

Anti-Pakistan protests break out in Jammu over Ganderbal killings

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JAMMU: A day after a deadly terror attack at a tunnel construction site in J&K's Ganderbal left seven people dead, members of the Shiv Sena Dogra Front and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal on Monday burned Pakistani flags in Jammu in protest against the killings amid slogans against the neighbouring country.

The protesters demanded that the terrorists involved in the fatal attack be eliminated at the earliest to restore confidence among the people.

Blaming Pakistan squarely for the attack, the agitators claimed it was the fallout of the frustration among the terrorists after the peaceful Assembly elections and the formation of an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Led by Shiv Sena Dogra Front President Ashok Gupta, the protesters also burned the effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in response to the "dastardly" attack in Ganderbal, raising "Pakistan Hai Hai" slogans.

A doctor and six labourers



were killed when terrorists struck a tunnel construction site on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Ganderbal district on Sunday. The unidentified terrorists carried out the attack when the labourers and other staff working on the tunnel project at Gund in Ganderbal returned to their camp late in the evening, officials said. The latest attack came days after the bullet-riddled body of a labourer from Bihar was found in Shopian district, raising concerns about the

safety of non-local workers in J&K.

"Terrorists involved in such acts should be eliminated so that a strong message is sent to Pakistan. The houses of over-ground workers should be identified and bulldozed to ensure that no one dares to support the terrorists," Gupta said.

Stating that the nation should stand united and avoid political maneuvering, Gupta said, "A strong retaliatory strike should be launched against the terror

nation so that the world can be freed from its nefarious plans for once and all.

"Pakistan has to be taught a lesson. As our defence forces tighten the noose in Kashmir, terror activities are shifting to Jammu, while Punjab is already grappling with the menace of drugs spread by Pakistan."

Claiming that the latest attack shows that Pakistan cannot tolerate the democratically elected government in J&K, Gupta said, "There can be no talks with

them (Pakistan) if they continue to attack us. The prime minister is going to Russia this week to attend the BRICS Summit. I appeal to him to respond to Pakistan by saying there will be no talks, only action."

On B C Road, members of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (RBD) blocked traffic and burned Pakistani flags.

"We urge the lieutenant governor and the Union home minister to instruct the police and the army to eliminate those behind the attack in Ganderbal. They should be hunted down, and their bodies be sent back to Pakistan," RBD Chairman Rakesh Kumar said.

Members of the Shiv Sena (UBT) also took out a protest rally here blaming Pakistan for the violence, which they claimed stemmed from the frustration over the peaceful Assembly polls and the subsequent government formation in J&K.

"The government must ensure the safety and security of those working in Kashmir. The terrorists must be taught a lesson, and Pakistan must stop promoting them," said the party's J&K unit chief Manish Saini.

Inaugural JK Science Congress-2024 Kicks Off in Srinagar Sakeena emphasizes Role of Science and Technology in Societal progress



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SRINAGAR: The JK Science Congress-2024 commenced today at Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, emphasizing the transformative power of science and technology in addressing societal challenges. Organized in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council, the two-day event is themed 'Scientific Endeavours, Innovations and Exploring New Possibilities'.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education, Sakeena Masood, inaugurated the congress, stating, "We are living in an era where science and technology are revolutionising every aspect of our lives."

She highlighted the government's commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance the collaboration between academia and industry, particularly in agriculture and industrial sectors. Masood also expressed optimism about the significant

improvements in the education sector over the decades, while acknowledging the ongoing need for further advancements. "This two-day event will serve as an important platform to tap the potential of science and technology to improve the lives of common people," she said.

Vice Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, emphasized the importance of research and development as a catalyst for societal progress. He noted that academic institutions play a critical role in fostering innovation and knowledge.

Dr. Rashmi, Commissioner Secretary of the Higher Education Department, echoed this sentiment, stressing that education should extend beyond institutions to directly address community issues. Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary of Science and Technology, pointed out the global significance of science and technology in driving economies and acknowledged the rise of a vibrant startup culture in

India as a testament to the effectiveness of the educational system.

Prof. Ruhi Jan Kanth, Principal of GCW, welcomed attendees and reflected on the college's rich history of empowering women since its establishment in 1950. She highlighted the institution's successful alumni, including notable women leaders in various fields.

Keynote speaker Dr. Ashoo Grover, Deputy Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), stressed the necessity of translating research from labs to practical applications, advocating for interdisciplinary collaboration to drive national development.

The event also saw the release of the Science Congress Souvenir, the college magazine 'The Pamposh', and the newsletter 'College Times' by Sakeena Masood. The inaugural session was attended by prominent figures including Dr. Nasir A Shah, Director Colleges, and various officials from the Cluster University Srinagar, alongside a large gathering of students.

YRS pays rich tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singhji on 232nd Birth Anniversary

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JAMMU: The Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) paid heartfelt tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of Jammu and Kashmir and the first ruler of the Dogra dynasty, on his 232nd birth anniversary. The tribute ceremony took place at the statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh, located at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh Hospital in Shalimar, Jammu.

Under the leadership of Chairman Raghuvir Singh and President Vikram Singh Vicky, YRS members gathered alongside RK Ranvijay Singh from the royal family to honor the Maharaja's contributions. Vikram Singh Vicky emphasized the lasting impact of Maharaja Gulab Singh's leadership, stating, "His valour and vision trans-



formed Jammu and Kashmir into the largest independent and sovereign state at the time, free from external interference."

He expressed concerns about the region's current status, lamenting the transition from a princely state to a

Union Territory. "It is disheartening that despite directions from the Honorable Supreme Court for restoring statehood after elections, progress continues to lag," he added. Vicky called for the restoration of statehood before the accession day on October

26, asserting, "We want our identity back." Chairman Raghuvir Singh echoed these sentiments, urging future generations to remember the sacrifices of the Dogra rulers and to pay tribute to them on commemorative days. RK Ranvijay Singh highlighted the glorious history of Jammu and Kashmir, stressing the importance of fighting for their identity. Former YRS President Rajan Singh Happy also voiced his concerns, noting, "It is painful to see that the administration and the people often overlook the significance of this historical day."

Dr. Dara Singh, Superintendent of SMGS Hospital, along with his staff, attended the tribute ceremony and remarked on the vision of the Dogra rulers, which facilitated public service through infrastructure developments.

Capacity Building Training for District Officers on Project YUVA held

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KISHTWAR: A one-day capacity building training program on Project YUVA was inaugurated today by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, in the Conference Hall of the DC Office. The program aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of district-level officers for the effective implementation of Project YUVA across the region.

The training program commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Director Employment, Mamta Sudershan, who briefed the attendees about the objectives of the session. A total of 35 district-level officers participated, including the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs). The primary goal of the program was to equip



these officers with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively implement Project YUVA in their respective domains. The training was enriched by presentations from key experts in the field. BDO Inderwal, Hitesh Kumar Loona, along with Aejaz Ahmed from JKEDI and Nikhil Sharma from NABARD Kishtwar, provided a detailed overview of Project YUVA, highlighting its objectives, goals, and imple-

mentation strategies. Notably, Hitesh Kumar Loona outlined a comprehensive roadmap for the project, emphasizing engagement with youth at the block and panchayat levels to foster innovative ideas and entrepreneurship.

During the inauguration, DDC Rajesh Kumar Shavan commended the efforts made to organize the training program and stressed the importance of capacity building for district officers.

He assured the participants of the full support and co-operation of the district administration in ensuring the successful implementation of Project YUVA. Furthermore, he urged officers to take a proactive approach and ensure that the program reaches its intended beneficiaries—especially the youth across blocks and panchayats—while making them aware of the innovative opportunities that Project YUVA has to offer.

SHTM Students win 1st Prize at Tourism Entrepreneurship competition

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JAMMU: A team of MBA (TTM) students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) at the University of Jammu has clinched the first prize in the prestigious National Level Event 'Venture Voice - Tourism Entrepreneurship Development' competition, held at Chandigarh University. The winning team, comprising Bhavna Gupta, Tanishka Singh Kotwal, and Arinut Sharma, emerged victorious among 93 competing teams

from across the country. Prof. Alka Sharma, Director of the SIIEDC and Dean of the Faculty of Business Studies, praised the students for their initiative and commitment to representing the University of Jammu at a national level. She encouraged students to think outside the box and explore entrepreneurial opportunities. In his remarks, Prof. Anil Gupta, Director of SHTM, emphasized the department's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship among its students. He highlighted that many alumni from

the program have become first-generation entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions on a national scale.

The team's project, "Dugar Darshan," focused on empowering local women and promoting sustainable practices while showcasing the region's culture, cuisine, art, craft, and music. Their innovative business proposition received high praise from the judges and event organizers. In recognition of their achievement, the team was awarded a cash prize of INR 25,000.



George Maijo honours Pulwama farmers for embracing modern agriculture tools

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PULWAMA: Progressive farmers from across the Kashmir Valley were celebrated on Monday at an event hosted by Valley Traders, where they were honoured for their commitment to adopting modern farming equipment provided by George Maijo.

The event, part of the George Maijo - Modern Agriculture Achievers' Award, recognized the loyalty and



feedback of the region's leading farmers with cash rewards and gifts. Muzzamil from Valley Traders, the host of the event, led the proceedings, ensuring a smooth and engaging program for the gathered attendees. Valley Traders, a prominent name in southern Kashmir's Pulwama district, is known for offering modern agricultural equipment at affordable rates, making a significant impact on the area's farming

practices. T. Ramesh, the pan-India Business Head of George Maijo, emphasized the company's commitment to providing high-quality, modern agricultural tools at reasonable prices. "Our aim is to facilitate the work of farmers by providing reliable equipment. The positive feedback we receive from farmers across the Valley shows the trust and connection we've built, which this event celebrates," Ramesh said.

Tributes paid to the Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji Rajput Community forms new federation IURF; to promote welfare and unity

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JAMMU: In a heartfelt tribute to Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji, the Father of the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, members of the Rajput community gathered today at the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh ji to commemorate the 232nd birth anniversary of their revered leader. During the gathering, they announced the formation of the Indian United Rajput Federation (IURF) J&K, aimed at addressing the welfare and unity of Rajputs across the region.

The newly formed federation, which already has a presence in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, plans to expand its reach to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Its primary focus will be on raising awareness of the issues faced by Rajputs, particularly those residing in border and hilly areas, and advocating for a dedicated Rajput hostel and welfare board.

Vikramjeet Singh Manhas, who has been appointed as the working presi-



dent with the guidance of senior community members and intellectuals, emphasized the organization's commitment to uplifting the Rajput community. "Our primary objective is to promote communal harmony, educational development, and to combat social evils while focusing on education for the girl child. We will also organize cultural and social activities that engage Rajput youth," he stated.

The gathering was attended by Rajput youth from Samba, Rajouri, Kathua, and Udhampur districts, with plans for the establishment of teams in these areas soon. Prominent figures present at the event included Adv. Vikram Singh, Bupinder Singh, Happy Sambyal, Rajinder Singh, Deepak Thakur, Rakesh Singh, Rajveer Singh, Shubam, Aryavir Singh, Rohin Singh, Th. Karan Singh, and Rahul.

IIT Jammu hosts Convoquer Sports meet, celebrates Athletic Spirit

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Jammu celebrated an exhilarating Convoquer Sports Meet from October 17 to October 21, drawing participants from 11 universities and colleges in the region. The event showcased a diverse array of competitions, including Football, Athletics, Basketball, Badminton, Chess, Cricket, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Pool, Weight Lifting, and eSports. The sports fest kicked off with a vibrant opening ceremony, featuring performances by the IIT Jammu music club, Malang, Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu, delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the significance of sports in student life. He extended heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee, volunteers, and participants for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Participating institutions included IIT Jammu, Jammu University, IIM Jammu, SMVDU Katra, AIIMS Jammu, GMC Jammu, GANC Jammu, ASCOMS Jammu, MIET Jammu, Central University, and GCET Jammu. The athletic fervor of the event was palpable, with students capturing highlights and sharing their experiences on social media.

Post-event feedback revealed a widespread appreciation for the meticulous organization and seamless execution, with many advocating for future gatherings of this nature. The Convoquer Sports Meet not only celebrated athletic talent but also fostered community spirit and collaboration among educational institutions. As the event concluded, participants left with not just medals and trophies, but also lasting memories and friendships. IIT Jammu looks forward to hosting more events that promote health, teamwork, and holistic development for students.