades.

"Gruesome: Kashmir Guttled, Kashmiris Grieving", screamed the headline of leading English daily Greater Kashmir in white on a black layout, followed by the sub-head "26 killed in deadly terror attack in Pahalgam" in red.

The paper's front-page editorial with the headline "The massacre in the meadow - Protect Kashmir's soul" said the attack has cast a dark shadow over J-K, a region striving to reclaim its legacy as a "Paradise on Earth".

"This heinous act is not merely an assault on innocent lives but a deliberate blow to Kashmir's identity and values -- its hospitality, its economy, and its fragile peace.

Kashmir's soul stands in unequivocal condemnation of this brutality and offers heartfelt condolences to the victims' families, who sought beauty but found tragedy," the editorial said.

Highlighting the fact that terrorists could strike a high-traffic tourist spot, accessible only by foot or pony, signals a need for sharper intelligence and tighter coordination among agencies, the paper called for proactive measures -- enhanced vigilance, community engagement, and uprooting terrorism -- which are imperative to prevent such horrors from recurring.

"Kashmir's people have endured violence for too long, yet their spirit remains unbroken. This attack must not sow division but unite us in defiance of terror. We urge all -- government, security forces, civil society, and citizens -- to forge a collective front.

"Only through unwavering resolve can we protect our land's future, ensuring that Pahalgam's meadows echo with laughter, not gunfire, and that Kashmir remains a beacon of peace and prosperity," the editorial said.

Complete shutdown observed...

The bandh brought normal life in Jammu city to a grinding halt. Shops and business establishments remained closed, and public transport was off the roads in response to the shutdown call given by several civil society groups and trade bodies.

Several educational institutions were closed, and attendance was lower than usual in government offices. The Jammu Bar Association also observed shut down against the killings.

Several organisations, including the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Transporters Association, Jammu Bar Association, and the Congress, called for a complete shutdown in Jammu.

"The situation during the shutdown is normal. There are no reports of any untoward incident from anywhere in the region," an officer said.

The administration is in close touch with community leaders to maintain harmony.

Additional deployments of police and paramilitary forces were made in vulnerable locations, while checkpoints were set up to monitor movement, officials said.

The killings in Pahalgam have sent shockwaves across the country, drawing condemnation from political parties, human rights groups, and citizens alike.

Many termed the attack a heinous assault on the spirit of Kashmiriyat and the region's age-old tradition of hospitality.

Former DGP SP Vaid termed it as a "Pulwama 2 moment" for India.

"This attack is not a coincidence; it is a well-planned operation. I have said this earlier too... these are Pakistan SSG commandos dressed as terrorists. A couple of days ago, Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir made a statement, and now you see this kind of attack," he said.

The former police chief further said, "Asim Munir is using 'jihad' language; the attack has been carried out in a similar fashion. The response should be similar to what Israel did after the Hamas attack. There should be an appropriate response."

Meanwhile, the Jammu region witnessed massive anti-Pakistan protests staged by mainstream political parties, socio-political and religious organisations.

The protesters burnt effigies of Pakistan and raised slogans demanding that a fitting reply be given to the neighbouring country, terrorists and their supporters in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress workers clashed with police while seeking permission to take out a protest march in the city.

Led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Yudhvir Sethi, a joint protest march was taken out in the city's Satwari area by the saffron party, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal and other social organisations.

Raising slogans against Pakistan, its army chief, terrorists and their local support structure, the protesters demanded a befitting reply to the neighbouring country and its terrorist networks in Jammu and Kashmir.

They also burnt Pakistan's flag.

"We want a crackdown by security forces on terrorists and their local support structure. A befitting reply should be given to Pakistan," former Jammu and Kashmir minister Priya Sethi told reporters here.

Former Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, who led another protest march in the city, said, "We will avenge the killings of our brothers. Come what may, terrorists and their local supporters will be eliminated soon."

Youth activists of the Congress took out a rally from the party office in Jammu but police prevented them from proceeding, resulting in a brief clash.

Raising slogans against Pakistan and terrorists, the participants in the march, led by former minister Yogesh Sawhney, said the Congress and the people of the country stand by those who have lost their near ones in the Pahalgam attack.

"The government should take the strongest measures against those involved in the attack," Yogesh said.

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), Jammu Bar Association (JBA), All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters' Association and Jammu Traders Association, who had given a bandh call, also took out separate protest marches against Pakistan.

The Shiv Sena Dogra Front, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal and other organisations burnt tyres and Pakistan's flags.

"These were targeted killings. It is our demand that action should be taken against Pakistan and its local support base," Rashtriya Bajrang Dal chairman Rakesh told reporters.

Similar protests were held in Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Banihal, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri.

Most political parties, including the BJP, Congress, People's Democratic Party (PDP) and National Conference (NC), expressed solidarity with those who lost their kin in the Pahalgam attack.

Several Muslim organisations, both jointly and individually, took out protest marches in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Banihal and Udhampur.

They condemned the attack and demanded stern action against the perpetrators.

"We condemn this attack. It is un-Islamic. Islam does not allow innocents to be killed. We want the government to take stern action against the culprits," said Aijaz Khan, a leader.

Massive protests erupted in the border town of Rajouri, with people taking to the streets against the Pahalgam terror attack.

The protests were held under the banner of Mohan Sanatan Dharam Sabha Rajouri, with people calling for a final assault against terrorism.

People involved in...

cowardly attack by terrorists targeting religion. This extremely inhuman act has plunged all of us into deep grief and pain," the defence minister said.

"From this platform, I assure the countrymen that in view of the incident, the government of India will take every step that is necessary and appropriate," he said.

"And we will not only trace those who perpetrated this incident. We will also reach out to those who, sitting behind the scenes, have conspired to carry out the nefarious act on the soil of India," Singh said.

He said "India is such an old civilization and such a big country that it cannot be intimidated by any such terrorist activities."

"The people responsible for such acts will get a strong response in the near future," he asserted.

Singh described the attack in Pahalgam as "extremely inhuman" that has "left all of us in deep grief and pain".

"First of all, I express my deepest condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones. In this sad time, I pray to God for the peace of the departed souls.

"I would like to reiterate India's firm resolve that we have a zero tolerance policy against terrorism. Every citizen of India is united against this cowardly act," he said.

The high-level meeting chaired by Singh discussed all possible aspects of the situation that emerged in Jammu and Kashmir following the terror attack, sources said declining share further details.

It is learnt that Singh directed the armed forces to enhance their combat readiness and increase intensity of anti-terror operations.

In the meeting, Army Chief Gen Dwidivedi presented a detailed overview of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir including deployment of his forces.

Jammu-Srinagar NH...

exodus of tourists. "It's heartbreaking to see the exodus of our guests from the valley after yesterday's tragic terror attack in Pahalgam but at the same time we totally understand why people would want to leave. While DGCA and the Ministry of Civil Aviation are working to organise extra flights, NH-44 between Srinagar and Jammu has been reconnected for traffic in a single direction," Abdullah said in a post on X.

"I've directed the administration to facilitate traffic between Srinagar and Jammu allowing tourist vehicles to leave. This will have to be done in a controlled and organised way because the road is still unstable in places and we are also working hard to clear all the stranded vehicles. We will not be able to permit completely free movement of vehicles at the moment and we hope that everyone will cooperate with us," he added.

The highway was blocked by multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains and cloudbursts early on Sunday. The worst-hit was the four-km stretch between Seri and Maroog, near Ramban town, where the height of the sludge at some places was

more than 20 feet, with dozens of vehicles buried under it.

Abdullah had inspected the road stretch on Monday and stressed the need to open the highway on top priority. Returning to Ramban on Tuesday, the chief minister said the officers concerned have informed him that the highway will be restored for one-way traffic within 24 hours.

"The (Jammu-Srinagar) national highway at Ramban is made functional on one-way basis," the spokesperson said, also announcing the launch of a special train service from the SMVD Katra station to New Delhi to assist the stranded passengers and accommodate the extra rush.

"The administration remains committed to the well-being of all tourists and urges everyone to cooperate and follow the necessary guidelines," he said.

The spokesperson said tickets shall be available over the counter from the Katra, Udhampur and Jammu stations for the special train, which will depart from the Katra station in Reasi district at 9:20 pm, halt at Udhampur for two minutes from 9:48 pm to 9:50 pm and at Jammu for five minutes from 11 pm.

"This special train will play a crucial role in clearing the additional passenger load and ensuring a safe and comfortable journey to New Delhi. The train shall reach New Delhi at 9:30 am (on Thursday). The passengers stranded at Kashmir and Jammu can use this special train," he said.

Unlawful mining continue to face firm action under Operation Ploughing; long-pending absconders behind bars in south zone

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its sustained effort to combat illegal mining and ensure the rule of law, Jammu Police, South Zone continues to take decisive action under Operation Ploughing. The operation, launched under the directions of SSP Jammu and supervised by SP South, is aimed at tackling unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals that threaten ecological balance and public order.

In a latest development under Operation Ploughing, Police Post Chatha detained one tipper loaded with crusher bajri which was found operating without the mandatory Form A. The vehicle has been taken into custody, and the District Mineral Officer (DMO), Jammu has been informed for the necessary legal follow-up.

This action reaffirms the strict enforcement reactivity of South Zone Police against violators of mining norms and underscores the force's commitment to protecting the environment and public interest.

In a parallel enforcement action, Police Station Gandhi Nagar today apprehended a long-absconding accused, Padam Dev Singh, S/o Shaer Singh Manhas, resident of Ward 59, Jameel Nagar near Raina IIS School, Paloura. The accused had been evading arrest in connection with FIR No. 56/2019 under Section 382 RPC and was successfully arrested after sustained efforts by the police team.

These actions highlight the Jammu Police's dedication not only to environmental protection but also to ensuring that individuals evading justice are brought to book.

Jammu Police urges citizens to cooperate in these initiatives by reporting any suspicious activities related to illegal mining. Public participation remains vital in building a safer and more lawful society.



Kidnapped minor girl recovered within 48 hours; accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Police recovered kidnapped minor girl within 48 hours by arresting the accused.

Acting swiftly on a complaint regarding the kidnapping of a minor girl, age 17 resident of Marhote, Tehsil Surankote, District Police Poonch has successfully traced and recovered the girl within 48 hours.

The complaint was lodged by Riyaz Ahmed, brother of the victim, on April 21, 2025, following which a case FIR No. 49/2025 under relevant sections was registered at Police Station Surankote. The accused, identified as Ahjaz Ahmed S/o Nazir Hussain Sheikh, resident of Morha Bachai, Tehsil Surankote, was reported to have kidnapped the girl.

Through coordinated efforts, the Surankote Police team located the girl in Kahara, Tehsil Bhalesa, District Doda, and safely recovered her on April 23, 2025. The accused has also been apprehended and is in police custody.

Hardcore criminal booked under PIT-NDPS PSA & lodged in district jail Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua Police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saksena apprehended one hardcore criminal/ habitual drug peddler and booked under PIT-NDPS Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged at District Jail Rajouri. On 23/04/2025 a Police team of PS Hiranagar under the guidance of DySP PC Kathua Ashwani Sharma & SHO P/S Hiranagar Insp. Ashish Sharma apprehended one notorious Drug Peddler namely Gagan Kohli S/o Harbans Lal R/o Rajbagh Hiranagar District Kathua who was habitual drug peddler/Criminal involved in possession and transportation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in different NDPS Cases within Kathua district vide FIR No. 142/2023 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act at PS Rajbagh & FIR NO. 107/2024 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act at PS Hiranagar.

A detention warrant under Prevention of illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances PIT-NDPS Act- 1988 was issued against him by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

In order to prevent the illegal activities in drug trafficking in the district, "Dossier" was prepared against the accused person and sent to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu for his detention under PITNDPS Act- 1988 (PSA). Accordingly Divisional Commissioner, Jammu issued a detention warrant against the accused person under the PITNDPS Act. Accordingly, the warrant has been executed and he has been lodged in District Jail Rajouri.

Doda Police observes two-minute silence in solidarity with Pahalgam victims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: District Police Doda Under the esteemed guidance of SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta observed two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in its a l l units/sub units of District Police Doda ie (DPL) Doda, all Police Stations, Police Posts of Doda, Bhaderwah, Thathri and Gandoh). The staff of DPO gathered in the office chamber of SSP Doda to observe a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The gesture was a mark of deep respect and solidarity with the bereaved families and to honor the precious lives lost. The Doda Police stands united in this moment of grief and extends heartfelt condolences to the affected families and reaffirmed their commitment to standing with communities in moments of sorrow and crisis.



More trains pressed for tourists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In addition to the Special Train and other regular trains originating from SVDK & JAT, the following Train shall also cater to the passengers from Jammu Tawi Railway Station:

Train No.: 04614 SVDK - NDLS RESERVED SUPERFAST Special Express (TOD) Departure from JAT: 10:30 AM

Date of Departure: 24.04.2025

All the stranded tourists are requested to get their booking at the Jammu Railway Station.