

North in News

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"Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan"

Let's build a J&K where our youth's energy illuminates the world, not destroys itself: LG

Sinha flags off the Padyatra under Drug Free Jammu Kashmir campaign

Let us confront this challenge with unyielding resolve: LG Sinha

JAMMU, 13 APRIL 2026: "A drug-free Jammu Kashmir will emerge not from one person, but from collective action. Society must realize that drugs don't just kill individuals, they erode entire villages, wards and cities' honor and destiny. Let's build a J&K where our youth's energy illuminates the world, not

destroys itself. Let us confront this challenge with unyielding resolve," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing a massive public rally at Sports Stadium Kathua, where he launched a people's movement against narcotics under the Drug Free Jammu Kashmir campaign.



The Lieutenant Governor led a Padyatra from the Sports Stadium to Government Degree College, Kathua, joined by thousands of citizens, public representatives, senior officials, civil society members, social activists, NGOs, women, students and various stakeholders, all united under a shared resolve to make Jammu Kashmir Nasha Mukta. The Lieutenant Governor called upon every citizen, every Kathua family, to rise and unite against drug abuse. "I ignite a people's revolution to eradicate drugs from every panchnayat, every alley, every family in

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Search operation launched in Kathua after possible terrorist movement

JAMMU, APR 13: Security forces on Monday launched a search operation in several border areas of Rajbigh and Ramkote in Kathua district following information about suspicious movement of suspected terrorists, officials said. The suspicious movement of two armed persons, also carrying heavy backpacks, was reported from Soffian village towards Aamdal forest side in Rajbigh area this morning, the officials said. They said police assisted by Army and CRPF started a search and cordon operation immediately after getting the information, which was continuing when last reports were received, but there was no trace of the suspected terrorists, the officials said. In March last year, a gunfight in Soffian forest had left four policemen and two terrorists of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit dead. The area is being used by terrorists to move towards hinterland after sneaking from across the international



Special Operations Group of local police along with CRPF also launched a search operation at Panjirtiri, Bhini Nallah, Barota, Aglidhar and adjoining areas in Ramkote sector of Kathua around 12.15 pm, the officials said. Meanwhile, police and army are also continuing searches for the second day in SIDCO forest area of nearby Samba district, which was launched early Sunday after two suspected persons were noticed moving under the cover of darkness, the officials said.

Director Information felicitates Winners of 'Talent Vista-Poster Making, Slogan Writing Competition on Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan' at Jammu



JAMMU, APRIL 13: Making and Slogan Writing Competition on Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan' at Media Complex here. Speaking on the occasion,

the Director Information congratulated the winners and applauded all participants for their exceptional creativity and commitment towards the social cause. She emphasized that such awareness campaigns play a crucial role in sensitizing society, especially the younger generation, about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the need for collective efforts to eradicate this menace. The Director further reiterated the Administration's commitment to strengthening

(Contd on Pg 2)

Parliamentary standing committee On energy meets CM Omar in Gulmarg



GULMARG, APR 13: A study group of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy today met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during its visit to the region. During the interaction, the Committee apprised the Chief Minister of the objectives of their visit

(Contd on Pg 2)

Iran ready for peace, also ready for war: Iran envoy as US port blockade kicks in

NEW DELHI, APR 13: Iran is open to holding another round of peace talks with the US if it refrains from "unlawful demands" and accepts Tehran's conditions, Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali said Monday, as the US blockade of Iranian ports takes effect, further escalating the tensions. The US and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan that ended early Sunday without a breakthrough, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the



stalemate. Fathali also responded to the US military blockade on shipping traffic entering and leaving Iranian ports saying Washington knows the capabilities of Iran and that Tehran is fully prepared for "all options". "If you want progress in any diplomatic process, (both) sides should be ready for negotiations. And they should avoid unlawful demands," Fathali told a media briefing at the Iranian embassy. "Our high-ranking officials said we are ready for peace, we are ready for negotiations. But you

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Man, woman found dead in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, APR 13: A man and a girl, who were reported missing around two weeks ago, found dead under mysterious circumstances on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag, officials said. The bodies were recovered from an abandoned house in Kamad in the Diagam area of the district, the officials said. They said the deceased have been identified as local residents of Anantnag district - Muntazir Shafi Lone, 25, and a suspected minor girl. The duo were reported missing around two weeks ago and their semi decomposed bodies were found by the locals Monday, the officials said. A forensic team has been rushed to the spot for evidence, the

(Contd on Pg 2)

Tulip garden to be closed as bloom season ends

SRINAGAR, APR 13: The Indra Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, a major tourist attraction in Kashmir in the spring season, will be closed to the public as bloom season comes to an end, an official said here on Monday. The decision to close the garden on Thursday, located on the banks of Dal Lake here, was taken based on the recommendation of a team of experts, the official said. The garden was shown open to the public by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on March 16, a week ahead of schedule due to a sudden rise in temperature leading to early tulip bloom. The garden was among 44 destinations closed for tourists last year following the Pahalgam terror

(Contd on Pg 2)

RS to elect its deputy chairman on Apr 17; NDA likely to renominate Harivansh

NEW DELHI, APR 13: The Rajya Sabha will hold the election for the post of deputy chairman on April 17, and the ruling NDA is likely to push for re-electing Harivansh to the key post. The post of the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha fell vacant after the tenure of Harivansh ended on April 9. Harivansh has since been nominated to the Upper House by President Droupadi Murmu and took oath on April 10. Union minister and BJP leader JP

Nadda, who is also leader of the house in Rajya Sabha, is learnt to have discussed the re-election of Harivansh as deputy chairman with leaders of various parties, while trying to bring about a broad consensus on his name. However, the Congress, TMC and Left parties have raised objections to the "keenness" the ruling party is showing in holding elections for filling the post of deputy chairman of the Upper House, when the minister and BJP leader JP

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Music Legend Asha Bhosle Cremated In Mumbai With Full State Honours

MUMBAI, APR 13: India bid an emotional farewell to legendary singer Asha Bhosle, who was cremated in Mumbai on Monday (April 13) with full state honours. The iconic voice, which shaped Indian music for over eight decades, was mourned by thousands as her final journey unfolded through the city.



wearing a traditional Maharashtrian nath'. As the cortege moved through the streets, residents gathered along the route.

Fans Bid Farewell The vehicle carrying Asha Bhosle's body travelled from her Lower Parel residence to Shivaji Park crematorium in Dadar. Adorned with white and yellow flowers, the hearse also featured a large photograph of the singer

(Contd on Pg 2)

GOC Mukherji warns of 'befitting response' to any enemy hostility on borders in J-K

RAJOURI/JAMMU, APR 13: Army troops are on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts and are fully prepared to deliver a befitting response to any hostile act by the enemy, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Ace of Spades Division, Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherji said on Monday. Addressing a well-attended gathering at the 'Rajouri Day' event in the border district, he lauded the role of the local populace and said they will continue to work together in coordination to foil the nefarious designs of the enemy. 'Rajouri Day' is being celebrated on April 13 every year to commemorate the bravery and valour of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the liberation of Rajouri district from Pakistan Army personnel who had infil-

trated from across the border in 1947-48. "Going forward as well, the people of Pir Panjal, the administration, and the security forces will continue to work together in coordination and will always foil the nefarious designs of the enemy. I assure you that our army is fully alert at the borders and is ready to give a befitting response to every hostile act of the enemy," the officer said. Maj Gen Mukherji said when the Army protects the borders, the local population stands shoulder to shoulder with the forces, strengthening internal security. "This trust, partnership, and sense of patriotism constitute the greatest strengths of our region," he said. He paid heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor.

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LG VK Saxena Visits Eastern Portal Of Zoji-La Tunnel To Review Ongoing Work

KARGIL, APR 13: The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today visited the Eastern Portal of Zoji-La Tunnel to inspect the ongoing construction work during his visit to Drass, reviewing progress on one of the most significant infrastructure projects aimed at ensuring all-weather connectivity to Ladakh. During the inspection, the Lieutenant Governor was given a detailed presentation on the project. He was informed that the tunnel, being executed by Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd at a sanctioned cost of Rs 6,808.69 crore, is expected to be completed by February 2028. It was further apprised that the breakthrough of the tunnel



is anticipated by mid-2026. The project incorporates modern engineering features, including lay-bys at intervals of every 750 metres and three ventilation shafts to ensure operational efficiency and safety. The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed on the use of the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) from both the western and eastern portals for excavation. However, officials highlighted that poor rock quality in certain stretches has posed challenges, impacting the pace of progress. Expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, the Lieutenant Governor directed the concerned officials to further expedite the work to ensure timely completion and early operationalisation of the tunnel, which will be crucial for ensuring year-round con-

nectivity to Ladakh. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest safety standards during construction and in the final structure, keeping in view the safety and security of commuters. Describing the Zoji-La Tunnel as one of the dream projects of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saxena commended the dedication and resilience of the workforce engaged in the project, acknowledging their efforts in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. He observed that upon completion, the tunnel will not only ensure seamless connectivity between Ladakh and the rest of the country but will also significantly boost tourism in the region. Highlighting its strategic

(Contd on Pg 2)

CM Sukhu Calls on Governor Kavinder Gupta



SHIMLA, APRIL 13: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu called on Governor Kavinder Gupta at Lok Bhavan, today.

During the courtesy meeting, the Chief Minister honoured the Governor by presenting him with a traditional

Misconduct allegations rock Sopore school, lecturer suspended

SRINAGAR, APR 13: Authorities on Monday suspended a senior lecturer following allegations of serious misconduct involving girl students in north Kashmir's Sopore sub-district. J&K Police have also registered a case against the lecturer, who is posted at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Sopore. According to an official order issued by the Directorate of School Education Kashmir, the Urdu lecturer has been placed under suspension with immediate effect pending an inquiry into his conduct. The order further states that the accused has been attached to BHSS Badagam, Gurez in Bandipora district, while the Joint Director (North)

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FROM PAGE ONE

Let's...

Kathua district. This is no dream, it's my unbreakable pledge," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that our future won't be scripted in documents but forged through decisions of this people's movement in the next three months.

"We have crafted a well-planned 100-day roadmap- six phased steps fueling systematic resolve. Month one ignites awareness and mobilization; month two deepens community/family penetration; month three cements sustainability.

Next three months won't just run a campaign but they will seek seeds for lasting change in J&K. The campaign's cornerstone is compassionate rehabilitation. We must shift our mindset: addicts are patients and they need our help and support," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for a more effective, accessible, humane rehabilitation centers where lives are reclaimed.

"We will crack down hard on traffickers and criminals, but those trapped need empathy and mercy. If a youth strays, we help him recover," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the police officials to prepare 'Top Drug Peddlers' lists at all Police Stations and take decisive action to dismantle drug networks within 30 days.

He asked the police authorities to adopt a focused and time-bound approach for complete elimination of drug syndicate.

Warning drug syndicates of an impending crackdown, the Lieutenant Governor stated that a groundbreaking Standard Operating Procedure, recently notified, will ruthlessly crush smugglers by revoking their passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar cards, and arms licenses.

"Under the NDPS Act, we will confiscate all movable and immovable assets, freeze bank accounts, and launch exhaustive financial probes. I want to assure the people of Jammu Kashmir that no perpetrator will escape justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon women's self-help groups to form a Women Vigilance Squad for monitoring the drug abuse cases and informing senior officials about the activities in their areas.

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The Lieutenant Governor called upon women's self-help groups to form a Women Vigilance Squad for monitoring the drug abuse cases and informing senior officials about the activities in their areas.

"People say, 'This isn't my problem.' This official must go. We must remember that true prosperity stems not just from wealth, but vigilant and collective resolve.

Government and society must unite for surveillance, rally anti-drug support, and cultivate drug-free villages and towns. We have empowered our police and agencies with full authority to dismantle drug syndicates, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said a youth who grasps life's purpose becomes our strongest weapon against drugs. He entrusted upon the NGOs and activists to drive grassroots efforts and feedback.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered an 'Anti-Drug Pledge' and launched the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Anthem. The event also featured powerful awareness video by DIPR and programs, where renowned artists and students used Nukkad Nataks, cultural performances, songs, and poetry to mobilize the public against the menace of narcotics.

Director...

public outreach initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. She encouraged the participants and young minds to continue participating in awareness-driven activities that contribute positively to society. The Director presented certificates and mementos to the winners for their creative efforts and meaningful contributions towards spreading awareness against drug abuse. Pertinently, the competition witnessed more than 3600 entries across Jammu and Kashmir. Sneha Devi from Dewan Devi Public School won in Slogan Writing while as Priya Rathore from Udhampur achieved first rank in poster making competition.

Information Officers Maheer Thakur and Alka Mishra were also present during the felicitation ceremony.

Parliamentary...

and deliberated on key issues pertaining to the power sector. The Chief Minister underscored the Government's commitment to strengthening energy infrastructure, enhancing power reliability, and expediting reforms to effectively meet the growing demand across Jammu & Kashmir.

The members highlighted key issues related to energy

infrastructure, renewable energy potential, and the need for strengthening power supply systems in the region.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah welcomed the Committee members and appreciated their keen interest in assessing the energy scenario of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of sustained investments in the power sector to meet the growing demand and to ensure reliable and affordable electricity for all sections of society.

The Chief Minister also underlined the government's focus on harnessing Jammu and Kashmir's vast hydroelectric potential and promoting clean and renewable energy initiatives.

The Committee and the Chief Minister also discussed various challenges faced by the sector. The Chief Minister assured full cooperation and support from the Jammu and Kashmir Government in facilitating the Committee's work and implementing recommendations that would contribute to strengthening the energy sector.

It is pertinent to mention that the study group is part of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy, tasked with examining subjects related to the Ministry of Power and allied sectors.

MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah was also present on the occasion.

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Iran ready...

should know that Iran is also ready for war," he said.

"They wanted to finish the war in three or four days, but the duration, the scope and the geography of the war are under our control. You can see this situation after the 42-day war," he said.

The Iranian ambassador was responding to questions on whether Iran was ready for a new round of talks as the negotiations between the two sides in Islamabad ended without producing any outcome.

The Iranian side had unveiled some "key points" during the negotiations held in Islamabad, including the nuclear issue, war reparations and relief from sanctions, Fathali said.

Hours after the Iran-US talks ended without any outcome, President Donald Trump said the US military will begin a blockade to stop ships from entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz and stop all traffic entering and leaving Iranian ports starting 10 am ET (7:30 pm Indian time) on Monday.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping route that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

When Fathali was asked about the US blockade of Iranian ports, he said the American side is "very well aware of our capacity and capabilities".

"Our high-ranking officials have said they are ready for all options. You can see how in our response and reaction," he said.

The ambassador also asserted that the Strait of Hormuz is part of Iran's "territorial waters".

Iran will soon announce a mechanism for using the waterway, he said.

"Iran announced that the Strait of Hormuz is part of the territorial waters of Iran and Oman, and we said that in the near future, we will announce the mechanism for the passage through this strait," Fathali said.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a separate media briefing that India is closely following developments in West Asia, including those related to the Strait of Hormuz.

"As we have continuously advocated earlier, de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy are essential to bring an early end to the conflict. We expect that unimpeded freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce would prevail in the Strait of Hormuz," Jaiswal said.

To a question on whether Indian ships will have to pay a toll for passage through the strait, Fathali did not give a direct reply but said Iran has good relations with India and referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's phone conversations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on two occasions since the start of the war in West Asia on February 28.

"I believe Iran and India have common interests in the region. I also believe Iran and India have a common fate in the region," he said.

The envoy inaugurated an exhibition of drawings made by the children of a school in the Iranian city of Minab that was hit in a missile strike when the war started on February 28. More than 160 people, mostly schoolgirls, were killed in the strike.

Fathali said the military strikes by Israel and the US have killed 3,753 people, including 887 women and 221 children under the age of 18 since start of the war on February

28.

attacks also injured more than 30,000, including 4,989 women and 1,979 children, Fathali said, alleging Israel and the US have targeted hospitals, residential settlements, recreational facilities, religious sites, bridges, railway networks and petroleum infrastructure.

RS to...

post of deputy speaker in Lok Sabha has been vacant since 2019. An official announcement said that the election for the post of deputy chairman will be held on April 17 at 11 AM.

"The office of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha having fallen vacant. The Chairman has, under rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), fixed Friday, the 17 of April, 2026, as the date for holding the election to the said office of the Deputy Chairman.

"The election will take place at 11-00 AM immediately after laying of papers/reports on the Table on that day," a notification from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said.

Members can give notices of motions for election to the office of deputy chairman up to 12 noon on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Those members who have yet to take oath as members of the Rajya Sabha will also take their oath/affirmation on Thursday, April 16, when the upper house meets for a special session, during which the amendments to the Women's Reservation Act will be taken up.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the government wants to "bulldoze" the appointment of the deputy chairman in the Rajya Sabha.

"A government that does not appoint a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha for seven years wants to bulldoze the appointment of a Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha in less than four days," Ramesh said.

Tamilnad Congress Leader Derek O'Brien said the BJP wanted to hold the election for the deputy chairman in the Upper House on April 17 when the MPs are busy with state elections and questioned the "hurry".

"Mocking Parliament Again," O'Brien said in a post on X.

"Post of Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha vacant since 2019. Why is BJP in such a hurry to fill post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, vacant only for 10 days (sic)," O'Brien said in a post on X.

"Why does the BJP want to have this election on April 17 when MPs busy with polls in their states? Shameless," he said.

CPI leader P Sandosh also questioned the government, saying, "The BJP should show the same keenness in electing the deputy speaker in Lok Sabha, a post which has not been filled for several years."

Harivansh, who was elected twice to the Rajya Sabha as a JDU candidate from Bihar, has held the post of deputy chairman for two terms and handled several contentious matters in the Upper House.

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GOC Mukherji...

including Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa, Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Havaladar Sunil Kumar, Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar and Agniveer Mund Murlu Nayak - all awarded Sena Medals posthumously in May last year.

The army officer also shared information about a number of new initiatives being taken by the Army in Rajouri and the nearby Poonch district for the welfare of the local population.

To address pollution caused by plastic waste, the GOC said the Army, in coordination with the civil administration, is set to install a plant that will convert waste plastic into interlocking tiles. These tiles will be used for constructing tracks in forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

He said the initiative would not only help curb plastic pollution but also generate employment for local residents, while aiding Army troops along the LoC by improving mobility in forward areas.

The Army officer also spoke about the 'Digital Bharat Darshan' initiative, stating that under the programme, the Army will facilitate students of government schools to virtually visit a major city every month from within their classrooms.

He said the initiative aims to expose students to the development taking place across the country and help connect those from border areas with mainstream cities.

He said that the 'Digital Bharat Darshan' is an upgraded version of the earlier Bharat Darshan tours, where only a

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including Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa, Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Havaladar Sunil Kumar, Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar and Agniveer Mund Murlu Nayak - all awarded Sena Medals posthumously in May last year.

The army officer also shared information about a number of new initiatives being taken by the Army in Rajouri and the nearby Poonch district for the welfare of the local population.

To address pollution caused by plastic waste, the GOC said the Army, in coordination with the civil administration, is set to install a plant that will convert waste plastic into interlocking tiles. These tiles will be used for constructing tracks in forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

He said the initiative would not only help curb plastic pollution but also generate employment for local residents, while aiding Army troops along the LoC by improving mobility in forward areas.

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Music...

Hridaynath Mangeshkar, were present during the last rites. Singers Anup Jalota and Shaan delivered soulful renditions at the funeral, while actor Amir Khan was spotted arriving at the crematorium Earlier in the day, fans and well-wishers were allowed to pay their last respects during a public viewing at her residence.

Full State Honours And Ceremonial Tribute

Asha Bhosle was accorded full state honours during her final rites. Her body, brought from Breach Candy Hospital, was placed in a glass casket draped in the Indian tricolour. A ceremonial police salute was also held.

Celebrities Gather To Pay Tribute

Several prominent figures from the worlds of cinema, music, and sport gathered to honour the legend. Among those present were Sachin Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar.

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L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena visits Kargil War Memorial at Drass

Pays homage to Bravehearts

Drass, April 13: The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today paid heartfelt homage to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation at the Kargil War Memorial.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor laid a wreath at the memorial and offered floral tributes to the martyrs, followed by a solemn silence in their honour. The visit reflected deep reverence and gratitude towards the valour and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Lieutenant Governor also visited the 'Hut of Re-



membrane' at the War Memorial, where he viewed the preserved letters and photographs of soldiers who laid down their lives during the Kargil conflict.

Expressing his sentiments, the Lieutenant Governor stated that it was a true honour and privilege to visit the Kargil War Memorial and

hearts of the Indian Armed Forces who laid down their lives to protect the dignity and freedom of our motherland. The memorial stands as a solemn tribute to the fallen soldiers and their families. I bow to our Kargil martyrs and salute their supreme sacrifice," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the nation will always remain indebted to the brave soldiers who safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country,

Crackdown on drug smugglers would crush drug network in UT: Baldev Billawaria

Jammu, Apr 13: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria hailed the strong measures announced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to crack down on drug smugglers and trafficking networks, terming the initiative a decisive step that would crush the drug network in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. Describing the initiative as a "firm and transformative step," Billawaria stated that the administration's zero-tolerance policy reflects an unwavering commitment to eradicate the drug menace, which has been

adversely affecting the youth and disrupting the social fabric of the Union Territory. He expressed confidence that the comprehensive strategy outlined by the Lieutenant Governor will significantly weaken and ultimately dismantle organized drug networks operating in the region. Appreciating the provision for confiscation of properties of those involved in drug smuggling, Baldev said that targeting the financial assets of offenders is a key strategy to break the backbone of such illegal operations. He said that this step would not only ensure strict punishment for offenders but also serve as a strong deterrent against future involvement in drug-related crimes. He also welcomed the decision to cancel important official documents such as passports, driving licenses, and Aadhaar cards of individuals found involved in drug trafficking. He said that these measures will effectively restrict the movement and functioning of offenders while underlining the seriousness of the government's resolve. Billawaria further lauded the move to freeze bank accounts of accused individuals, emphasizing that choking financial channels is essential to uproot drug trafficking networks completely. He stressed that strict prosecution of ringleaders would ensure that those masterminding these illegal activities are brought to justice in a timely manner. He asserted that sustained and consistent legal action is necessary to permanently curb the drug menace and urged enforcement agencies to act firmly, fairly, and



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transparently while implementing these measures. Referring to the launch of the 100-day "Drug-Free J&K" campaign, Baldev Singh Billawaria described it as a major initiative aimed at encouraging public participation in eradicating drug abuse. He highlighted that awareness, vigilance, and community cooperation are crucial for the success of such campaigns. Billawaria added that the ongoing campaign reflects the Prime Minister's Narendra Modi commitment to building a healthy, drug-free India and expressed confidence that these efforts will yield lasting results in J&K.

presenting him with a bouquet, reflecting his humble, simple, and gracious personality. On this occasion, on behalf of the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanshan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented a sacred image of Lord Mahakal to him, symbolizing faith, spiritual strength, and good wishes. In his statement, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Shri

"With the experience of DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma, the administrative system will become more strong and active": Mahant Rohit Shastri



Jammu/Udhampur: A courtesy meeting was held at the official residence of newly appointed DIG of the Udhampur-Reasi Range, IPS Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanshan Trust, in his honor. During the meeting, Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma warmly welcomed Mahant Rohit Shastri by

presenting him with a bouquet, reflecting his humble, simple, and gracious personality. On this occasion, on behalf of the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanshan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented a sacred image of Lord Mahakal to him, symbolizing faith, spiritual strength, and good wishes. In his statement, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Shri

Shiv Kumar Sharma is a hardworking, honest, and duty-bound officer who, through his administrative experience and working style, has always set high standards of public service, transparency, and good governance. He expressed confidence that under his efficient leadership, law and order and public safety in the Udhampur-Reasi Range will gain new direction and strength, providing a safer environment for the general public. He further said that the role of the police administration is extremely important in maintaining peace, security, and harmony in society, and under the leadership of such dedicated officers, this responsibility can be carried out more effectively.

Shiksha Niketan Celebrates Baisakhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti with great enthusiasm



Jammu, Apr 13: On 13th of April, Shiksha Niketan celebrated the vibrant festival of Baisakhi and the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with immense enthusiasm and cultural spirit marking a joyful start to the new academic session. According to the Hindu Calendar, Baisakhi is the First day of the year. The Joint Celebrations highlighted

the rich cultural heritage of India along with the dedication to social justice and equality. The school campus came alive with vibrant decorations reflecting the Punjabi heritage. Students of various classes dressed in traditional attire performed Bhangra and Gidda dances showcasing the Joyous essence of the harvest festival, Baisakhi. The celebrations included

respectful tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution on his birth anniversary. Principal Sh. Rameshwar Mengi congratulated students and staff emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural traditions while promoting values of dedications, unity and equality among the youth. He also applauded Ms Navya Sharma of class 9th for winning content 'Kisme Kima Hai Dum' season 12 which is telecast in DD Punjabi. At last gifts and appreciation certificates were distributed among the participants.

Kesri organizes welfare camp at Purkhoo to facilitate Govt schemes

On-the-spot services provided for ration cards, labour benefits; residents laud initiative

Jammu: A welfare camp was organised by Shiv Sena Hindustan at Purkhoo Camp under the chairmanship of Jammu and Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesari, aimed at ensuring that benefits of Central Government schemes reach the grassroots level. The camp witnessed active participation from local residents, especially economically weaker sections, who availed various services without the need to visit government offices multiple times. During the camp, several issues related to ration cards were resolved on the spot, including correction of details, addition of new members, and rectification of errors in names. Assistance was also provided for labour cards and



awareness about various welfare schemes introduced by the Government of India. Organisers stated that the initiative was taken to reduce the hardships faced by poor people who often find it difficult to make repeated visits to government offices. "These camps are meant to bring governance to the doorstep of the people, especially those who cannot afford time and resources to navigate bureaucratic procedures,"

said representatives at the event. A large number of beneficiaries expressed satisfaction, stating that they received services conveniently within their locality. They appreciated the efforts of the organisation for simplifying access to essential documentation and government schemes. Residents also extended their gratitude to both Shiv Sena Hindustan and the Central Government for making such facilities accessible.

Addressing the gathering, Kesri urged people, particularly the youth, to stay away from drug abuse and focus on education. He emphasized that education is the key to building a strong future and helps in keeping individuals away from social evils. "An educated child contributes positively to society and plays a vital role in nation-building," he remarked, highlighting the importance of instilling patriotism and responsibility among the younger generation. Kesri also assured that similar camps would be organised again to cover those who could not avail benefits this time, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to public welfare.

Badluagar Resounds with Slogans: "We May Eat Half a Roti, But We Will Go to School!"

Jammu, April 13: Today, students, teachers, and members of the School Management Committee at the Primary School in Badluagar, Kairana, organized a rally as part of the "School Chalo Abhiyan" (Go to School Campaign). Their objective was to raise awareness regarding the importance of education and to encourage the enrollment of every child in the school; through this rally, they successfully sensitized the parents in the community. To mark this occasion, Headmaster Rakesh Saini arranged for traditional drums and percussion instruments to be played. Hearing the rhythmic beats of the drums, residents stepped out of their homes and were deeply moved by the spirited slogans being chanted



by the children. Headmaster Rakesh Saini addressed the gathering, urging the people to make whatever sacrifices necessary—even if it meant eating one less meal—but to ensure, under any circumstances, that they send their children to school. He emphasized that if they

wish to secure a bright future for their children, they must send them to school today. He further encouraged the community to regard the school as a temple and education as an act of worship. The entire school staff extended their full cooperation in making this event a success.

Meenakshi, Rohit & Rajan conducts content creation workshop at TCB Studio

Jammu, April 13, 2026: A six-day intensive workshop on content creation, organised by The Chatter Box, concluded today at TCB Studio in Jammu. The workshop was conducted under the mentorship of Rohit Verma, an alumnus of the Academy of Theatre Arts, Mumbai University, who has performed in 100 productions, represented her work at prestigious platforms including the National School of Drama and international theatre festivals, and is the co-founder of TCB Studio,



and Rajan Janyal, a renowned mentalist with over 300 performances, known for delivering high-impact experiences for Fortune 500 companies and redefining modern mentalism through psychological insight and audience engagement. Established by National Scholarship holders in the theatre, Shivam Singh and

Meenakshi Bhagat, The Chatter Box has been consistently working towards creating platforms for young individuals to develop skills in media and performing arts. The workshop commenced with the theme "Find Your Vibe," focusing on self-exploration. Participants engaged in various exercises aimed at identifying

their strengths, interests, and creative direction. A dedicated session on stage fear addressed common challenges faced during public performances, where mentors introduced practical techniques to manage anxiety and build confidence. Subsequent sessions focused on key aspects of content creation, including

scripting, teamwork, consistency, and spontaneity. Participants were guided on how to develop ideas into structured and engaging content. Another session titled "Unfiltered & Unscripted" emphasised emotional expression, encouraging participants to channel personal experiences into their creative work. The workshop also featured sessions on storytelling, highlighting narrative structure and audience engagement through relatable themes. The concluding sessions focused on public speaking, where participants were trained in body language, voice modulation, and effective speech delivery to enhance their presentation skills.

Tarun Uppal Meets MP Shirrang Appa Barne to Discuss Youth Empowerment and Cultural Exchange Between J&K and Maharashtra

Jammu, 13 April – Tarun Uppal, Chairperson of the Nirbhay Bharat Foundation, recently met with Member of Parliament Shri Shirrang Appa Barne in Jammu for an in-depth discussion on the social and political landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. During their meeting, Uppal highlighted opportunities for collaboration to support youth development and proposed the launch of a cultural and educational exchange programme between the youth of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) and Maharashtra. The meeting focused on

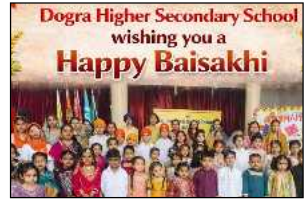


understanding the current challenges and potential pathways to empower young people in these regions. Uppal emphasized the importance of cross-cultural interaction and exposure to new ideas as a catalyst for youth growth and community integration. "By initiating an exchange programme, we can create a platform for young people from J&K and Maharashtra to share their unique cultures, perspectives, and aspirations," said Uppal. MP Shirrang Appa Barne welcomed the proposal, acknowledging the positive impact such initiatives can have

on fostering mutual understanding and broadening horizons among youth. Both leaders agreed that collaboration between organizations and policymakers is essential to build more inclusive and vibrant communities. The Nirbhay Bharat Foundation's vision to drive social change and youth engagement aligns with efforts to nurture leadership and innovation among young citizens. This discussion marks a significant step towards exploring concrete initiatives and partnerships that can make lasting contributions to society,

Dogra Higher Secondary School Commemorates Baisakhi with Cultural Assembly Honoring Heritage and Values

Jammu, Apr 13: Students and staff at Dogra Higher Secondary School (DHSS) observed Baisakhi with fervor, blending tradition and inspiration in a special assembly. The program commenced with Shabad Kiran recitals, followed by group songs and poems illuminating the festival's significance. A poignant group Shabad paid tribute to Guru Gobind Singh Ji's formation of the Khalsa, underscoring themes of spiritual purity, courage, and faith. Principal Major Bhawna Devi, Reid conveyed management's greetings and delivered the keynote address. "Baisakhi reminds us of the farmer's arduous labor in cultivating crops



that sustain us," she stated. "We must honor this by avoiding food wastage—every grain counts." She also reflected on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti: "As the architect of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar taught equality and justice. We honor him by adhering to rules in

school and society." The assembly concluded with a solemn Ardas evoking humility and gratitude, followed by distribution of Kasha Prasad to symbolize communal prosperity. DHSS reaffirms its commitment to academic excellence, cultural preservation, and fostering unity.



China's 'fictitious naming' won't change reality: Gaurav slams Beijing over new county near Arunachal, PoK

China can rename maps, not realities: Gaurav

Jammu, 13 April 2026: BIP spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Monday launched a blistering attack on China over its latest move to create and rename administrative regions near Arunachal Pradesh and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, calling Beijing a "repeated offender and habitual liar" engaged in "manufacturing geography to suit its expansionist agenda." Reacting to reports of China establishing a new county-Cenling-in its Xinjiang

region near the strategically sensitive Wakhan Corridor, Gupta said the move is part of a "well-calculated geopolitical design" aimed at reinforcing illegitimate territorial claims and altering facts on the ground through propaganda. "China believes that by renaming places and creating new administrative units, it can rewrite geography. But let me state unequivocally false claims will not alter reality," Gupta asserted. He emphasized that the development is not an isolated incident but part of a consistent

pattern, recalling Beijing's earlier attempts to create Hean and Hekang counties in areas overlapping with India's claimed territory in Ladakh, including parts of Aksai Chin. Gupta said these actions clearly demonstrate China's intent to "incrementally expand control while masking it under administrative restructuring." Gupta further underlined that the newly created county's proximity to the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow strip connecting Afghanistan to Xinjiang highlights China's security-driven



including concerns over Uyghur militancy and regional instability. However, he warned that such justifications cannot legitimize encroachments into

disputed or sovereign territories. Reaffirming India's firm stance, Gupta declared "Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. No amount of Chinese propaganda or 'fictitious naming' exercises can change this undeniable truth." Drawing sharp parallels with Pakistan, Gupta accused China of adopting Islamabad's long-standing strategy of pushing baseless claims over Jammu & Kashmir and PoK. He described the growing alignment between the

two countries as a "chor-chor alliance," alleging a coordinated attempt to distort facts and challenge India's territorial sovereignty. "This nexus between China and Pakistan is not coincidental. It reflects a deeper, strategic collusion aimed at creating confusion, spreading misinformation, and undermining India's territorial integrity," he said. Gupta also termed the move provocative and destabilizing, warning that such actions risk escalating tensions in an already sensitive region. "This is not diplomacy; this is

deception. It is a deliberate attempt to provoke and test India's resolve," he added. Calling on the international community to take serious note of what he described as China's "pattern of repeated violations and narrative manipulation," Gupta said India will continue to respond firmly and decisively to any such attempts. He concluded by reiterating that India remains fully committed to safeguarding its sovereignty and will not allow any distortion of facts or geography to succeed.

Sapna Hindu Welcomes 100-Day Anti-Drug Campaign Launched by Manoj Sinha

Jammu, Apr 13: Sapna Hindu, Board Member of Movement Kalki, has warmly welcomed the 100-day Anti-Drug Campaign launched in Jammu by Manoj Sinha, describing it as a timely and much-needed initiative to safeguard the future of the youth. She stated that the growing menace of drug abuse among young people has become a serious concern for society, and such a focused and structured campaign can play a crucial role in addressing this issue effectively. In her statement, Sapna Hindu emphasized that drug addiction not only destroys an individual's life but also deeply affects families, communities, and the nation as a whole. A youth trapped in substance abuse loses direction, potential, and opportunities, ultimately weakening



the foundation of society. She stressed the importance of early intervention, awareness, and collective responsibility in tackling this issue. She further said that the initiative taken by Manoj Sinha reflects a strong commitment towards building a healthier and

drug-free society. The 100-day campaign is expected to create awareness, encourage rehabilitation, and mobilize community participation to combat drug abuse at all levels. Appealing directly to the youth, Sapna Hindu urged them to stay away from drugs and focus on building a meaningful and successful future. She said that the youth are the backbone of the nation, and their energy, creativity, and determination are essential for the country's growth and progress. She highlighted that drugs are not a solution to stress or challenges, but rather a path that leads to destruction and regret. Instead, youth should channel their energy into education, sports, innovation, and nation-building activities. Sapna Hindu also emphasized that such campaigns should not remain limited to government efforts alone. The active involvement of social organizations, educational institutions, parents, and citizens is essential for long-term success. She suggested organizing awareness programs, workshops, and counseling sessions in schools and colleges.

She further added that families play a crucial role in shaping the character of young individuals. Open communication, emotional support, and proper guidance from parents can help prevent youth from falling into addiction. Reaffirming Movement Kalki's commitment, she stated that the organization will actively support this campaign by organizing awareness drives and community engagement programs, aiming to contribute towards building a drug-free society. In conclusion, Sapna Hindu expressed confidence that with collective efforts and strong leadership, Jammu can move towards becoming a drug-free region. She called upon all sections of society to support this initiative and take responsibility at both individual and community levels.

Special Lecture on Sexual Harassment Awareness Held at GDC Doda



Doda, April 13: A special lecture-cum-awareness program on sexual harassment was successfully organized by the POSH Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Doda under the guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Javid Iqbal. The program was convened by Prof. Falak, Convener of the POSH Committee along with committee members Prof. Purnima, Dr. Jaswant, Dr. Uzma and Prof. Sandesh with the aim of sensitizing students about issues related to sexual harassment and the legal safeguards available to prevent it. On the occasion, a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation-cum-lecture was delivered by Professor Nar. Zargar. The lecture highlighted the definition and various types of sexual harassment, while also shedding light on fundamental rights

and important legal provisions that safeguard women from exploitation at workplaces and educational institutions. The session emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention, and timely reporting of such issues. The program witnessed the presence of faculty members including Dr. Jaswant and Prof. Purnima, Dr. Masood along with around 100 students who actively participated in the session. The lecture was followed by an interactive question-and-answer session, where students engaged enthusiastically and sought clarification on various aspects related to the topic. The initiative was widely appreciated for spreading awareness and encouraging a safe and respectful environment within educational institutions.

"Project RISE Concludes with Transformational Impact Across Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, Reaching Over 50,000 Lives"

Jammu, Apr 13: In a landmark achievement for grassroots social transformation, Project RISE (Respecting Identities | Supporting Equalities) has successfully concluded across all 22 districts of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. The initiative, undertaken by Jammu & Kashmir Bank and supported by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, Directorate of School Education Kashmir, and Directorate of School Education Ladakh, was implemented by Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation over a six-month period from October 2025 to March 2026. The project created a wide-spread impact by reaching over 50,000 individuals across diverse regions, including remote and underserved areas. With



the dedicated efforts of its volunteers and field teams, Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation ensured effective grassroots implementation, transforming awareness into a strong community-driven movement. Key Highlights: A total of 191 structured awareness sessions were conducted, including 92 awareness sessions integrated with gender sensitization modules delivered by experts along with hands-on self-

reach activities amplified the initiative's reach beyond school campuses across 22 districts, engaging 88+ schools and colleges and reaching over 50,000 beneficiaries. The initiative focused on gender sensitivity, equality, and mutual respect, while also incorporating follow-up sessions, community outreach drives, and poster-making competitions to ensure sustainable impact and active youth participation. The initiative went beyond conventional awareness by encouraging dialogue, participation, and critical thinking among students. Community engagement activities at prominent public locations further amplified the message, while creative competitions empowered young individuals to express and advocate for inclusivity and respect. The successful completion of Project RISE reflects the strong collaboration between Jammu & Kashmir Bank, the Directorates of School Education, and Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation. As the implementing agency, the Foundation played a central role in ensuring both execution and long-term impact. As the project concludes, Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation remains committed to carrying forward the message of equality, respect, and social responsibility. While Project RISE has formally ended, its impact will continue to inspire positive change across communities.

GDC Thannamandi Organizes Orientation Programme under NMBA

Thannamandi, April 13: Government Degree College Thannamandi organized an Orientation Programme under the Nisha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) as part of the ongoing 100 Days Awareness Programme in the college Smart Classroom. The programme was conducted under the able guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad, who emphasized the importance of collective efforts in building a drug-free society and urged students to become responsible ambassadors of awareness in their communities. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Head, Department of Geography, who sensitized the participants about the harmful effects of substance abuse and highlight-



ed the role of youth in eradicating this social menace. Dr. Nassem Ahmed, NMBA Convener, also addressed the gathering and stressed the need for sustained awareness campaigns and active student involvement in promoting a drug-free environment. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Gohar Iqbal, who ensured the smooth flow of the event. A pledge against drug abuse was administered by Prof. Supriya Gupta, reaffirming the commitment of all present towards promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Among others present on the occasion were Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Prof. Alfaz Hussain, Dr. Yasmeen Kouser, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Mohd Ashrif, Dr. Attiq ul Rehman, Mr. Anuj Bal, Dr. Mohd Asgar Khan, Dr. Wahid Ahmed, Dr. Shahid Mehmood, Dr. Saqib Bashir, Dr. Mudasir Qadir Ganai, along with other staff members and a large number of students.

Ajeet Bhagat Greets People on Baisakhi and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's Jayanti,

KISHTWAR// April 13 National Conference Senior leader and Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Region Ajeet Bhagat has greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion Baisakhi and Birthday day of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in his message. The National Conference leader said that the Baisakhi Festival is celebrated to welcome the new harvesting season of the year and on this special day the greetings saint warrior Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj has created Khalsa Panth. Who are committed to serve others without a thought for own wellbeing. He hoped for communal



harmony and brotherhood among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti, Ajeet Bhagat said that the mod-

Counting Blessings, Not Burdens: The Art of Living Gratefully

Bhadarwah, April 13: "The truth is that your attitude, your mood and your lifestyle are not created in a single day. They are the result of a journey. And if we truly want to understand this journey, we must recognize one fundamental thing and that is gratitude. Gratitude is not just a word. It is a state of mind. It is the perspective that sees blessings instead of lack, appreciation instead of complaint. Gratitude does not simply mean saying 'thank you', it is a way of living. Someone once said that gratitude makes what we have enough and it is true. Gratitude is the lens that changes your world. It is a choice. It is your decision how you choose to see life. It is not a reaction, it is an attitude. It does not depend on events, but on your consciousness. When you are grateful, you shift your



focus from scarcity to abundance. Gratitude keeps us grounded in the present moment. But how do we stay present? The answer lies in gratitude. It reminds us that what we have now is the greatest gift. And when you live with gratitude, life itself begins to support you.

Happiness does not make us grateful, gratitude makes us happy. Many people believe that they will be grateful once they achieve happiness. However, even those who seem to have everything are not always truly happy because they lack gratitude. It is gratitude that brings true happiness. In today's world, we are constantly chasing the next success, the next step, the next experience, the next goal. But gratitude pauses us and reminds us to look at how much we already have. When you are grateful, humility is born within you. You begin to understand that not every blessing is the result of your own efforts. There is a greater wisdom at work. This realization softens a person, making them more compassionate and respectful towards others. That is why gratitude is often called the mother of all virtues. It

not only brings mental peace but also positively impacts your body, your sleep and your overall well-being. Research shows that people who practice gratitude tend to live more peacefully, have stronger hearts and lead longer, more meaningful lives. Have you ever noticed that when you complain, your energy decreases, but when you feel grateful, you feel energized? Your heart feels lighter and everything seems more balanced. So, when you wake up in the morning, take a moment to reflect on what a blessing it is to be alive to breathe, to think, to wake up among your loved ones and to love. Now the question is: how do you incorporate gratitude into your life? It is not magic, but it is not difficult either. You simply need to shift your focus just a little.



North in News

EDITORIAL

Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir 100 day campaign a tough stance against Drugs network and smugglers

The government is taking a tough stance against drug smugglers and networks. Leading from the front Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a 100-day campaign, "Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan," to eradicate drug addiction in the region. In this 100 day campaign govt has included all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir UT. The government has issued a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to revoke passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar numbers and arms licenses of smugglers involved in drug trafficking. The government will confiscate properties, freeze bank accounts, and launch financial investigations against smugglers. The administration is strengthening grassroots intelligence with the help of panchayats, mohalla committees, and ward surveillance committees. The government is implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) and setting up addiction treatment facilities. The campaign aims to dismantle the entire drug ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on awareness, community engagement, and strict enforcement. The Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has had a significant impact, with over 96.5 lakh people across all 20 districts sensitized through various activities, including street plays, rallies, and counselling drives. Over 7 lakh young people have been sensitized, and more than 16,000 schools, colleges, and higher secondary institutions are participating in the campaign. Authorities have seized large quantities of narcotics, destroyed illicit opium poppy cultivation, and arrested several individuals involved in drug trafficking. The government has established 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) and District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) to provide treatment and counselling to addicts. Community Engagement: Civil society, including religious leaders, Panchayati Raj bodies, and women's self-help groups, are actively participating in the campaign. The campaign has also led to a shift in approach, focusing on prevention, rehabilitation, and community engagement, in addition to enforcement.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar a Multifaceted Personality

Omkar Dattatray

Today on 14th April, 2026, nation is observing 135 birth anniversaries of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with the resolve to make India of his dreams. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar -the architect of the Indian constitution was born on 14th April 1891 had not only played pivotal role and contribution in framing the constitution of India but he had played significant role as an economist in building the economy of the country. Therefore he is known not only as the founding father of the constitution but as the builder of the country's economy. When the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar comes to mind, the constitution of India also comes to mind and the whole world knows him and remembers him for his contribution in framing the constitution. He is also remembered as the staunch opponent of the untouchability and his crusade for eradicating the menace of untouchability from the society and body politic is very great. He all through his life fought for removing the discrimination from the society. In both these spheres his contribution cannot be exaggerated and undermined. He had played an enviable role in the sphere of the Indian and international economy as a great economist and it is the irony that this part of his personality is less talked about. Ambedkar is the first economist who had given recognition to Indian economy at the international sphere. These days he is remembered more as the messiah and savior of the Dalits and the down trodden sections of the society. Ambedkar had started his career as an outstanding economist. Ambedkar was a highly educated and well-read man. Dr Ambedkar was the first economist who had doctored degree in economics in an international university and he was the first such economist. In 1915 Ambedkar had done his master's degree in economics in the Columbia university of America and from the same university he had done doctorate degree that is PHD in 1917. Not only this some years after this he had passed master's degree in economics and the PHD degree from London school of economics. The main thing is this that while obtaining degrees from famous universities, he had made great strides as an economist and became an expert in the field of economics and also became a researcher in economics. In Columbia university he had thrown light through his research paper on the exploitation and loot in India by the east India company. Dr B.R. Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist and Dalit leader who headed the committee drafting the constitution of India. Ambedkar was a great and dynamic personali-

ty having inspirational life from childhood till the last moment. His was a multi-dimensional and multifaceted personality. He has various qualities like efficiency, honesty, revolutionist, long visionary attitude, leadership, non-violent attitude and ambitious thoughts. These qualities made him the ideal for young generation. Ambedkar was an eminent educationist, a great economist, an able administrator and radical social and political thinker of his time. He was born to Bhimabai and Ramji on April 14, 1891 in Mhow army cantonment, central province Madhya Pradesh. In 1907 Bhimrao married Ramabai. He cleared his matriculation in 1907-8 from Elphinstone High school. In 1912 Bhimrao obtained his graduate degree in Economics and political science from Bombay university. In 1912 his father Ramji Sakpal died in Bombay. With the support of Gaekwardruler of Baroda, Sahyaji Roa 111 he completed his post-graduation in Economics in 1915 by presenting a thesis titled Ancient Indian commerce. In 1916 he enrolled in London school of Economics and started working on his doctoral thesis titled The problem of Rupee its origin and its solution. In order to continue his further studies, he went to England in 1920 at his own expense. There he received the D.Sc by London university. In 1927 he received his PhD degree in Economics. In June 1927 he was awarded a doctorate by the university of Columbia. He worked tirelessly for the upliftment and awakening of the Dalits and marginalized sections of society. In 1919, in his testimony before the Southborough committee in preparation of Government of India Act Ambedkar opined that there should be a separate electoral system for the untouchables and other marginalized communities. In 1920, Ambedkar launched a newspaper called Mooknayaka - leader of silent with the assistance of Shahaji 11, the Maharaja of Kolhapur. In 1923 he set up the Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha - outcasts welfare Association. Ambedkar launched full-fledged movement for Dalit rights by 1927 and demanded public drinking sources open to all and right for all castes to enter temples. In 1932, Ambedkar signed the Poona Pact. He founded the Independent Labor Party in 1936 and his party contested the 1937 elections to central Legislative Assembly. In 1942 he founded Scheduled Castes Federation. In 1947 Dr Ambedkar was appointed as the chairman of constitution drafting committee. The contribution of Ambedkar to Dalit empowerment is very great and is praise worthy. Along with forming many organizations for Dalit empowerment, he put emphasis on the education of the Dalits and marginalized. He said that, "

It is the education which is the right weapon to cut social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom. In 1923 he founded Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha to spread education among the marginalized and to improve their economic condition. He gave the slogan of Educate, Agitate - Organise. Dr Ambedkar devoted his whole life to fight for the annihilation of caste by proliferating a movement against the evils of caste system. Being himself a Dalit, he made all his efforts to change the hierarchical structure of Indian society and restoration of equal rights and justice to marginalized and abolition of untouchability. He stood for a complete reorganization and reconstruction of the Hindu society on the principle of equality free casteism. He advocated equality of opportunity. He opted for peaceful and constitutional methods for the sake of resolution of social problems. Ambedkar advocated a society based on three fundamental principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. He did everything to bring untouchables to mainstream of Indian society. Ambedkar was successful to a great extent in giving a place of pride to the marginalized sections of society and he was also successful in eradicating the problem of untouchability. The contribution of Dr Ambedkar in framing the constitution is next to none. He played a leading role in framing the constitution of free India. He was appointed as the chairman of the constitution drafting committee in 1947. Ambedkar is considered as the father of the Indian constitution. The text prepared by Ambedkar provided constitutional guarantees and protections to individual citizens for a wide range of civil liberties, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability and outlawing of all forms of discrimination. Ambedkar advocated extensive economic and social rights for women and won the support of assembly to introduce a system of reservation for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward class in the civil services, schools and colleges. He laid emphasis on religious, gender and caste equality. Dr Ambedkar participated in all three round table conferences in London and demanded separate electorate for untouchables which were opposed by Gandhiji and led to Poona pact in 1932. Ambedkar traveled to Sri Lanka to attend a convention of Buddhist scholars and monks in 1950. After his return he decided to write a book on Buddhism and soon converted and embraced Buddhism. In the same year he founded the Bharatiya Buddha Mahasabha. In 1956

he organized a public ceremony to convert around five lakh of his supporters to Buddhism. By December 2nd 1956 he completed his final manuscript, "The Buddha or Karl Marx". The personality of Ambedkar was multifarious and multi-dimensional and he had contributed immensely to the abolition of caste discrimination and thus to the eradication of untouchability in the society. He made great strides for educating the lower castes, backward classes and other marginalized sections of the society. He gave much stress to the education of the Dalits and weaker sections and thus earned great respect from these sections. In fact he is considered as the messiah and savior of the Dalits and other weaker sections of the society. He worked all through his life for the end of the social problem which plagued the society and thus he worked for the eradication of untouchability. The empowerment and development which we find today in the Dalit and scheduled castes and other backward classes is squarely due to the efforts of this great leader. Ambedkar had opposed the provision of article 370 of the Indian constitution but the Nehru government prevailed and the article 370 was kept in the constitution. This speaks enough about the foresight of this great man. His was an enviable personality and the younger generation emulates him and try to follow him so far as his emphasis on education and reservation is concerned. He had a balanced personality and worked all through his life for the betterment of the Dalits and other marginalized sections of the society. The Jayanti of this great man falls on 14th April and his birthday is a public holiday and he is remembered on this day for his contributions to the framing of the constitution and for being an economist par excellence who did great for the economic, social and political emancipation of the weaker sections and the Dalits. His was an enviable personality because his personality was balanced, multifaceted and multi-dimensional.

This leading light passed away on 6th December 1956 at his home in Delhi but he is remembered and given homage every year on his birthday and on his death anniversary. Otherwise also Ambedkar is given great respect at all national and social occasions befitting his personality. Though his mortal frame has died but he remains live even today for his great contribution to India's social, political and economic upliftment. May we imbibe his qualities of head and heart and resolve to make India of his dreams and this will be a great tribute to him on his Jayanti.

The author is a columnist, social KP activist & Freelancer

Satish Sharma unveils General Zorawar Singhs' bust; pays tributes on legend s' birth anniversary

REASI, APRIL 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Transport, Satish Sharma, today unveiled a commemorative bust of the legendary military commander General Zorawar Singh in Reasi, marking his birth anniversary with great reverence and patriotic fervor. The function was organized by the General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust, drawing participation from senior officials of the district administration and the locals.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister paid glowing tributes to General Zorawar Singh, popularly known as the "Napoleon of the East," and hailed his extraordinary military acumen, courage and unmatched contribution to the nation. He emphasized



that the life and legacy of such iconic figures serve as a guiding light for the future generations. "General Zorawar Singh's valor, strategic brilliance and indomitable spirit remain a source of inspiration for all. It is our collective responsibility to preserve and promote the legacy of such heroes so that the youth remain connected to their glorious past," the Minister said. Highlighting the role of educational and cultural institutions, Satish Sharma appreciated the efforts of

the Trust in commemorating the General's contributions and fostering awareness among the younger generation about the region's rich history and heritage. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and staff of various schools, who paid floral tributes and showcased deep respect for the historic icon.

Chairman of the Trust, Devinder Singh Kaluria, along with Avtar Singh Janwal and other members, reiterated their com-

mitment towards promoting the values of courage, patriotism and sacrifice through continued educational and social initiatives. Later, the Minister visited the Sports Stadium in Reasi, where he interacted with the young football players and encouraged them to pursue sports with dedication and discipline. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen the sports infrastructure and provide greater opportunities for the youth to excel at national and international level. The Minister also inspected the Mother & Child Hospital in Reasi, where he reviewed the healthcare facilities and functioning of the institution. He interacted with the doctors, staff and the patients, emphasizing the need for efficient service delivery and improved patient care.

Upgradation of Amar Singh School a Proud Moment for Dogra Legacy: Martand Singh

Lauds Govt's initiative for developing Amar Singh School as a Heritage Institution

Jammu, 13th April: A proud and historic moment unfolded for Bhaderwah as the iconic Amar Singh School (established in 1920) - founded during the Dogra reign of Maharaja Pratap Singh and named in honour of Raja Amar Singh, whose jagir was Bhaderwah - enters a new era of transformation.

The upgradation of Govt. Higher Secondary School (Boys), Bhaderwah into a Heritage School under Project 'Prerna' marks not merely a redevelopment initiative, but a tribute to generations of excellence, discipline, and nation-building. The institution stands as one of the many significant contributions to education during the Dogra period in Jammu & Kashmir, reflect-



ing a far-sighted vision that prioritized learning, institution-building, and social progress. Martand Singh, scion of the erstwhile Dogra royal family, grandson of statesman Dr. Karan Singh, descendant of Raja Amar Singh and Trustee of Amar Mahal Museum Jammu, expressed deep pride and emotion on

this occasion. Martand Singh also serves as Director, Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative, J&K. Martand Singh said that this is a moment of immense pride, not only for Bhaderwah but for all those connected to this legacy, as the revival of this historic institution as a Heritage School is a fitting tribute to its rich past and enduring contribution to education and society. He added that generations of families - in Bhaderwah have studied at the Amar Singh School and their sentiments and pride are deeply attached to this school that was made for them 106 years ago by the Dogra Maharaja.

He further stated that the Dogra rulers laid a strong foundation for modern edu-

cation in Jammu & Kashmir by establishing several schools across the region and shaping an early vision for structured educational policy and access. Institutions such as the Amar Singh School stand as living examples of that legacy that continue to serve the people even today. The grandson of Dr. Karan Singh said that the school's historical significance is further underscored by its early academic affiliation with Punjab University, Lahore - an institution to which Maharaja Ranbir Singh of Jammu & Kashmir was among the most prominent benefactors - highlighting the Dogra leadership's deep commitment to higher learning and academic excellence.

District Administration Poonch Facilitates Newly Qualified IAS & JKAS; Interaction Session Held

Poonch, April 13, 2026: The District Administration Poonch today organized a facilitation programme to honour the achievements of newly qualified IAS and JKAS officers. During the event, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Shafiq Hussain Bhat, interacted with the achievers and their parents, congratulating them on their remarkable success.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Chief Planning Officer Shammun Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, District Social Welfare Officer Poonch Khalil A. Bandy, along with other officers from the district administration and police,



were present on the occasion. The achievers shared their individual journeys, experiences, and preparation strategies that led to their accomplishments, inspiring everyone present. Principal and Sessions Judge Shopian, Mehmo-

od Choudhary, was also present, as his daughter was among those who qualified the IAS examination. The programme provided a meaningful platform for interaction, where the achievers spoke about the challenges they faced, their

preparation methods, and key lessons learned during their journey to success. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, SSP, and other officers from the civil and police administration extended heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to the achievers. They also offered valuable guidance and suggestions to help them excel in their future roles and responsibilities. As part of the felicitation ceremony, the achievers were presented with souvenirs, traditional shawls, and tablets. Gadgets in recognition of their achievements. The programme concluded with a note of encouragement, emphasizing dedication, perseverance, and commitment to public service as essential values for building a better society.

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena launches Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert Urban Forestry initiative in Drass



Drass, April 13: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched the "Ladakh Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert Urban Forestry and Food Forest Initiative" at Khandiyal in Drass, marking a significant step towards enhancing green cover, environmental sustainability, and food security in the region. Addressing a gathering of public representatives,

officials, and local residents, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the unique ecological challenges of Ladakh as a cold desert with less than one per cent green cover. He emphasized the need for collective efforts to increase greenery and urged citizens to treat tree plantation as a shared responsibility, stating that nurturing a tree should be akin to raising a child.

The plantation site, spread over approximately one hectare, includes species such as willow, apricot, poplar, and robinia. The Lieutenant Governor described the initiative as a forward-looking approach to sustainable development, integrating ecological balance, community participation, and climate resilience. He noted that the initiative would act as a "green lung"

for the region by promoting carbon neutrality, improving soil health, conserving water, and strengthening local food security. He also termed the Khandiyal project a pilot model that can be replicated across Ladakh. Appreciating the collaborative efforts of the Forest Department, district administration, LAHDC Kargil, and local communities, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the Administration's commitment to addressing environmental and developmental challenges, including water scarcity, through sustainable and innovative solutions. He called upon all stakeholders, especially the youth, to actively participate in such initiatives to transform Ladakh into a greener and more sustainable region.

OFFICE OF THE SP TELECOM HQRS. JAMMU ZONE

NOTICE-III

PWA Vishal Sharma, No.89/PWA
S/O Sh. Kuldeep Raj Sharma
R/O H. No.18 Kachi Chawani Jammu.
A/P H. No.156 Greater Colony Kunjwani, Jammu.

I. Rashpal Kumar SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu in the capacity of enquiry officer issue this notice to you PWA Vishal Sharma, No.89/PWA on the initiation of De-Novo departmental enquiry against you vide SSP Telecom Jammu Zone Jammu order No. 48 of 2026 dated 05.02.2026 for your absence from duty:-

- Whereas, 30 days earned leave w.e.f 20.01.2025 had been sanctioned in your favour by SSP Telcom Jammu Zone Jammu vide ZPTHQ Jammu order No.11 of 2025 dated 15.01.2025 for the purpose of construction of your house. Thereafter, you were granted an extension of 15 days vide ZPTHQ Jammu order No.42 of 2025 dated 22.02.2025, followed by another extension of 15 days vide ZPTHQ Jammu order No.52 of 2025 dated 08.03.2025 making in all 60 days earned leave. You were required to resume your duties on due date after expiry of sanctioned earned leave. However, you failed to do so and were accordingly marked absent by SHO Police Station GRP Manwal vide DDR No.05 dated 23.03.2025.
- Whereas, vide ZPTHQ Signal No.Estt/PF-89/PWA/2025/3425-27 dated 26.03.2025 followed by reminder Signal No.Estt/PF-89/PWA/2025/3637-40 dated 01.04.2025 and Estt/PF-89/PWA/2025/89/4260-63 dated 17.04.2025, SHO P/S Pacca Danga Jammu was directed to inform you to resume your duties forthwith failing which action under rules shall be initiated against you.
- Whereas, SHO P/S Pacca Danga vide Signal No.1305/5-1/PSD dated 21.04.2025 reported that you have shifted your residence to Greater Colony Kunjwani, Jammu, which falls under the jurisdiction of P/S Gangyal Jammu.
- Whereas, vide ZPTHQ Jammu signal No. Estt./PF-89/PWA/4369-72 dated 22.04.2025 SHO P/S Gangyal was directed to inform/direct you to resume your duties forthwith.
- Whereas, SHO P/S Gangyal vide Signal No.Nil dated 25.04.2025 communicated, that you have shifted to somewhere in Bangalore along with your spouse, who is employed in an IT Company as communicated by your brother viz Vikas Sharma.
- Whereas, vide ZPTHQ Jammu Signal No.Estt/PF-89/PWA/2025/4637 dated 29.04.2025, SHO P/S Gangyal was again required to contact your family members to convey them to inform you to resume your duties forthwith, failing which action under rules shall be initiated against you.
- Whereas, SHO P/S Gangyal vide Signal No. Nil Dated 01.05.2025 has communicated that you were not present at your residence. However your family members were advised to inform you to resume your duties.
- Whereas, departmental enquiry vide ZPTHQ Jammu order No.149 of 2025 dated 24.07.2025 was initiated against you for your absence from duty.
- Whereas, De-Novo departmental enquiry vide ZPTHQ Jammu order No.48 of 2026 dated 05.02.2026 has been initiated against you for your absence from duty and entrusted to the undersigned.
- Whereas vide this office signal No.SPTHQJ/DE/2026/79 dated 10.02.2026 and No.SPTHQJ/DE/2026/92 dated 20.02.2026 SHO P/S Gangyal was directed to inform/direct you to attend office of SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu Zone (Enquiry Officer) for facing departmental enquiry. SHO P/S Gangyal vide his signal No.125/5-1/PSG dated 18.02.2026 communicated that you were not found available at home, however, your family members have been informed accordingly.
- Whereas vide this office No.SPTHQJ/DE/89-PWA/2026/93-97 dated 21.02.2026 Notice-I was served to you through print media, which was got published in 03 Dailies (Daily Excelsior, Amar Ujala and Kattu Satya) on 24.02.2026. A copy of said notice has been handed over to your family member and a copy was also got pasted on the front gate of your residence as communicated by SHO P/S Gangyal vide letter No.173/5-1/PSG dated 03.03.2026. Despite lapse of 48 days (till date) of publication of said notice, you did not attend the office of SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu Zone (Enquiry Officer) for facing departmental enquiry.
- Whereas vide this office No.SPTHQJ/DE/89-PWA/2026/103-07 dated 05.03.2026 summary of allegations was served to you through print media, which was got published in 02 Dailies (State times and State Vision) on 07.03.2026. A copy of said summary of allegations has been handed over to your family member and a copy was also got pasted on the front gate of your residence as communicated by SHO P/S Gangyal vide letter No.210/5-1/PSG dated 11.03.2026. Despite lapse of 37 days (till date) of publication of said summary of allegations, neither you attended the office of SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu Zone (Enquiry Officer) for facing departmental enquiry nor you submitted the reply of summary of allegations.
- Whereas vide this office No.SPTHQJ/DE/89-PWA/2026/131-34 dated 14.03.2026 charge sheet was served to you through print media, which was got published in 02 Dailies (Dainik Jagan on 17.03.2026 and Daily Excelsior on 18.03.2026). A copy of said charge sheet has also been handed over to your sister in law (Brother's wife) in presence of your mother as communicated by SHO P/S Gangyal vide No.nil dated 26.03.2026 and DDR No.012 dated 26.03.2026. Despite lapse of 27 days (till date) of publication of said charge sheet, neither you attended the office of SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu Zone (Enquiry Officer) for facing departmental enquiry nor you submitted the reply of charge sheet.
- Whereas vide this office No.SPTHQJ/DE/89-PWA/2026/162-65 dated 28.03.2026 Notice-II was served to you through print media, which was got published in 02 Dailies (State times on 03.04.2026 and Daily Excelsior on 04.04.2026). A copy of said Notice has also been handed over to one of your family member as communicated by SHO P/S Gangyal vide No.300/5-1/PSG dated 08.04.2026. Despite lapse of more than 07 days of publication of said notice, you did not attend the office of SP Telecom Hqrs. Jammu Zone (Enquiry Officer) for facing departmental enquiry.
- Whereas you have remained absent from leave for a period of more than twelve months and such an absence from Govt. duties is a matter of serious concern and tantamount to gross negligence, carelessness and indiscipline on your part. Now, through the medium of this Notice-III, you are hereby provided last opportunity to report in the office of Enquiry Officer for facing departmental enquiry and furnish reply of the charge sheet along with documentary evidences/witnesses if any within (07) days from the publication/receipt of this notice whichever is earlier, failing which it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and you are not interested in discharging your legitimate duties and an ex-parte decision under rules will be recommended against you which may involve loss of your engagement as Wireless Assistant.

(Rashpal Kumar)
SP Telecom (Hqrs)
Jammu Zone,
(Enquiry Officer)

No.SPTHQJ/DE/89-PWA/2026/
Dated:- /04/2026.

DIP/J-491/26

NOTICE

I Gurdeep Singh S/o Mangal Singh R/o Dewal PO Malvi Tehsil Billawar District Kathua have lost my original Gun License No.LN15297A7A16425 and UIN No.152970008116852015 issued by District Magistrate Kathua.I have applied for issuance of duplicate.Objections if any be submitted in the Judicial Section District Magistrate Office Kathua within 7 Days.

NOTICE

I. Om Raj, S/o Baldeep Raj, R/o Bibotra, Tehsil Rajgarh, District Ramban., That I am the father and lawful guardian of my daughter. That my daughter is holding Aadhaar No. 2010 9799 7012, issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).That in the said Aadhaar card, the name of my daughter has been mistakenly recorded as "Vivanshee Sharma," which is incorrect.That the correct and actual name of my daughter is "Diviya Sharma." Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

BCCI Sends Notice To Rajasthan Royals Official Over Anti-Corruption Protocol Breach: Report

New Delhi, Apr 13:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has taken the first step towards investigating a matter involving Rajasthan Royals' team manager, Romi Bhinder, over an anti-corruption protocol breach. Bhinder was found using his phone while sitting in the dugout alongside Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, during the match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru last Friday. As the video of Bhinder using his phone from the dugout surfaced on social media, it triggered a huge stir, prompting even former IPL chairman Lalit Modi to demand action. According to a report by The New Indian Express, Bhinder has been sent a notice by the Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of the BCCI. As part of the investigation, Bhinder has been given 48 hours to submit his reply, explaining why he was using the phone.

"We have asked the ACSU to investigate and file a report on the



The IPL Governing Council does not have the exemption required to be using his phone while sitting there.

It has also been reported that Bhinder's usage of the phone might be linked to a health concern. The RR team manager has reportedly dealt with serious health issues in the past, and he was even admitted to a hospital in Nagpur for a long period because of a collapsed lung.

Though Bhinder is allowed to carry his phone to the dugout due to medical reasons, he still does

"Romi has lost more than 10 kilos due to medical issues. He has asthma as well, because of which he is advised not to walk long distances or climb stairs frequently. He is with the team and performed various roles for the franchise. Hence, he knows the rules and regulations, but that phone was in his possession due to medical reasons.

Besides, possessing a mobile phone and a laptop in the dugout is allowed as per the protocol. The only problem was the usage, but again, he was not making calls or receiving any of them. He was just scrolling through his phone. He has time, and he will try to explain his point of view to the ACSU officials," another source told the paper. The incident raised a few eyebrows as Bhinder was spotted sitting next to RR's teenage batting sensation, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, in the dugout when he was found using his phone.

"We are hopeful that the ACSU officials will keep Romi's medical conditions in mind before arriving at a conclusion. The problem was he had to walk at least 50 steps before climbing around 20 steps to reach the dressing room, and do the same to return to the dugout. That must have forced him to check the phone at the dugout itself," the report quoted a source as saying.

Actress Taniyaa Chatterjee Claims Yuzvendra Chahal DM'd Her, Shares Instagram Messages

New Delhi, Apr 13:

Days after being criticised for allegedly smoking and throwing a cigarette on the road, Punjab Kings spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has found himself embroiled in another controversy. Chahal, who is currently representing PBKS in IPL 2026, has been enjoying a decent run on the field, picking up three wickets in four matches so far. However, off the field, the veteran leg-spinner's personal life has once again come under scrutiny. Recently, actress and model Taniyaa Chatterjee claimed that Chahal had sent her personal messages on Instagram. In a video that has gone viral on social media, Taniyaa, who is known for her bold roles in OTT shows such as Gandii Baat and Titiyaan, was seen showing paparazzi a



glimpse of her Instagram inbox. She alleged that Chahal had replied to one of her stories with the message, "Aap cute ho". While agencies cannot independently verify the authenticity of Taniyaa's claims, the revelation has sparked widespread debate online, particularly given that Chahal's personal life has frequently made headlines. Earlier this week, another video had surfaced in which an individual resembling Chahal was allegedly seen smoking while driving a car. The clip also showed the person taking a puff and casually tossing the cigarette onto the road, drawing sharp criticism from fans. In 2025, Chahal divorced his wife, choreographer Dhanashree Verma. Following the separation, there were reports linking him with RJ Mahesh after the two were spotted together on multiple occasions. However, a few months later, both unfollowed each other on Instagram, further fuelling speculation.

Visa and HDFC Bank bring Indian fans closer to FIFA World Cup 2026

JAMMU, April 13, 2026: Visa (NYSE: V), a global leader in digital payments and the official Partner of FIFA, today announced FIFA World Cup 2026™ association with HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank. As part of this partnership, Visa and HDFC Bank launched a limited edition FIFA World Cup 2026™ Visa Pixel Credit Card, alongside an exclusive nationwide Spend & Win campaign-bringing Indian consumers closer to the world's most anticipated global sports spectacle. The announcement was celebrated at a high decibel launch event in Mumbai, marked by the presence of internationally renowned football icon Michael Owen, underscoring the excitement, scale, and global stature of the FIFA World Cup 2026™. The only limited edition FIFA World Cup 2026™ Visa Pixel Credit Card, HDFC Bank's digital first, app based credit card, is designed for new age digital consumers - offering instant issuance, flexible customisations, and seamless dig-

ital payments. The FIFA-themed card fascia will be available to existing HDFC Bank Pixel Play customers in addition to new Pixel Play applicants. This landmark association now enables a chance to watch a FIFA World Cup 2026™ match live for customers of HDFC Bank across all card portfolios including Credit Cards, Debit Cards, and Business Cards. Powered by Visa's long standing global partnership with FIFA and Visa's secure, widely accepted payments network, the initiative transforms everyday payments into memorable football experiences. At the heart of the partnership is an exclusive Spend & Win campaign across HDFC Bank's card portfolio including Credit Cards, Debit Cards, Business Cards, and Forex Prepaid Cards where eligible spends unlock a range of aspirational rewards, including, FIFA World Cup 2026™ match packages, FIFA themed staycations, Official FIFA merchandise, Shopping and lifestyle vouchers.

Brett Lee Pays Emotional Tribute To Asha Bhosle: "Fortunate To Have Shared A Small Moment"

New Delhi, Apr 13:

Australian cricket legend Brett Lee paid a beautiful tribute to the iconic Indian singer Asha Bhosle, who passed away on 12 April at the age of 92. Lee remains one of the few cricketers who had the privilege of working with Bhosle, the two famously collaborating on the track 'You're the One for Me' in 2007. The song remains fresh in the minds of cricket lovers in India, as such a crossover was never seen again. Taking to Instagram, Lee recalled his meeting with Bhosle and lauded her for being so humble despite her stardom.

"I had the pleasure of writing and recording 'You're the One for Me' with Asha Bhosle back in 2006. It's something I'll always be incredibly grateful for. What



stayed with me most wasn't just her extraordinary talent, but how kind and humble she was. For someone who had achieved so much in her life, she carried herself with such warmth and generosity."

Lee wrote on Instagram. "My thoughts are with her family and friends at this time. I feel very fortunate to have shared even a small moment with someone so special. There's no doubt her legacy will live on for generations to come," he added.

In his autobiography, My Life: Brett Lee, he opened up about the memorable collaboration, revealing that the music video for the song was filmed during his visit to India for the 2006 Champions Trophy. The cricketer even lent his voice to Hindi lines in the track, including "Haan, main tumhara hi, tumhara hi rahunga."

"I had great fun. I didn't tell any of my teammates what I was up to when I went to shoot. I told them I was just going for a look through that. Four months after that

whirlwind recording experience, I caught up with Asha when she visited Sydney to perform at the Opera House. She gave me her compilation album with a personally signed message. It will always be one of my treasures." Lee wrote in his book.

Lee also revealed that he wrote the lyrics for the song, which featured in the album Asha and Friends, in just about 30 minutes, an experience that helped him tap into a different creative side.

"I had to prove I could sing. I passed the test by doing a couple of songs in a room that had been booked in the team hotel. Shamir seemed happy with the result. I was asked to sing for the compilation would be chosen for me, there was only one thing I wanted to the streets," he recalled.

RCB Skipper Rajat Patidar Gives Big Update On Virat Kohli's Injury After MI Win

New Delhi, Apr 12:

Following his side's win over the Mumbai Indians (MI), Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Rajat Patidar offered some fitness updates on star batter Virat Kohli, saying that the 37-year-old veteran is doing okay. After a slip-up against the Rajasthan Royals (RR), RCB came back to winning ways with an 18-run win over arch-rivals Mumbai Indians (MI) at Wankhede Stadium. Phil Salt, Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar scored magnificent fifties to power RCB to 240/4. MI fell 18 runs short, ending at 222/5 despite a stunner '71' in 31 balls by Sherane Rutherford, which had nine sixes and a four. Notably, Virat did not come to the field and was seen wearing a jacket while sitting out of the field.



Speaking after the post-match about any possible injury to Virat as being reported, Patidar said, "I do not know yet, but I think he, I feel that he is okay right now." About the win, Patidar said that there is clarity given to all the

players in the batting line-up and spoke on the atmosphere and fanfare at iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. "Whenever we come here in Mumbai, especially at this ground, the atmosphere, the fans, and play-

ing along with them and playing in a full-packed stadium - that is a different feeling. It was, I would say it is a more clarity about every individual, I would say (on the strong batting). And the way Virat Bhai and Salt started the innings, I think that kept us in the driving seat. Then a good cameo by me and Tim (David), I think that was a pure team effort."

On his preference for spin or pace, both bowling forms that he has absolutely butchered in his season, Patidar said, "To be honest, people used to say that I love playing spin, but if someone asks me, I would say I love playing pace. And the playing pace on this track, I think it's a very good track to play for a fast bowler. So I think I love facing fast bowling."

LSG Star, Who Faced IPL Suspension, Brings Back Controversial Celebration. Likely To Escape Fine

New Delhi, Apr 12:

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) spinner Digvesh Rathi brought out his trademark "notebook" celebration after dismissing Sai Sudharsan in their IPL 2026 clash against Gujarat Titans (GT) on Sunday. Despite incurring fines and a one-match suspension last season, Digvesh had made his intentions clear ahead of this campaign, stating he would continue to show the same intensity as he did the previous year. As promised, the notebook celebration was well and truly on display in Lucknow, with Digvesh seen "signing" on the ground after Avesh Khan completed the catch of Sudharsan at fine leg. The



26-year-old might escape a fine this time since, instead of directing the gesture at the batter, he was seen "signing" the ground. Regardless, Digvesh must monitor his demerit points closely this season. Under IPL regulations, totaling eight demerit points leads to a two-match suspension, while 11 points result in a three-match ban. Having

Sachin Tendulkar And Wife Anjali Break Down As They Pay Last Respects To Asha Bhosle

New Delhi, Apr 13:

Former India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and his wife Anjali paid their last respects to legendary singer Asha Bhosle, who died at the age of 92 on Sunday. Draped in the Tricolour, the body of the legendary playback singer was placed for a public homage at her residence. In a viral video, Sachin and Anjali got emotional as they reached Asha Bhosle's residence, Casa Grande in Lower Parel, to attend the funeral. Sachin and Anjali broke down as they greeted the family of the legendary singer. Last month, Bhosle made one of her final public appearances at the wedding of Sachin and Anjali's son, Arjun Tendulkar. On Monday, former Australia pacer Brett Lee also paid an emotional trib-



ute to Bhosle, recalling their unique musical collaboration in 2007. The unlikely partnership between Lee and Bhosle had captured widespread attention in 2007 with the release of the track 'You're the One for Me', a song that brought together cricket and music fans alike and went on to become immensely popular. Reflecting on that experience, Lee shared a heartfelt message on social

R Ashwin Goes On Relentless Rant, Grills Hardik Pandya Over Bizarre Captaincy Call Against RCB

New Delhi, Apr 13:

The Mumbai Indians (MI) vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) matches in the Indian Premier League are usually fiercely contested. Although MI have a significant lead over RCB in terms of trophies, their rivalry remains one of the most intense in the T20 league. However, the IPL 2026 season clash between the two sides on Sunday saw the Bengaluru franchise absolutely batter Mumbai. According to experts like Ravichandran Ashwin, one of the biggest reasons behind RCB's overwhelming victory was Hardik Pandya's captaincy, particularly the bowling options he chose against Rajat Patidar.



Former India spinner R Ashwin didn't mince words as he highlighted the blunders Hardik made while selecting his bowling options. Ashwin, in a video on his YouTube channel, pulled up the scorecard of a Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Royals match from the Bengaluru game from 2024, where Patidar had hit Markande for four sixes in a single over. Ashwin questioned MI's decision to hand the ball to Markande despite being aware of Patidar's reputation as a monstrous hitter against spin. In the end, the RCB batter hit three consecutive sixes off

Markande in the 11th over of the innings. "This SRH vs RCB 2024 game was where Rajat Patidar announced that he is a spin hitter. He was hitting Markande into every corner," Ashwin said in the video. "There are some common things between these two big overs. The first ball was taken by Virat Kohli, he took a single, and everything else was the same. There he hit four sixes, here he hit three," Ashwin highlighted. "Not The Smartest Of Moves, Very Average"

Blunt with his verdict, Ashwin said this wasn't the smartest of moves by Hardik, who played into Patidar's strengths.

Markande ended up conceding 40 runs in just two overs, at an economy rate of 20.00. "Rajat Patidar is a monster hitter against spinners. When he came to bat, you gave the ball to Markande straight away? Even Mitchell Santner, MI's second spinner for the game, conceded 43 runs, though he bowled his full quota of four overs. All in all, spinners alone cost Mumbai 83 runs in just six overs. Here, the difference is between 210.

'Immortal freedom fighters': Prez Murmu pays homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh

New Delhi, Apr 13: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday paid humble tribute to all the immortal freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives at Jallianwala Bagh and said that the nation will forever remain grateful to them. President Murmu took to social media 'X' and said, "I pay my humble tribute to all the immortal freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives at Jallianwala Bagh. This event infused the people of the nation with a renewed consciousness and unwavering resolve for freedom. The nation will forever remain grateful to them. I am confident that their spirit of patriotism will continue to inspire everyone to move



forward on the path of national service with dedication and devotion."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also took to social media 'X' and said, "Remembering and paying my heartfelt tributes to all those innocent Indians who were sacrificed their lives at the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on this day in

1919. Their sacrifice remains a defining moment in India's freedom struggle, awakening the nation's collective conscience. Their courage continues to inspire generations to stand for justice, dignity and self-respect."

April 13, 2026, signifies the 107th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh

Massacre, a dark and pivotal moment in the history of India's fight for sovereignty. More than a century ago, on this date in 1919, the merciless actions of British colonial authorities left a permanent scar on the Indian independence movement. This tragedy served as a massive wake-up call for the public, highlighting the true brutality of foreign rule and shifting the momentum of the freedom struggle forever.

The incident took place during the Baisakhi festival. Thousands of defenceless men, women, and children had gathered at Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh to observe the Sikh New Year. They were unaware that the British

administration had declared Martial Law, which 'outlawed public meetings and enforced strict curfews. This lack of communication led to a historical catastrophe.

On April 13, 1919, as thousands remained gathered in the garden for the festivities, Colonel Reginald Dyer, the Acting Brigadier, arrived with his forces. Without providing any warning or a chance for the crowd to leave, he ordered his troops to open fire. Dyer's forces, equipped with two armoured cars armed with machine guns, as well as Gurkha and Baluchi soldiers using Scinde rifles, relentlessly fired on the crowd for 10 to 15 minutes.

Major accident on Yamuna Expressway: Bus overturns, dozen injured

New Delhi, Apr 13:

A road accident occurred late Sunday evening on the Yamuna Expressway in the Mathura district, where a passenger bus travelling from Delhi to Bihar suddenly went out of control and overturned, causing chaos and panic at the scene.

According to reports, the bus was travelling at high speed when, near Milestone 76 within the Naujheel police station limits, the driver lost control, causing the vehicle to flip over. Approximately a dozen passengers are reported to have sustained injuries in the accident, with several said to be in critical condition. On a reassuring note, there have been no reports of any fatalities so far. Upon receiving news of the incident, local police rushed to the scene and immediately initiated relief and rescue operations. The injured were transported via ambulance to the Naujheel Community Health Centre, where they are currently undergoing treatment. Additionally, some of the injured were shifted to the District Hospital, where a team of doctors is actively engaged in their care. According to eyewitnesses, the bus was travelling at high speed, and the



accident occurred due to a sudden loss of control. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter and are working to ascertain the exact causes of the accident. Speaking to ANI, Circle Officer (CO) Sandeep Singh said, "A bus from Delhi en route to Darbhanga overturned on the Yamuna Expressway. The police teams arrived on the spot immediately and rescued the passengers. 10-12 people were injured in the incident and have been sent for treatment." City Magistrate Anupam Mishra on the incident said, "A bus, going to Bihar, met with an accident, where certain people were injured and are currently undergoing treatment in the district hospital. There is no risk currently."

Explosion at fireworks factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar, workers feared trapped inside

New Delhi, Apr 13:

A powerful blast tore through a fireworks factory near Sattur in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Monday, sending shockwaves across the area and sparking fears that several workers could still be trapped inside.

The incident occurred at an Excel fireworks factory located in Madathupatti near Sattur, according to Fire and Rescue Department officials, who confirmed that emergency teams were immediately dispatched to the site to begin relief operations. Workers feared trapped as rescue teams began operations.



Initial information from sources indicates that multiple workers were inside the facility at the time of the blast and may still be trapped. Fire and rescue personnel have reached the location and are working to

contain the situation and search for those inside. Authorities are yet to confirm the cause of the explosion or the number of people affected. Officials said more information will be shared as rescue efforts progress.

Weather department predicts rain in southern TN; heat to intensify in interior regions

New Delhi, Apr 13:

The India Meteorological Department has forecast moderate rainfall in parts of southern Tamil Nadu, including Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts, even as rising temperatures are expected across several interior regions of the state.

According to the latest weather bulletin, one or two places in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, and districts along the Western Ghats are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall on Monday. These isolated showers are likely to bring brief relief from the prevailing heat in these southern pockets. However, the rest of Tamil



Nadu is likely to experience predominantly dry weather conditions. Similar dry conditions are also expected to prevail in Pudukkottai, with no significant rainfall activity forecast for these regions. The IMD has also indicated

in contrast, coastal Tamil Nadu and Pudukkottai are not expected to witness any major change in maximum temperatures. Despite stable temperature levels along the coast, the combination of high humidity and heat is likely to cause discomfort among residents.

Weather officials have cautioned that such conditions could lead to sultry and oppressive weather, particularly during the daytime. In Chennai, the sky is expected to remain partly cloudy throughout the day. The maximum temperature in the city is likely to hover between 36 and 37 degrees Celsius, while the mini-

mum temperature is expected to be around 27 degrees Celsius.

The city is unlikely to receive any significant rainfall, and humid conditions are expected to persist. Meanwhile, the IMD has issued an explicit warning for fishermen along the Tamil Nadu coast, indicating relatively stable sea conditions for fishing activities. Authorities have advised residents, particularly in interior districts, to take necessary precautions against heat exposure, stay hydrated, and avoid prolonged outdoor activities during peak afternoon hours.

We will win in Nagapattinam: MMK President MH Jawahirullah, backs DMK's MK Stalin for second term

New Delhi, Apr 13:

Manithaneya Makkal Katchi (MMK) President and party candidate from Nagapattinam Assembly Constituency, M H Jawahirullah, on Sunday said that the election campaign in Nagapattinam is progressing "peacefully" and "enthusiastically," expressing confidence that the Democratic Progressive Front will secure victory and ensure a return of Chief Minister M K Stalin to power for a second term with what he described as a "double century" mandate. Speaking to ANI, Jawahirullah said, "The campaign is going on very peacefully, very enthusiastically, and in a very massive manner. The entire party's in the Democratic Progressive Front, that is, we call in Tamil Mathasbarata Mutpoku Kootani, they are working for my victory. I'm very much sure that in Nagapattinam we will win. Not only in Nagapattinam, but we will also win as our CM has



said, we will hit a double century and our honourable CM Muthuvel Kannanidhi Stalin will become the Chief Minister for the second time and DMK regime will be here in Tamil Nadu for the seventh time." Referring to the campaign activities of senior DMK leaders, Jawahirullah said that the participation of Udhayanidhi Stalin in

campaigning in the constituency would further strengthen the party's prospects. He described Udhayanidhi Stalin as a young leader with significant influence among the youth of Tamil Nadu. "He has done very much for the youth, especially as Minister in charge of sports. He has arranged for stadiums in all over Tamil

Nadu and he's a darling of the youth of Tamil Nadu. And definitely his campaign today morning in my constituency will boost our campaign and we will win massively," he said. On the campaign visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Tamil Nadu, Jawahirullah said it would not have any impact on the election outcome, while also targeting the AIADMK. He alleged that the party had not acted in the interest of the people of the Nagapattinam constituency. "No, it will not affect my victory because AIADMK has worked against the interests of the people of the Nagapattinam constituency. For example, the medical college should have been in Nagapattinam. The AIADMK people, they took it to Orathur, which is a very small hamlet. And again, we had the district hospital over here. It has been taken to Vedaranayam, both by O.S. Manian and the present AIADMK candidate.

Mathura boat tragedy: Death toll rises to 15, search continues for missing

New Delhi, Apr 13:

The death toll in the Mathura boat accident has risen to 15 after rescue teams recovered two more bodies of missing persons from the Yamuna River, officials said on Monday. One of the deceased has been identified as Yash Bhalla, also known as Yavruji, a resident of Punjab. The other victim has been identified as Monica.

Yash Bhalla's body was located along the banks near Devraha Baba Ghat, close to Kesli Ghat, officials confirmed. The remains were reported to be in a mutilated condition when recovered. The bodies were retrieved by a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as part of the



ongoing search operation. Police have taken custody of the remains and sent them for post-mortem examination. Search efforts are still underway to trace one remaining missing person, with authorities deploying drones to aid in the operation. Personnel from the Army's

Strike One Corps, along with NDRF teams, continue to be engaged in the extensive search and recovery efforts in the area. The incident occurred on the afternoon of April 10 in Vrindavan, when a boat carrying tourists, most of them from Punjab, capsized in the Yamuna.

Wage protest turns violent in Noida: Vehicles torched, properties vandalized, stones pelted; police fire tear gas to regain control



New Delhi, Apr 13: What began as a wage protest in Noida's industrial belt spiralled into violent street clashes on Monday, with workers torching vehicles, pelting stones at police, and blocking key roads, forcing authorities to deploy heavy force and use tear gas to regain control. The unrest broke out when a large group of workers gathered to demand a salary hike. The workers at Hosiery Complex in Phase



2 of Uttar Pradesh's Noida have been protesting, demanding higher wages. The demonstration quickly escalated, with protesters vandalising vehicles and nearby property. At least one vehicle was set ablaze, sending plumes of smoke across the area and heightening panic. The violence comes a day after District Magistrate Medha Roopam held a meeting with senior labour officials, including the state's Principal Secretary

(Labour) and Labour Commissioner. Issues such as overtime pay, bonuses, weekly holidays, and workplace safety were discussed, with an emphasis on maintaining industrial harmony. Ahead of the protest, the district administration had also appealed to workers to remain peaceful and ignore rumours. The District Magistrate had also shared helpline numbers for assistance and urged cooperation in maintaining law and order. Clashes with police, injuries reported. As police moved in to disperse the crowd, confrontations intensified. Protesters hurled stones, prompting police to respond with tear gas to control the situation. Reports indicate that some police personnel sustained injuries during the clashes, though official confirmation is awaited.

Sexual exploitation, push to convert to Islam at TCS Nashik? FIRs, arrests trigger massive probe

New Delhi, Apr 13:

What started as a workplace complaint has now snowballed into a case that's drawing attention across the country. Employees at Tata Consultancy Services' BPO unit in Nashik have alleged sexual exploitation and attempts to force religious conversion, prompting a police probe and strong reactions from political leaders.

The issue isn't new. Some complaints go back to 2022, but things escalated in March this year when a woman accused a colleague of maintaining a relationship with her on the false promise of marriage. That one complaint opened the floodgates. More employees came forward, FIRs multiplied, arrests followed, and a Special Investigation Team is now



looking into allegations that appear to have gone on for years. Nine FIRs, arrests; SIT formed to probe multi-year allegations. According to police, nine FIRs have been registered so far, with multiple arrests made in connection with the case. The accused

include Shah Rukh Qureshi, Shafi Sheikh, Tausif Attar, Raza Memon, Asif Ansari, and Danish Sheikh. They were produced in court and remanded to police custody. The investigation, supervised by Nashik Police Commissioner Sandeep Kamik, is being carried out

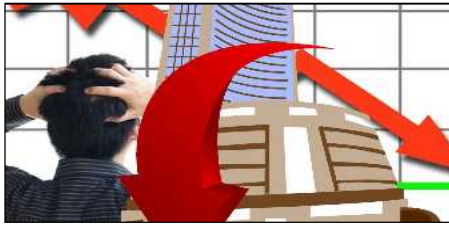
by a Special Investigation Team led by ACP Crime Sandeep Mitke. Authorities said the allegations involve both sexual offences and claims of religious coercion within the workplace. Police said the first FIR was registered in March 2026 following intelligence inputs, after which additional complaints surfaced. Victims allege harassment, coercion and ignored complaints. Multiple women employees, along with at least one male colleague, have approached the Nashik City Police alleging a pattern of harassment by a group of senior staff, particularly team leads. The complainants have alleged repeated inappropriate touching, obscene remarks, molestation and, in some cases, physical

relationships established under false promises of marriage. Victims also said they were put under pressure to take part in religious practices, with some alleging attempts to push them towards conversion. In a separate complaint, a male employee claimed he was forced to participate in religious activities against his wishes. Several complainants said they had flagged the issue earlier with senior officials and the HR department, but nothing really moved. It was found during the investigation that the HR head, identified as Nida Khan, had allegedly not acted on these repeated complaints. Her statement was recorded on April 10, 2026. She has been asked to cooperate with the investigation going forward.

Sensex tumbles, rupee at 93.35, crude above \$105 as Hormuz shock rattles markets

New Delhi, Apr 13: Indian equity markets opened deep in the red on Monday after US President Donald Trump announced a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a sharp sell-off across sectors. The BSE Sensex dropped 1,414.33 points or 1.82 per cent to 76,135.92, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 407 points to 23,643.60 at 9:15 am.

The sharp decline reflects renewed global anxiety after US-Iran negotiations failed to make progress, pushing investors into a risk-off mode. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for global oil supplies, has once again come into focus, sending crude prices above \$105 per



barrel and raising immediate concerns for inflation, currency stability and India's import bill. **Markets tumble as geopolitical tensions escalate** Selling pressure intensified across the board, with benchmarks slipping further during early trade. The Sensex at one point plunged 1,675 points or 2.16 per cent to hit an intraday low of 75,874.85, while the Nifty dropped nearly 500 points to around 23,555. Sectoral indices were uniformly in the red, led by banking, financials, auto, realty and energy stocks. Among major laggards were Bajaj Finance, Eicher Motors, Shriram Finance, Maruti

Crude oil prices, which had earlier eased to the \$94-100 range, have surged back above \$105 following the escalation. Brent crude futures climbed 8.61 per cent to \$103.40 per barrel, while US WTI rose 9.38 per cent to \$105.63.

The Indian rupee weakened by 66 paise to 93.35 against the US dollar, reflecting pressure from rising oil prices and concerns over the current account deficit. Analysts said the situation is particularly critical for India, which relies on the Hormuz route for over 85 per cent of its crude imports. Higher oil prices could widen the current account deficit, weaken the rupee and push inflation higher.

Ola Electric Launches S1 X+ 5.2 kWh With 4680 Bharat Cells

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Ola Electric on Monday announced the launch of the new S1 X+ 5.2 kWh scooter, powered by its indigenously developed 4680 Bharat Cell at an introductory price of Rs 1,29,999. With this, the company is bringing its advanced in-house cell technology to the mass market, making long range EV scooters accessible for every Indian, Ola Electric said in a statement. Launched at an introductory price of Rs 1,29,999 valid till April 15, S1 X+ 5.2 kWh marks a major milestone in Ola Electric's journey to drive adoption of high-performance EV technology at scale, it added. "With S1 X+ 5.2 kWh, we are taking our 4680 Bharat Cell to the mass



market at scale. The same technology platform we built for our most advanced products is now powering a scooter designed for much wider EV adoption," an Ola Electric spokesperson said. The spokesperson further said, "This is exactly what vertical integration enables - the ability to innovate deeply, scale quickly, and bring our best technology to more and more customers, across segments. faster. S1 X+ 5.2 kWh is where performance, range and scale come together, and is another important step towards making EVs accessible to every Indian." Ola Electric said the move underscores its vertical integration across cell development, battery pack engineering, and vehicle manufacturing, enabling it to rapidly scale breakthrough technology across segments.

Major Jio Fiber snag hits lakhs of consumers nationwide

New Delhi, Apr 13: A massive technical snag hit Jio Fiber services across the country on Sunday morning, knocking out broadband internet, WiFi and fixed-line telephone connectivity for lakhs of subscribers in what is being described as one of the worst outages since the telecom giant's inception. The disruption, which began in the early hours, left consumers in cities and towns across India completely cut off, with no internet or landline access. Adding to the frustration, the MyJio mobile app - the primary portal for raising complaints and seeking customer support - also stopped responding, leaving affected users with no recourse to even log a grievance. When contacted, a senior functionary of Reliance Jio confirmed the nationwide disruption. The official said technical teams were on the job and services were likely to be restored shortly, but offered no explanation for

the scale or cause of the snag.

The breakdown triggered an immediate storm on social media. The hashtag #JioDown began trending on X (formerly Twitter) within hours of the outage, with irate consumers posting screenshots of dead routers and black screens. "The app is down, the website is not working and the Fiber WiFi is also down - what exactly is working?" wrote one user. Scores of others across Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Chandigarh, Pune and other major cities reported identical symptoms. Outage-tracking platforms confirmed the scale of the disruption, with complaint volumes spiking sharply through the morning. Internet monitor NetBlocks noted disruptions affecting users in Chandigarh, Punjab, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Oil prices breach \$100 after Trump's statement over blockage of Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi, Apr 13: The oil prices reacted sharply to the United States (US) President Donald Trump's statement over the blockage of Strait of Hormuz, jumping above \$100 a barrel on Monday. Reportedly, the US Navy prepared the blockade that could restrict Iranian oil shipments to the US and Iran failed to reach a deal to end the war. At Monday morning, the Brent crude futures rose \$7.60, or 7.98 per cent, to \$102.80 a barrel by 2310 GMT after settling 0.75 per cent "lower" on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate was at \$104.88 a barrel, up \$8.31, or 8.61 per cent, following a 1.33 per cent loss in the previous session. The Brent crude has swung during the Iran war, rising from



roughly \$70 per barrel before the war in late February to more than \$119 at times. Donald Trump on Sunday had said the US Navy would start

blockading the Strait of Hormuz, raising the stakes after marathon talks with Iran failed to reach a deal to end the war, jeopardising a fragile two-week ceasefire. Reacting to Trump's statement, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that any military vessels attempting to approach the Strait of Hormuz would be considered a violation of the two-week US ceasefire and "be dealt with harshly and decisively." The Indian rupee also faced the global pressure as on Monday start, the currency was at 93.28 declining 55 paise from Friday's closing value of 92.73/\$, following a two-week relief rally. Shipping activity has remained limited in recent days. Marine tracking data shows that more than 40 commercial vessels have crossed the route since the ceasefire began, according to AP.

India received highest number of regressive tax recommendations from IMF: Oxfam

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: India received the highest number of regressive tax recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) between 2022 and 2024, according to an analysis by Oxfam. The analysis, released ahead of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in Washington, has flagged that the global body is applying "double standard" by giving largely progressive advice to wealthy countries while suggesting regressive measures for others that are "likely to exacerbate inequality". The report said 59 per cent of the IMF's tax



advice to low- and lower-middle-income countries was regressive, while 52 per cent of its recommendations to high-income countries were progressive. A regressive tax refers to a uniform taxation system which burdens those

and 2024 and found that only 30 recommendations, or around three per cent, focused on net wealth taxes and the taxation of income from wealth, namely capital gains. The report said that despite the rapid growth of extreme wealth, billionaire wealth has surged by 81 per cent since 2020. The analysis found that the United States and Brazil received the most progressive IMF tax advice. Canada, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway also

Vikram Solar crosses 10 GW in global deployments

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Vikram Solar on Monday said it has crossed 10 GW in cumulative global solar module deployments, marking a defining milestone in its growth journey. Vikram Solar's 10 GW milestone, equivalent to over 25 million solar modules deployed globally, is enough to power over 5 million Indian homes, a company statement said. The company has doubled its cumulative deployments from 5 GW to 10 GW in just two years, reflecting strong demand momentum and a robust growth trajectory.



While a majority of its deployments are in India, Vikram Solar has steadily expanded its global footprint, with approximately 1.5 GW of exports contributing to its presence across 39 countries. Vikram Solar has built 9.5 GW of module manufacturing capacity across West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, with a 5 GW facility in Vallam, Tamil Nadu, that stands out for its advanced automation and next-generation manufacturing systems.

FPIs extend sell-off in April; pull out Rs 48,213 crore in 10 days

New Delhi, Apr 13: Foreign investors maintained their aggressive sell-off in Indian equities, withdrawing Rs 48,213 crore (USD 5.14 billion) in the first 10 days of April, as rising geopolitical tensions and global macroeconomic uncertainties reduced risk appetite. The sell-off follows a record outflow of Rs 1.17 lakh crore (about USD 12.7 billion) in March, the worst monthly exodus on record. The sharp reversal comes after FPIs had infused Rs 22,615 crore in February, marking the highest monthly inflow in 17 months. With the latest withdrawals, total outflows by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have surged to Rs 1.8 lakh crore in 2026 so far. In April alone, foreign investors withdrew equities worth Rs 48,213 crore from the cash market till April 10,

according to NSDL data. Market participants attributed the sustained selling pressure to a combination of global macroeconomic headwinds and heightened geopolitical risks. Himanshu Srivastava, Principal - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, noted that selling was largely driven by risk aversion triggered by escalating tensions in West Asia, which pushed up crude oil prices and revived concerns about inflation globally. Echoing similar concerns, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said the energy crisis stemming from the West Asia conflict, coupled with the potential spillover impact on the Indian economy and continued depreciation of the rupee, has kept FPIs firmly in sell mode.

Bank of Baroda and Reliance Jio Partner to Launch 'bob World Lite' for Feature Phones, Accelerating Digital Inclusion in India

New Delhi, Apr 13: Bank of Baroda and Reliance Jio today announced a partnership to launch bob World Lite, the first comprehensive mobile banking app designed specifically for feature phone users, on the JioPhone Prima 4G device. In line with the vision of the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to promote inclusivity and make digital payments accessible to feature phone users, this industry-first initiative brings seamless and comprehensive digital banking access to millions across the country.



The app will be available to both existing Bank of Baroda customers as well as customers of any other bank through a simple and convenient self-onboarding process. Unlike conventional mobile banking apps that only work on smartphones, the bob World Lite app has been built to provide a comprehensive suite of everyday banking services

come pre-loaded on JioPhone Prima 4G devices and will be accessible directly from the home screen. Existing JioPhone Prima 4G device users can access the bob World Lite app from JioStore. Speaking on the partnership, Dr. Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda, said, "Driving digital inclusion remains a core priority for us at Bank of Baroda. Presently, bob World mobile banking caters to retail customers and to business serves merchants, SME and corporate. The bob World Lite mobile banking app currently offers functionalities such as UPI-enabled Scan & Pay and Send Money, Bill payments & Recharges and manage profile, with more features to be introduced. Under the partnership, the app will



BJP Mahila Morcha held Live telecast of PM Modi on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan'



Jammu, 13 April 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party witnessed the live telecast of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan' at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, held at Vigyan Bhawan, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation, reaffirming his vision of transitioning from "Women-Led Development." BJP J&K President and MP Sat Sharma, along with former Deputy Chief Minister

Nirmal Singh, keenly watched and listened to the Prime Minister's inspiring address. A large number of BJP leaders, workers, and members of Mahila Morcha, including Mahila Morcha State President Neha Mahajan, were present on the occasion. The gathering reflected strong enthusiasm and commitment towards women empowerment and inclusive governance. During the address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to empowering women across all sectors and highlighted the historic significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which ensures greater participation of women in legislative bodies. His address inspired the attendees and reinforced the party's dedication to strengthening the role of women in nation-building.

The programme was telecast live on DD News and streamed through the official webcast platform, enabling wide participation and engagement. BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretary Urvasi Gupta thanked all participants, especially the matrisshakti, for their presence and for attentively watching the live telecast of the programme.

Broadband Devices provided to Health facilities in Bhandarwah

BHADARWAH, APRIL 13: In a major push toward integration of digital technology with healthcare services, broadband internet devices were provided today to the health centers across Medical block Bhandarwah. The equipments were handed over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr. Verna Sharma here at Sub-District Hospital (SDH). The move aims to overcome poor network connectivity in remote areas and enable the health centers to access digital services seamlessly; upload



critical patient data on national health portals in real-time and bridge the gap between rural patients and specialists, making Tele-Consultation services a reality for the general public in far-flung locations. Later, the ADC con-

ducted a comprehensive inspection of different sections of the hospital to review ongoing projects. He inspected the progress of the upcoming dialysis unit, a vital addition for patients in the region who previously.

Babila Rakwal chairs Inter-College Youth Seminar at GDC Ramban; highlights Nasha Mukta campaign

RAMBAN, APRIL 13: The district Administration in collaboration with the Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban, today organized an Inter-College Youth seminar to commemorate Ambedkar Jayanti 2026, marking the 155th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

The programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alys Khan. It featured an awareness session on the ongoing 100 day intensive Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan. Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology Department, Babila Rakwal, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In her address, the Commissioner Secretary



highlighted the significance of the Nasha Mukta campaign and stressed the need for collective efforts to channelize youth energy towards constructive pur-

suits. She emphasized holistic development and encouraged the educational institutions to actively engage students in sports and co-curricular activities,

Ashok Koul reviews party programmes, pushes for team building & mass connect in Ganderbal

Ganderbal, 13 April 2026: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, chaired an organizational meeting with district office bearers, constituency presidents, and morcha presidents of District Ganderbal at the party office, Ganderbal. The meeting witnessed the presence of J&K BJP State Secretary & Prabhari Ganderbal District, Arif Raja, District President Ganderbal, Gh. Hassan Rather, along with other senior leaders and party functionaries.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, emphasized the need to further strengthen the party organization at the grassroots level. He stressed that a strong, alive organization is the backbone of party, and called upon the



leaders to ensure the formation of dedicated teams at every level of the party hierarchy, from booth level to district level. He asked that every activist, whether new or senior, must be actively involved in party programmes to ensure collective growth and effective mass contact. Koul highlighted that the BJP has always thrived on its cadre-based structure,

and maintaining coordination among all sections of workers is essential. He directed the leaders to regularly organize meetings, outreach activities, and public programmes to strengthen the connect with the masses. He further stressed the importance of identifying and nurturing new talent within the party while also respecting and utilizing the

experience of senior activists. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the ongoing party programmes, especially the Prashikshan Yarg, which aims to ideologically and organizationally empower party workers. The preparations and successful execution of the party's Foundation Day programmes were also

reviewed. Special emphasis was laid on organizing Ambedkar Jayanti programmes on April 14, with Koul urging all leaders to ensure wide participation across Ganderbal district. He stated that such occasions should be utilized to spread awareness about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision and the party's commitment to social justice and inclusive development.

Arif Raja said that the district unit is committed to implementing the organizational directives in letter and spirit and will ensure effective coordination at all levels. Gh. Hassan Rather expressed confidence that with collective efforts and active participation of workers, the BJP will further strengthen its base in Ganderbal.

Nagar Kirtan marks Khalsa Sirjana Diwas in Poonch

Devotees participate enthusiastically; Administration and Police Join Celebrations

POONCH, APRIL 13: A grand Mahanagar Kirtan was organized to mark Khalsa Sirjana Diwas. Shri Guru Ramdas Ji Sewa Society and the Management Committee of Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji organized the congregation, attracting active support and cooperation from the Sangat of Poonch.

The Nagar Kirtan was conducted successfully under the overall supervision of Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib. The congregation commenced from Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji and culminated at Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib, witnessing enthusiastic participation from devotees across the district. Deputy Commissioner Ashok



Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafiq Hussain Bhat and other officers

from the civil administration and police department participated in the religious procession, reflecting

communal harmony and strong administrative support.

Ragi Jathas recited Gurbani Kirtan from a beautifully decorated 'Trolley', while the Sangat joined in devotion, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere along the entire route.

Adding to the grandeur, several groups from Punjab showcased traditional Sikh martial and cultural arts, including Gatka parties (martial art), Nishanahis, Nagara parties, Narsinga groups, band parties and Dhol performers. The performances were widely appreciated by the Sangat.

Later, Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji performed Ardas and Guru Ka Langar was served to all devotees, promoting the spirit of equality, service and brotherhood.

Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan

Mega awareness Programme held at Rajpura-Samba

SAMBA, APRIL 13: District Administration Samba today organised a mega awareness programme at Rajpura as part of the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan. The programme was held under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan, reflecting the administration's firm commitment to eradicating the menace of drug abuse from the district. The event was graced by local Member Legislative Assembly Dr. Devidar Kumar Manyal, whose presence lent significant momentum to the initiative. In his inspiring address, Dr. Manyal called upon every section of society to stand united against the drug menace, emphasising that the battle against substance abuse is not merely an administrative challenge but a collective social responsibility. "The youth - the backbone of the nation - must be protected at all costs," he stressed and urged seamless coordination among the district administration, educational institutions and the community at large to create a truly drug-free environment. He passionately encouraged the young generation to embrace a

healthy, disciplined and purpose-driven lifestyle.

The programme served as a powerful platform to sensitize students about the devastating consequences of substance abuse, reinforcing the importance of early awareness and prevention. Engaging and impactful sessions were conducted to equip the youth with the knowledge and resolve needed to resist the allure of drugs. Addressing the gathering, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ghagwal Kawaljit Singh Bali reaffirmed the administration's unwavering resolve to sustain such awareness drives across the district. He underlined the indispensable role of public participation in making the Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan a success. The programme was organised by local Tehsildar Karanjeet Singh, witnessing participation from the Principal Government Higher Secondary School, former public representatives including Former BDC and Former BDC Members and a large and gathering of students, all of whom pledged their support towards making District Samba free from the scourge of drug abuse.

Anti-drug awareness events held across Doda district

DODA, APRIL 13: As part of the ongoing 100 day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Municipal Council Doda today hosted an awareness programme here in the Town Hall to educate the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

Executive Officer MC Ravi Saini led the event witnessing active participation from municipal officials, community mobilizers, Swachhta executives and volunteers.

Speakers highlighted the serious risks associated with substance abuse, including its adverse effects on physical and mental health, breakdown of family and social struc-



tures and its long-term impact on the youth. Tehsil Social Welfare Office Bhandarwah organized a comprehensive awareness programme here at Bus Stand to sensitize

drivers, conductors and passengers to the harmful effects of drug abuse. Pamphlets carrying messages on drug abuse prevention and helpline information were distributed

among drivers, conductors and passengers to spread awareness. The material emphasized the importance of a drug-free lifestyle and encouraged individuals to seek support in case of

need. It also highlighted the role of community participation in preventing substance abuse and promoting a healthy society.

Government Degree College Kastigarh organized an informative and thought-provoking debate on the harmful effects of drug abuse. The students confidently expressed their views and showcased a strong understanding of the issue. Dhammi, Kavita, Neha, Priya, Anshuman, Randher and Sandeep spoke eloquently on different aspects of substance abuse. The students highlighted the severe physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction.

Young entrepreneurship gets boost as Sanjita Dogra inaugurates new shop in Jullaka Mohalla

Jammu, 13 April 2026: Jammu Kashmir BJP General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge, Sanjita Dogra, inaugurated a newly established artificial jewellery and cosmetic shop "Shree Radhey Creations" in the Jullaka Mohalla area of Old Jammu city, marking yet another step towards promoting grassroots entrepreneurship and self-reliance among the unemployed youth. Sanjita Dogra, on this occasion, congratulated the young entrepreneur for taking the initiative to establish the business venture. She appreciated the courage and determination required to start a new enterprise, especially in today's competitive environment. Sanjita Dogra said that such initiatives not only become a source of income for the individual who establishes the unit but also create employment opportunities for others. She emphasized that small business ventures play a crucial role in strengthening the local economy and contribute significantly to overall economic growth. Highlighting the importance of

self-employment, Sanjita Dogra said that the Modi government at the centre is consistently encouraging youth to become job creators instead of job seekers. She added that various schemes and policies introduced by the Modi government are aimed at supporting startups and small businesses, enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to realize their dreams. Sanjita Dogra further said that such initiatives also motivate others in society to come forward and explore opportunities for earning their livelihood with dignity.

She stressed that when one individual succeeds through hard work and innovation, it inspires many others to follow a similar path. Encouraging the youth to take advantage of available resources, she urged them to adopt entrepreneurial thinking and contribute to nation-building. Prominent local residents were present during the inauguration ceremony, expressing their support and best wishes to the entrepreneur for a successful venture.



Deputy CM inspects work on Bridge Project at Meeran Sahib; emphasizes quality, timely completion

JAMMU, APRIL 13: The Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today inspected the ongoing construction work on Rs. 7.42 crore bridge project being executed on the Satwari-S Pura road at Meeran Sahib, Jammu. During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed on the vital infrastructure project. He emphasised the importance of timely completion of the vital project while strictly adhering to the set quality parameters.



Highlighting the significance of the bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the project holds historical importance and will play a crucial role in ensuring seamless connectivity and improved accessibility for the people of the area. Interacting with the engineers

and officials, he sought detailed information regarding the construction methods, quality of materials being used and overall progress achieved, so far. "We will closely monitor the project and conduct periodic inspections to ensure that the work

is carried out as per the prescribed standards," asserted the Deputy CM. The Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the safety features of the bridge, including provision of a footpath for the pedestrians aimed at preventing accidents and enhancing public convenience. Chief Engineer R&B, Rajesh Kumar Agastam, SE and Executive Engineers and other senior officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspection. Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Sukh Sagar Bhawan Ashram at village Sikandarpur, Bisnah in Jammu and paid obitance at the temple. He also interacted with the caretakers and reviewed the ongoing works, emphasising their timely completion and quality execution.

Commissioner Secretary reviews progress on Nasha Mukta campaign in Ramban

RAMBAN, APRIL 13: Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Babila Rakwal, who is also the Mentor Secretary for implementation of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Jammu and Kashmir for Poonch, today visited the district to review progress on the ongoing 100 day intensive campaign against drug abuse. During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess implementation of the district action plan formulated by the District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad



Alyas Khan. The meeting focused on evaluating the coordinated efforts of various stakeholder departments in achieving the objective of a drug-free society. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak, delivered a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the initiatives undertaken, awareness activities conducted and the roadmap prepared by different departments for implementation of the campaign. He also informed about inter-departmental coordination and grassroots-level outreach programmes being carried out across the district.

STD conducts GST workshop for CSCs in Jammu Division



JAMMU, APRIL 13: Jammu and Kashmir Taxes Department (STD) today organized a comprehensive training workshop for representatives of Common Service Centers (CSCs) operating across Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts. The initiative aimed at enhancing awareness and strengthening compliance in Goods and Services Tax (GST) procedures. Chaired by Additional Commissioner Administration and Enforcement Jammu, Namita Dogra, the participants were sensitized about various aspects of GST, including registration procedures, return filing and overall compliance

requirements. Department officials also educated CSC operators on different types of fraud that may occur during the registration and return filing processes, emphasizing the need for vigilance and adherence to prescribed norms. The participants were further apprised of the legal implications and consequences of any wrongdoing under the GST framework, encouraging them to maintain transparency and integrity in their operations. Addressing the gathering, Additional Commissioner Jammu encouraged CSC representatives to actively engage in the GST domain, describing it as a promising and profitable area of work. However, she stressed the importance of strict compliance with KYC norms and advised against any malpractice, reiterating the department's commitment to ensuring a fair and accountable tax system. The workshop also provided a detailed overview of the GST system, covering its processes from inception to its broader benefits for businesses and the economy. An interactive session was held wherein department officials addressed queries raised by participants. The CSC representatives participated enthusiastically, making the session informative and engaging.

Sakeena Itoo reviews proposed AI initiatives of IIT Jammu for reforms in School Education, Health sectors

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the proposed Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives presented by IIT Jammu aimed at bringing transformational reforms in the School Education and Health sectors across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education, M. Raju; CEO, State Health Agency, Anant Dwivedi; Directors of School Education, Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officers of the Health and School Education departments, either in person or through video conferencing. Speaking during the meeting, the Minister emphasized on developing a structured, age-appropriate AI curriculum spanning



primary, middle and higher secondary levels, covering AI fundamentals, responsible use of generative AI, prompt engineering and computational thinking. She called upon the representatives of IIT Jammu to conduct in-depth deliberations with School Education department and take all aspects into consideration from the grassroots level before finalizing these initiatives. The Minister stressed on the need to prepare students for future technological advancements and asked both Directors to explore introduction of Artificial

Intelligence literacy in Government schools through structural and age-appropriate curriculum. She also called for studying the existing platforms like Smart Classrooms and Atal Tinkering Labs of the School Education department and their integration with these proposed initiatives. The Minister highlighted that promoting experiential learning and fostering innovation among students is the need of hour adding that such initiatives would empower young learners to develop technology-driven solutions for local challenges and help in building a future-ready workforce across Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the importance of inclusivity in education, Sakeena Itoo directed that AI education content should be made accessible in regional languages to ensure equitable learning opportunities for students across all districts, particularly in remote and underserved areas. While reviewing the proposed initiatives for Health sector, the Minister underscored the importance of adopting modern technologies to build a transparent, efficient

and accountable healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir. She directed the Health department to examine the proposed AI-based interventions for strengthening healthcare governance and enhancing service delivery. The Minister laid particular emphasis on leveraging Artificial Intelligence for fraud detection in AB-PMJAY/SEHAT schemes, stating that robust monitoring mechanisms must be established to ensure public funds are utilized transparently and reach genuine beneficiaries without misuse. Further, the Minister directed to explore the possibilities of introducing AI-based optimization of hospital operations including bed management, workforce planning, ambulance deployment and infrastructure utilization to improve patient care and administrative efficiency across healthcare institutions.

DC Srinagar visits Hajj House Bemina, takes onsite inspection of arrangements for pilgrims

Emphasizes ensuring seamless, well-coordinated arrangements for safe and hassle-free pilgrimage

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: Ahead of the commencement of Hajj-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday visited Hajj House Bemina to conduct an on-site inspection of preparations and arrangements for seamless departure of Hajj-2026 pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Additional CEO SCCL, Suhail ul Islam, SP West,



Imtiyaz Ahmad, Chief from Health, PHE, Planning Officer, Fayaz KPDCCL, Hajj Committee Ahmad Dar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, and SMC. During the visit, the DC carried out a comprehensive review of facilities and basic amenities available at

the Hajj House, including accommodation, sanitation, medical facilities, parking space and transportation arrangements. He also inspected the cleanliness of lodging rooms and reviewed the availability of essential services such as water supply and uninterrupted electricity. Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the DC directed all concerned departments to ensure the best possible arrangements focusing on their comfort, safety and convenience throughout the journey. He stressed

DHJ reviews progress of key Horticulture sector schemes

JAMMU, APRIL 13: A high-level review meeting was convened today in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Horticulture Jammu. Gtl Sayed chaired the meeting, attended by Deputy Director Central, Chief Horticulture Officers (CHOs), Chief Canning Instructor Jammu, Accounts Officer, Assistant Director, Horticulture Information & Publicity Officer, In-charge Mega Fruit Plant Nursery Chakroli, Managers-cum-



Chemists (MCCs), NRO and Farm Manager, ACHD Ramban. The progress under CAPEX, HADP (Holistic Agriculture Development Programme), CSS (Centrally Sponsored Schemes), JKCIIP (J&K Comprehensive Horticulture Improvement Programme), NABARD, MIDH (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture) and SASCI

for the financial year 2025-26 was thoroughly reviewed. The meeting also discussed the finalization of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) under CAPEX and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the financial year 2026-27. The meeting deliberated upon a wide range of critical administrative, financial and operational matters pertaining to the Horticulture sector.

Comm State Taxes chairs review meeting of Kashmir Division

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: Commissioner State Taxes Department, P.K. Bhat today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance and progress of the department in the Kashmir Division. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioners State Taxes (Adm. & Enf.) Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina and State Taxes Officers of all Circles of Kashmir Division. The meeting focused on key agenda items, including year-

on-year revenue realisation, action taken on reports generated by GST Analytics & Fraud Detection (BISAG), growth in cash and IGST settlements, progress in Audit cases initiated under Section 65 of the JK GST/CGST Act for FY 2022-23, efforts to curb the menace of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC), payments released by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and resultant tax paid by taxpayers, scrutiny of returns under Section 61 of the Act, enforcement activities and



their outcomes, as well as utilization of various analytical reports and their results. The Commissioner deliberated on the impact of rate rationalisation on the Automobile, Cement, and Insurance sectors. The tax rate was revised from 28% to 18% for Automobiles and Cement, and to zero percent for Insurance. While the rationalisation is likely to affect revenue growth during FY 2025-26, it is expected to have a positive impact on revenue collection in the current financial year.

The rationalisation exercise reflects the government's broader objective of making essential and mass-market goods and services more affordable while simplifying the tax regime and promoting sectors such as affordable housing, mobility, and financial protection. The Commissioner also acknowledged that compared to payments of Rs 9007 crore released against various works contractors, payments of Rs

8994 have been released during FY 2025-26. He also emphasized that registrations granted under Rule 14A need to be scrutinised properly and on regular basis to check any misuse and passing on the fake ITC. During the circle-wise review, the Commissioner evaluated the progress made by each circle towards target achievement, including DRC-03 realised as result of assessments, follow-up on non-filers, and actions initiated as per the Act.

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All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City

