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A member of Akash Ganga, the skydiving display team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) performs during an air show dedicated to the brave martyrs of 1857, above the JP Ganga Path in Patna

Teenage girl raped, impregnated by man in MP; accused and victim's mother held

TIKAMGARH (MP): Police have arrested a man for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl over the past few months and impregnating her in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Tuesday. The police also arrested the teenage victim's mother as she was aware of the crime, they said. The incident came to light on Monday when the condition of the rape survivor deteriorated after the accused gave her medicines to terminate her pregnancy, an official said. "The 40-year-old accused, who is the victim's neighbour, allegedly raped the girl for four to five months, due to which she became pregnant," Badagaon police station in-charge Narendra Verma said. The accused gave her medicines to terminate her pregnancy, which deteriorated her condition. Following that, she was admitted to the district hospital, he said.

Delhi Police to monitor under-construction buildings by deploying drones

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police will monitor under-construction buildings by deploying drones, and will prepare structural model using artificial intelligence (AI) to provide help immediately whenever needed, an official said on Tuesday. According to officials, the AI-driven system will not only keep a close eye on structural vulnerabilities but also enable swift response in emergencies, potentially saving lives and preventing disasters. A senior police officer said that they use drones from time to time for extra surveillance of sensitive areas, but they will also use drones to check if anyone is constructing their residential or commercial structure beyond the permissible limits. A two-decade-old four-storey building collapsed in the early hours of Saturday, killing 11 people, including three children. The incident also left 11 people injured. The building housed four shops on the ground floor.

Clash over old feud in Hapur village; 20 held, FIR against 40

HAPUR (UP): At least 20 people have been arrested and a minor detained in connection with a violent clash between two groups over an old feud in Hapur district's Simbhaoli area, police said on Tuesday. The incident allegedly stemmed from a longstanding rivalry over local dominance and past election disputes. According to Simbhaoli SHO Sumit Tomar, tensions erupted on Monday evening in a village under his jurisdiction due to an old electoral feud and a recent altercation involving children. "Both sides belong to the same community. The dispute, which had been simmering for a while, escalated into a violent confrontation," he said. Tomar added that during the clash, incidents of stone-pelting and firing were reported.

AAP accuses Delhi BJP gov't of halting pensions for widows, divorced women

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday accused the Delhi BJP government of discontinuing pensions for widows and divorced women, alleging that payments have been stalled for the past two months. There was no immediate response from the BJP on the allegations. Addressing a press conference, AAP's Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Widows and divorced women have not received their pensions for the last two months. The BJP government is plotting to cut the pension of thousands of women who rely on this support." Bharadwaj further alleged that the BJP's move is a deliberate attempt to dismantle social welfare schemes implemented by the previous AAP government. "The whole country is fed up with listening to the unnecessary speeches of the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he added. The confrontation between the BJP and AAP has intensified ever since the saffron party stormed to power in Delhi in February, ending AAP's decade-long rule in the national capital.

Thunderstorms forecast for parts of Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI: The Meteorological Department has forecast thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in parts of Andhra Pradesh for three days from Tuesday. Thunderstorms are likely at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh (NCAP), Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh (SCAP) and Rayalaseema, it said. "Gusty winds with speeds up to 30-40 km per hour are likely at isolated places over NCAP, Yanam, SCAP and Rayalaseema. Maximum temperature is likely to rise by two to three degrees Celsius till Wednesday," the department said in a release, forecasting weather for Tuesday and Wednesday. It forecast similar weather for Thursday but noted that maximum temperature is likely to fall slightly over most parts of the state from the same day evening onward. According to the Meteorological Department, a north-south trough now runs from northwest Bihar to the Gulf of Mannar across Chhattisgarh, East Vidarbha, Telangana, Interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu at 0.9 km above mean sea level.

HEARTBREAKING SCENES IN PAHALGAM

Terror attack leaves victims in pools of blood even as cries for help echo

PTI, PAHALGAM (JK): Shrieks for help pierced the skies of Baisaran meadows in this south Kashmir resort as more than a dozen tourists lay motionless in pools of blood following one of the deadliest terror attacks on civilians in recent years in J-K.

Heavily armed terrorists walked out of the woods of Baisaran, a meadow atop a hill here, and surrounded a group of around 40 tourists. The terrorists started firing on the tourists indiscriminately, leaving multiple people dead and injuring at least 20.

Eyewitnesses claimed that as soon as the bullets started flying, the handful of locals who earn a livelihood from tourism ran for safety, leaving the tourists as sitting ducks.

"My husband was shot in the head... he was shot for not being a Muslim. Seven others are injured in the attack," a woman survivor told PTI over phone.

The woman, who did not identify herself, pleaded for help in evacuating the injured to the hospital.

"Bhaiyya please mere husband ko bacha lo (Brother, please save my husband)," the woman pleaded frantically with this reporter.

As the famed meadows are only accessible by foot or ponies, authorities had to summon choppers for



Security personnel rush to spot after terrorists attacked a group of tourists at Pahalgam, in Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK VICTIMS INCLUDE PEOPLE FROM TN, SAYS STALIN, CONDEMNS

PTI, CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday said the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 dead, included "people" from the state and dubbed the incident "barbaric." While Stalin did not divulge details of the victims hailing from the state, he said he has directed all necessary coordination among officials to ensure necessary assistance to the families of those affected. "The terrorist attack in #Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that targeted innocent tourists and claimed multiple precious lives is a barbaric act that shocks the conscience. It deserves the strongest condemnation. My thoughts are with the bereaved families," he said in a post on X.

the evacuation of the injured, officials said.

However, before the helicopter arrived at the scene, some of the injured were brought down by local people on their ponies.

The local tourist guides and ponywallahs consoled the survivors even as they

summoned more people to evacuate the injured tourists on their shoulders to the nearest motorable point.

As soon as the news of the attack broke out, the roads and streets of Pahalgam wore a deserted look as the tourists, who had

AMIT SHAH REACHES SRINAGAR, BRIEFED ON PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

PTI, SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar to review the security situation in Kashmir following a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed, officials said. Hours after the attack on tourists, Shah rushed to Srinagar and drove straight to the Raj Bhavan from the airport. Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Nalin Prabhat briefed the home minister upon his arrival. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka were present at the time of the briefing.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK 'BLOT ON HUMANITY': CONG DEMANDS ALL-PARTY MEET

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday denounced the terror attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam as a blot on humanity and said it should not go "unanswered effectively" while demanding an immediate all-party meeting on the issue. The Congress also said the government should take accountability instead of making hollow claims about normalcy in the Union Territory. Terrorists struck a prime tourist location of Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Tuesday, killing at least 26 people and injuring several others, according to officials. The Congress condemns in the strongest possible terms the dastardly and cowardly terror attack on tourists in Kashmir, party general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said.

come in numbers, left the resort town to safer places.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the death toll is still being ascertained. "This attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years," he said on X.

More than 30 persons

were killed and 60 others injured in a terror attack on Amarnath base camp in Pahalgam in 2000.

A year later, 13 persons were killed and 15 others injured in an attack on Amarnath pilgrims at Sheshnag while 11 persons were killed in another attack in 2002 in the Pahalgam area.

Eight pilgrims were killed in a terror attack in 2017 as they were on the way home from Amarnath shrine.

A tourist couple from Rajasthan was injured in a firing incident by terrorists at Yannar in Pahalgam in May last year.

A video of the Pahalgam attack site emerged showing several people bleeding and lying motionless on the ground while women tourists were wailing and looking for their near and dear ones. Some were too stunned to react and were being helped by locals.

"I'm shocked beyond belief. This attack on our visitors is an abomination. The perpetrators of this attack are animals, inhuman and worthy of contempt. No words of condemnation are enough. I send my sympathies to the families of the deceased," CM Abdullah said.

The incident comes when Kashmir is witnessing a surge in tourist arrivals after reeling under militancy for years. Also, the 38-day Amarnath pilgrimage is scheduled to begin on July 3.

Lakhs of pilgrims from across the country travel to the Amarnath cave shrine from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Russian Prez Putin, US Prez Trump condemn terror attack in J&K

PTI, NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday condemned the terror attack in Kashmir, saying the US stands strong with India against terrorism.

"Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir. The United States stands strong with India against Terrorism. We pray for the souls of those lost, and for the recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Modi, and the incredible people of India, have our full support and deepest sympathies. Our hearts are with you all!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

The attack came during US Vice President J D Vance's maiden visit to India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also condemned the terror attack

in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the "brutal crime" has no justification whatsoever and its perpetrators will face a deserved punishment.

In a communication to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin extended condolences over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

He expressed "sincere condolences over the tragic consequences of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam whose victims were civilians - citizens of various countries".

Putin reiterated Russia's commitment to further increasing cooperation with Indian partners in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Girl gang-raped in Odisha; 3 held, 1 juvenile

PTI, ROURKELA: A girl was allegedly raped by three men in a forest in Odisha's Sundergarh district, police said on Tuesday.

The three accused were arrested in the alleged gang rape that took place on Monday night in Talsara area when the minor was returning home around 10 PM along with her two friends after attending a community feast, a senior officer said.

As per a preliminary investigation, Sundargarh SP Pratyush Diwaker said the girls got scared on noticing a four-wheeler following them and hid themselves near a bush. However, they found two youths, familiar to them, passing through the road on a motorcycle and asked them for help.

All five, including the three girls, rode the two-wheeler and tried to escape from the place, but they were intercepted by the accused persons in the car, the officer said.

"All of them fell from the motorcycle. The two men and two girls managed to escape from the spot, but another girl was forcibly taken into the four-wheel-

er. They fled the spot. Her friends informed the villagers about the incident," the officer said, quoting an FIR. Sundergarh SDPO Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said that the girl was taken in the forest and three men allegedly raped her.

They left the girl on an isolated road near her village, he said.

On Tuesday morning, villagers and the victim's family lodged an FIR at Talsara police station, and a case was registered, he said.

"Fortunately, one of the victim's friends recalled the registration number of the vehicle and three accused were arrested," Mohapatra said.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the girl was sexually assaulted, the SDPO said, adding that strong action will be taken against the accused.

Of the three accused, one was claimed to be a juvenile, the officer said.

"The verification of his actual age is underway. The accused persons have past criminal records," he said, adding that the medical examination of the victim has been completed.

GROUND REALITY



A farmer fetches water from a temporary well to irrigate his field on the bank of River Ganga on World Earth Day, in Prayagraj

Nature-based solutions key to climate resilience in Indian coastal cities: Report

PTI, NEW DELHI: The uptake of permeable pavements could enhance stormwater drainage capacity, reducing surface runoff and mitigate flood risks, according to a new report by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

The report titled "Urban Greenprints: A Nature-based Solutions Feasibility Framework for Urban Coastal Regions" by the Bengaluru-based think-tank has called for a paradigm shift in how India's coastal cities approach urban planning and climate resilience.

Focusing on Chennai and Mangaluru in Karnataka, the report makes a compelling case for integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in urban planning to address the escalating challenges of flooding, environmental degradation, and climate-induced vulnerabilities.

"Both cities have witnessed a sharp decline in green cover and increased encroachments on natural water bodies. These changes, compounded by ex-



Haizhu Wetland Park

treme weather events, have exposed the limitations of conventional grey infrastructure such as stormwater drains and concrete embankments.

"There is urgent need to embrace NbS such as wetland restoration, rooftop greening and permeable pavements -- as part of a more sustainable and resilient urban strategy," the report said.

Drawing on in-depth assessments of 23 wards in Chennai and four wards in Mangaluru, the study evaluated the feasibility and impact of NbS interventions.

Among the main findings is the significant potential

functional importance of natural systems.

"However, encroachment and degradation of these ecosystems have diminished their climate adaptation potential, worsening urban vulnerability. Revitalising such natural assets is essential not only for climate resilience but also for promoting co-benefits, such as eco-tourism, sustainable fishing and other livelihood opportunities," it said.

Lakshmi Menon, senior analyst in the adaptation and risk analysis group at CSTEP, noted that in cities like Chennai and Mangaluru, even modest ward-level investments in green infrastructure can yield substantial long-term savings and ecological benefits.

"As climate risks intensify, integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning is not just desirable -- it is essential for building resilient, adaptive and sustainable cities," Menon said.

The report recommended that policymakers in the study regions embed NbS within their core climate resilience strategies.