

Billawar victims' families assured FSL, other reports within 7-10 days

Fear grips Kathua's upper reaches due to recurring terror attacks

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 29 People living in the upper reaches of Kathua district, particularly in Bani, Basohli, and Billawar heights, have been living in a state of constant fear due to recurring terrorist attacks and reports of the presence of multiple terrorists in the region.
 Under such circumstances, those with adequate resources have shifted to safer locations in the towns, while those with limited options prefer not to exit their homes unnecessarily out of fear.
 However, those who remain stationed in these areas throughout the year have demanded a heavy deployment of security forces or that they be provided with arms and training to fight the terrorists.
 Shoni Lal, the father of Jogesh Kumar, one of the terror victims from Marhoon village in Lohai Malhar area of Billawar Tehsil, said that people in his area have been living in a state of trauma ever since he lost his son along with two other people.
 According to him, residents of Marhoon, who have alternative residences in Kathua or Jammu cities have

either permanently shifted to these areas or those who serve in the area come to their offices and schools during the day and leave by evening.
 "Most people avoid staying there at night, fearing attacks and harassment by terrorists," he said.
 Similar concerns were raised by Chmail Singh, the father of the ADC of Billawar, Thakur, the 12-year-old child, who was also killed by the terrorists.
 Singh said people in the upper reaches of Bani, Basohli, and Billawar areas have even noticed suspicious activities in the recent past, but they don't apprise the authorities out of fear for their lives.
 However, he said several senior officers in the Jammu and Kashmir Police are in touch with him and other people of the area to act on

the reports of suspicious activities.
 "But it takes hours for the police and other security forces to reach these heights. So, we request the administration to deploy forces in these hilly areas so that their timely action can prevent any mishap," he said.
 Meanwhile, the families of the Marhoon victims met the ADC of Billawar today, requesting him to apprise them of the status of the investigation and provide copies of the FSL reports along with post-mortem and viscera reports.
 As per sources, the ADC cited the deployment of forces and other staff in other areas due to terror attacks in different parts of Kathua and assured that they would be provided with the FSL reports and other documents within 7-10 days.

Dr Farooq seeks assistance for families affected by gusty winds

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 29 National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah today urged the divisional administration in Kashmir to promptly assist the families affected by the recent gusty winds.
 In a statement released from the party headquarters Nawac-Suhba, Dr Farooq emphasized that the gusty winds have caused significant damage to public properties, standing crops, and orchards.
 He stressed the importance of the administration assessing the extent of the damage and providing appropriate compensation to those affected.
 Dr Farooq directed the party's MLAs, leaders to visit the affected areas, evaluate the losses, and advocate for assistance from the relevant authorities to help mitigate the impact of the disaster.

Water being released in irrigation canals on April 2

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 29 The water in irrigation canals of Jammu Division is being released on April 02, 2025, a notice issued today by the Irrigation Department stated.
 "It is notified for the information of the public in general and farmers in particular that the water of Main Ranbir Canal, New Partap Canal, Kathua Canal and other Canals of Jammu province shall be released from 02-04-2025. All the concerned Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers are directed to plan their activities to ensure completion of the ongoing works well before the recharging of canal."
 The Executive Engineer of Irrigation Division No I Jammu, Irrigation Division No II Jammu, Irrigation Division Akhnoor and Irrigation Division Kathua have been directed to frame teams which shall move along with water in the canal distribution network during the opening as it reaches their jurisdiction to ensure safe passage of water up to tail end to avoid any untoward incident.

Searches conducted at residential premises of Jel members

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 29 Police in Sopore today conducted multiple raids across the district, targeting the individuals associated with proscribed outfit Jamat-e-Islami.
 A police spokesman said that these police searches were carried out in connection with the investigation of Case FIR 42 U/S 10,13 UA(P)Act, at the residential premises of separatist elements suspected of involvement in unlawful activities that pose a threat to public order and national security.
 "The searches were conducted after obtaining a warrant from the court of law."
 "During the searches incriminating materials linked to the activities of these banned outfits were seized as evidenced in the FIR registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The raids were conducted in the presence of Magistrates and independent witnesses to ensure full legal adherence and procedural transparency," the spokesman said.
 "Sopore Police remains committed to dismantling the terror ecosystem and taking strict action against individuals attempting to disrupt peace and stability in the region," he added.

JSCL revises bus fares by 7% from Apr 1

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 29 The Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has announced a 7% increase in the public transport fares, effective from April 1, to cover the rising operational costs and maintain service efficiently.
 The revision, implemented under the direction of the Finance Department, applies to public transport services in Jammu city and nearby areas, including Kathua, Katra, and Udhampur.
 According to a JSCL official, the fare adjustment is necessary to keep up with the annual rise in operational expenses, including fuel, maintenance, and staff

salaries, while ensuring that passengers continue to receive safe and reliable transportation.
 "Despite the increase, JSCL remains committed to providing affordable travel options and maintaining high service standards," he said.
 Accordingly, the commuters are advised by the JSCL to check the revised fare structure to plan their travel.
 The JSCL has also sought the cooperation of the passengers in implementing the revised fares smoothly.
 Additionally, in line with the Chief Minister's Budget announcement, the JSCL said the free ride facility for women on e-Buses would be started soon.

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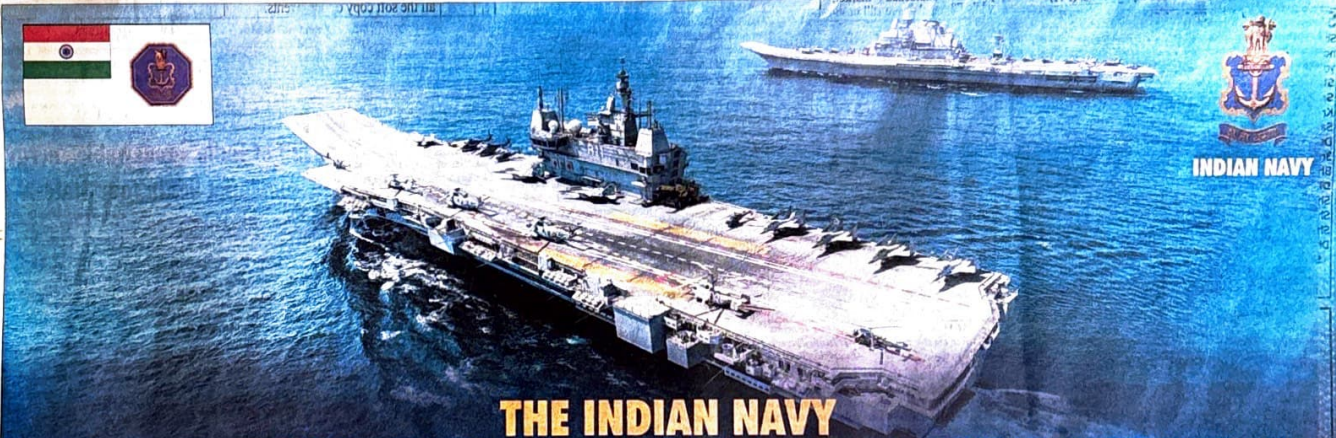


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