

**Farooq, Omar, Azad, Bhalla express shock****Killing of KP security guard in Pulwama widely condemned****Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 26: There has been wide spread condemnation to killing of a member of minority Pandit community in Pulwama district of South Kashmir by militants today.

**The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC)** president and MP from Srinagar, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and vice president, Omar Abdullah condemned yet another targeted killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, Sanjay Sharma.

In a statement Dr. Farooq said, "I am deeply saddened to know about the barbaric killing of Sanjay Ji. The bereaved family has my deepest sympathies and unwavering support," adding, "Words of condemnation and condolence ring hollow as do the assurances of the Government on safeguarding the lives of people. This killing yet again raises the troubling question on security apparatus, law and order situation in the Valley", he added.

Condemning the killing Omar Abdullah said, "I am deeply saddened to hear of the killing of Sanjay Sharma. I unequivocally condemn this attack and send my condolences to his loved ones," he added.

Party general secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar, provincial president, Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief spokesperson, Tanvir Sadiq, State secretary Sakina Tado, MP Hasnain Masoodi, South zone president, Dr. Bashir Veeri, State spokesperson, Imran Nabi Dar, district president, Pulwama, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, party leader Muhammad Khalil Band have also condemned the killing.

**Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP)** chairman and former Union Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad condemned the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday, saying it was a matter of grave concern.

"Any killing, especially a targeted killing, is a matter of grave concern and condemnable. We condemn it," Azad told reporters here.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said every targeted killing is condemnable, be that of a Kashmiri Pandit or a Muslim or a Sikh and whether the victim is from Jammu or Kashmir.

However, he said the most unfortunate part is that while many people were arrested in connection with such incidents over the last 30 years, "not one killer has been arrested for these targeted killings in the last two years".

**JKPCC** working president, Raman Bhalla has also strongly condemned the killing of another Kashmiri Pandit in Valley.

Bhalla in his condolence message said "I am pained beyond words on despicable killing of Kashmiri Pandit in Pulwama today. My thoughts are with the family of Sanjay Sharma. The attack deserves strongest condemnation from every one. The militants responsible for this barbaric act should not be spared", he added.

In another statement, PCC spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma while strongly condemning the killing of an innocent KP youth said it is painful that innocent people and members of minority community are being targeted in Kashmir. He termed the

Government claims about restoration of normalcy totally fake.

Former Union Minister, Prof. Saifuddin Soz has strongly condemned the terror act in which a minority community member was shot dead in South Kashmir's Pulwama.

Prof Soz in his statement said, "I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear that militants have attacked and killed an innocent civilian from the minority community in Pulwama. I wonder what the killers want to achieve by shedding the blood of innocent civilians. Such acts of terror should be condemned".

**Bharatiya Janata Yuva** \* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

**Morcha (BJYM)** led by its president, Arun Prabhat held a strong protest demonstration here, today against the killing of a KP youth in Valley.

The demonstration was also addressed by party general secretary Abhishek Salathia, State media secretary, Chetan Wancho, district president of BJYM, Kannav Sharma and others. The protestors shouted slogans against Pakistan and Pak sponsored militancy in J&K. They demanded that the UT administration should immediately identify the militants so that they are brought to justice.

**Apni Party** president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has strongly condemned the militants' act in which a minority community member was shot dead in Pulwama district today.

In a statement, he said "I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear that terrorists have attacked and killed an innocent civilian from the minority community in Pulwama. I wonder what the killers want to achieve by shedding the blood of innocent civilians. Such acts of militancy should be condemned in strongest possible terms by one and all". "The perpetrators of this brutal crime must be nabbed and brought to justice", he added.

**Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) Jammu**, while condemning the barbaric killing of yet another innocent member of the KP community who was working as a bank security guard in Achan, Pulwama by militants today, urged the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to provide job to his next kin and adequate compensation to bereaved family.

**Mission Statehood J&K:** A protest demonstration was held by Mission Statehood led by Sunil Dimple here today against Pakistan and targeted killings in Valley. Dimple in his address expressed his anger against the targeted killing of a KP in Pulwama district today. He questioned the Government's claims on return of normalcy in Valley.

**All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC)** has also strongly condemned the attack on civilian in Kashmir.

Anil Sharma president, of AJKPC while expressing his shock and anger over killing of Sanjay Sharma - a member of miniscule minority community in Kashmir termed it a cowardice act. He said the militants are scared of taking to brave Indian security forces so they are targeting the innocent people.

**Shiv Sena Jammu** and Kashmir unit has also raised serious concern over the present situation in Kashmir where targeted killings of minorities go unabated. The party termed the claims about the restoration of peace in the Valley totally a

haax. The Sena activists led by its president, Manish Sahni held a protest in front of party office against the continuation of targeted killings in the Valley. Sahni strongly condemned the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, Sanjay Sharma and warned the militants to desist from its cowardice and nefarious activities.

Manjit Singh, provincial president of Apni party and its general secretary, Vijay Bakaya have also strongly condemned the killing of yet another member of minority community in the Valley. In their separate statements they said the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit is highly condemnable and demanded proper security arrangements for the community in the Valley. Bakaya said under the prevailing circumstances the Government should not coerce the package employees to join their services in Kashmir and ensure elaborate measures for their fool proof security.

**BJP, Kashmir Displaced District (KDD)** held a protest at Muthi which was led by party president Jammu Rural, Omi Khajuria. The protestors raising slogans against the separatists and militants also razed the effigy of Pakistan and demanded security to minorities in Valley.

They blocked Akhnour road for one hour in protest.

**BJP KDD** president, Chand Ji Bhat while condemning the killing said the act is a part of a big conspiracy which needs to be unmasked.

BJP held another demonstration at Purani Mandi here against killing of a KP youth in Valley by Pak sponsored militants which was led by party vice president, Yudhvir Sethi.

The protestors burnt the effigy of rogue nation. Mandal presidents, Parveen Kerni and Raman Sharma and other prominent persons also joined the protest. Yudhvir Sethi warned Pakistan of dire consequences for its misadventures against India.

**The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCC&I)** has denounced the killing of bank security guard, Sanjay Kumar Sharma in Pulwama and termed it an unjustified act. It demanded that the killing needs to be thoroughly investigated by the authorities. The KCC&I offered its condolences to bereaved family.

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A scene from the play staged on Sunday.

**'Ateet Ke Sakshi' calls for removing mistrust between Kashmiri Hindus, Muslims****Lalit Gupta**

JAMMU, Feb 26: Vomedh Rangmanch's presentation of 'Ateet Ke Sakshi' while bringing out the pain of exiled Kashmiri Pandits also gave a clarion call to address the misplaced mistrust as both Hindus and Muslims suffered respectively.

Staged on the second day of the ongoing Festival of Plays, organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, written by Rajesh Roshan Bhat and directed by Rohit Bhat, the play rising above the blame game, reiterated the faith in the age-old communal brotherhood and amity as the bond that can fill the existing void between Kashmiri Hindus and Muslims.

The plot of the play revolved about Gasha ji, a migrant Kashmiri Pandit in Jammu, who yearns to go back and take care of his ancestral temple and talks to his friend Gafoor, who is taking care of the temple. Since Gasha ji's son Ravi feels disconnected with Kashmir, Gafoor

**Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF)** has also strongly condemned the targeted killing of a KP youth. Addressing the condolence meeting of JTC, and SKF Shadi Lal Pandita asked the Union Government that how long the Pandits will be killed by militants in Valley. He alleged that the Government was misleading nation on return of peace in the Valley.

**National Democratic Party (NDP)** has also strongly condemned the killing of Sanjay Sharma in Pulwama today. The chief of the organization, Rajesh Gupta said that targeted killings continue in Valley and the minorities are totally feeling scared there. He said that despite the deployment of security forces in Kashmir the people are not safe there.

**Trikuta Kashmiri Samiti (TKS)** also condemned the dastardly act in strongest words. The Samiti in a statement said that this act has shattered the community once again and urged the Government to take strong measures to ensure safety and security of KPs in Valley.

**Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** State spokesperson, Partap Singh Jamwal has expressed his serious concern over the emerging security situation in Kashmir where a KP security guard has been killed by militants. He said the killing has exposed the claims of Government on the return of normalcy in the Valley.

**Democratic Azad Party (DAP)** leaders, Sanjay Dhar and Pauray Lal Pandita have also strongly condemned the killing of innocent KP youth and demanded adequate compensation to the family besides job to his next kin. They also demanded fool proof security to minorities living in Valley.

**Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC)** president Kundan Kashmiri while condemning the killing of a KP youth in Valley said this is an eye opener for Government on emerging security situation in Valley. He demanded that Government should rethink over its decision asking package employees to join their duties under prevailing circumstances.

**BJP** spokesperson and Prabhari KDD, G L Raina and its Seh Prbhari, H L Bhat have also strongly condemned the killing of peace loving minority community member in Valley. In a joint statement they said it is high time for majority community in Kashmir to revolt against the perpetrators of violence who have destroyed Kashmir over last three decades. They also demanded security to minorities including package and other employees in Valley.

**PDP** ex-State secretary youth and constituency in charge Habba Kadal, Arif Laigaroo has strongly condemned the killing of a KP Pulwama district. Liagroo demanded end to bloodshed.

**Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K** President Pandit Rajesh Kesari strongly condemned another targeted killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Pandita in Pulwama today. He expressed serious concern over targeting KPs time and again by Pak sponsored terrorists.

**Ladakh LG reviews preparedness for Y20 pre-summit****Excelsior Correspondent**

LEH, Feb 26: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) today held a meeting with the Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, at Raj Niwas, and reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Youth 20 (Y20) pre-summit.

As per a statement, the Youth20 (Y20) pre-summit would be held under the aegis of G20 at Leh from April 26 to 28.

During the meeting with the Principal Secretary, the press statement said that the Ladakh LG inquired about the steps being taken to tackle the crisis points including, the arrangement of medical facilities, lodging & boarding, transportation and security and theft.

It said that the Principal Secretary Khirwar informed LG that officials from across the globe are expected to arrive in Leh for the event for which arrangements such as emer-



LG Ladakh Brig (Retd) BD Mishra chairing a meeting with Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar.

gency medical facilities, standard operation procedures (SOPs), boarding and lodging, transportation and security arrangements have been put in place already. He further informed that all the arrangements are being made with close coordination with officials from the Government of India, it said.

The press statement further said that the LG Ladakh instructed that elaborate arrangements should be made for the delegates participating in the Y20 pre-summit with the

involvement of officials from top-to-bottom ranks.

Brig BD Mishra (Retd), the Lieutenant of Ladakh also inquired about the reasons for the delay in launching RTI online portal in Ladakh. Principal Secretary Khirwar informed that the process of RTI online portal has already begun and steps are being taken to engage manpower to operate the portal, it said. He instructed the Principal Secretary Khirwar to fix the timeline to launch RTI online portal at the earliest.

The LG Ladakh also inquired about the inordinate delay in the delivery of mails by India Post in Ladakh and the inconvenience faced by the people of Ladakh. He instructed Principal Secretary Khirwar to hold meetings with concerned officials within Leh and Kargil and also the concerned top officials from the Department of Post at Delhi to ensure that the mails are delivered promptly and the delay factors in the matter are ironed out at the earliest.

**Elections to be announced any time now: Koul Opposition misleading people on Property Tax: Kavinder****Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 26: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader has condemned the opposition parties for crying hoarse on imposition of Property Tax and misleading the people.

He was chairing a meeting of corporators to discuss present political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir here, today. Ashok Koul, general secretary (Org) was also present in the meeting.

Kavinder said that the lot of unwanted hue and cry by the opposition parties and their leaders over the imposition of Property Tax is totally unwarranted. He said that Property Tax is being projected by the opposition as a ghost despite the fact that Property Tax is not a new thing as the same is applicable in other states and UTs of the nation at much higher rates as compared to that of J&K.

He said that whatever funds are received by way of Property Tax will be spent on the development of the areas of jurisdiction of the respective Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the corporators, asked them to remain in public and make the people aware about the achievements of BJP Government. Asserting that elections will be



Warriors &amp; family members of martyrs at a function by Capt Tushar Mahajan Memorial Trust at Jammu on Sunday.

**Capt Tushar Memorial Trust honours disabled warriors, families of martyrs****Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 26: Emotional and patriotic fervor gripped large audience at Gandhi Nagar Women College auditorium on Sunday, where the physically disabled warriors and family members of martyrs from armed forces were honoured by Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Memorial Trust, Udhampur.

The programme was in connection with 7th Martyrdom Day of Captain Tushar Mahajan, who lost his life while fighting terrorists in the Pamphore area of South Kashmir in 2016.

Col (Retd) R K Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion while Major-General (Retd) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Major General Keshav Padha and Professor Minu Mahajan, Principal Govt College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu and Ritu Singh, President FICCI J&K, were the guests of honor on the occasion. Beside others, senior officers from the Army and Police, family members of martyrs and prominent citizens attended the function.

Chairman and Secretary of the Trust, Dev Raj Gupta, Shewetketu Singh, Asha Gupta (mother of Tushar) along with trust members Vikas Manhas, Ranjit Parihar, Karan Raina and Deepanker Gupta facilitated the chief guest and guests of honors.

Dev Raj Gupta highlighted various activities of the Trust. Students of the college present-

ed patriotic group song on the occasion.

Col (Retd) R K Sharma remembered Captain Tushar Mahajan for his exemplary indomitable courage and valour and said he was the epitome of true Indian soldier who did not mind sacrificing his life for the country. He said it was imperative to honour national heroes, especially martyrs, who had laid down their lives for safeguarding the nation as it imbued a sense of patriotism. He added that his courage, devotion and sacrifice would always be remembered and inspires everyone. He also appreciated the activities of the Trust.

Nine physically disabled warriors and three family members of martyrs from Indian armed forces hailing from different parts of the country were honoured on the occasion. They included family members of Lt Col Rishubh Sharma of 254 Army Aviation Corps, Flight Lt Aditya Bal, Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami A C of 9 Para and physically disabled warriors, namely Honorary Captain Jagdev Singh, Sub Captain Singh, Naik Gurmel Singh of 9 Para and Sub Umesh Singh of 14 JAT Regt, Hav Jagdish Singh of 14 JAK Rifles, Hav Hans Raj of 9 Para, Naik Sanjeev Singh of 8 JAKLI and Naik Udai Singh Dagar of 9 Para, Sub Umesh Chand of 14 JAT and Naik Deep Chand of Missile Regt. The documentaries of their valour were also shown on the occasion.

**Ahead of G20 Summit, Secy H&ME visits Gulmarg****Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Feb 26: Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, today visited Gulmarg to see the healthcare services being provided to the people and to review the arrangements for the upcoming G20 Summit.

He was accompanied by Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Block Medical Officer Tangmarg, officers from the R&B Department, PWD and Youth Services and Sports Department and various officers and officials of the health department.

During his visit, Administrative Secretary Health visited the existing PHC Gulmarg and also visited the proposed site for the make-shift hospital.

The Administrative Secretary Health directed the officers to make all the requisite arrangements for the people and also make foolproof arrangements for the upcoming G20 Summit.

Pertinently, he also directed Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, to make all healthcare arrangements en-route to Gulmarg and all the places for the G20 Summit as well as for the benefit of the public.



Bahu Fort people protesting against imposition of Property Tax in J&amp;K.

**People protest against Property Tax, new rules for Social Security Schemes****Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 26: A protest demonstration was held by people of Bahu Fort, Jammu, under the leadership of Sham Lal Basson, Corporator of Ward number - 48, Bahu Fort, Jammu, against imposition of Property

Tax in Jammu and Kashmir. They were also protesting against Govt Order number 156 JK (SWD) of 2022 according to which new rules under Integrated Social Security Scheme have been framed wherein for the purpose of availing financial assistance/pension, PHH/AAY (BPL) ration cards have been made mandatory.

The protesting people assembled opposite main gate of Bagh-e-Bahu Bahu Fort Jammu and shouted slogans against the LG Administration. They appealed Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately withdraw both the controversial orders.

While speaking on this occasion, Sham Lal Basson said that large scale protests are being organised by Chamber of Commerce and Industries Jammu, Bar Association, Bazar Associations and almost all political parties have shown resentment against Property Tax on both residential and commercial property. "Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma has said that the Administrative Council has superseded the powers of elected body of JMC and has imposed Property Tax however, no such resolution was introduced in any of the General House Meeting," said Mr Basson and added that the Mayor has failed to call Special General House Meeting despite promise for the same.

Sham Lal Basson also condemned the statement of LG Manoj Sinha that people of JKUT can purchase I-Phone and can play games but don't ready to pay taxes. "It is very difficult for the poor families of JK UT to make both ends meet now days because prices of all commodities have gone high. LG has played with the sentiments of poor family of JKUT," he added.

Also resenting the Govt Order number 156 JK (SWD) of 2022, the protesting people explained that more than 90 percent beneficiaries are holders of NPHH ration cards and they will be debarred from these benefits. Fresh potential applicants will not be able to apply for availing benefits under OAP/Widow pension scheme, they said and appealed LG to withdraw both the controversial orders.

Those who joined protest demonstration, included Bahadur Lal, Bishan Dass, Rattan Lal, Sham Kalsi, Tara Chand, Raj Kumar Gupta, Padma, Ramesh Chander Mehra, Tej Ram Kalsi, Isher Dass, Geeta Devi, Veero Devi, Darshna Devi, Hans Raj, Chand Gupta, Surinder Bangotra, Jeet Kumar, Krishan Lal, Garu Ram, Ghulam Ram and others.

**BJP befooled people through its false narrative: Harsh****Excelsior Correspondent**

CHENNAI, Feb 26: Accusing the BJP of having failed and floundered in honouring its commitments with the people of J&K, Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and senior NPP leader said that the saffron party was thriving merely on empty rhetoric and false propaganda.

"While it promised a Job bonanza for educated youth post Art 370 abrogation, it did exactly the opposite by terminating several youth working in various Govt depts. The lands of poor farmers are being forcibly retrieved and indigent rural masses being forced to starvation. The Health and educational institutions in rural areas are facing chronic deficiency of staff. The BJP leadership exploited the gullibility of the innocent voters during all elections held in the past eight years, including those of Parliament, Assembly, BDC and DDC, without delivering anything on the ground," he said while addressing public meetings in Samroli and Ghanawal villages of Chenani constituency today.

Urging upon the people to recognize real face of BJP behind its deceptive facades, Harsh Dev said that it was coming out with new slogans during

each elections only to conceal its past failures and to enkindling new hopes amongst the poor indigent and deprived masses in order to fulfil its political ambitions. He urged upon the people to wake up to the falsehood and innuendo of BJP which has been tailoring its slogans with the sole aim of capturing power.

Pointing towards the local issues of the area, Mr. Singh called for opening of adequate number of ration depots in the remote areas so as to facilitate the delivery of civil supplies to the people in their native villages. He regretted that several Panchayats of Chenani including Kither, Chirdi, Ladha, Chapper etc did not have any ration depot as a result of which the eligible BPL families had to travel 8-10 kms on foot to collect their subsidized ration thereby defeating the very purpose of the scheme. He called for timely release of instalments under PM's Awas Yojana which had been delayed for years in several cases. He called for early payment of compensation for lands and structures acquired from farmers for construction of PMGSY roads namely Karlah road, Ghanawal road, Chirdi Ladha road, Nalgaita-Rajar road; Tandhar-Charat road, Satyalta and Pakhlai roads.