

Northin News

E-mail: northinnews@gmail.com
editor.northinnews@gmail.com

Postal Regd. No. JK/504/19-21

VOL. NO. 14 | ISSUE NO. 96

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026

E-paper: <https://northinnews.com/epaper/> PAGE 12 RS. 3.00

PM Pays Tribute To Babasaheb Ambedkar Lauds Article 370 Abrogation and UCC

DEHRADUN , APR 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary, hailing the abrogation of Article 370 and the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand. PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the six-lane Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor in Dehradun. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister also apologised to the gathering for being late to the occasion. PM Modi said, "Today is also the birth anniversary of Dr Bhabha Saheb Ambedkar. I pay my heartfelt tributes to Babasaheb. The policies and decisions taken by our government over the past



decade have worked towards restoring the dignity of the Constitution. After the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, the Constitution of India is now fully applicable

and shown a way to the nation." "Babasaheb spent his life giving social justice to the deprived and exploited, and our government is also engaged in delivering social justice. That is why Babasaheb strongly advocated for modern infrastructure and industrialisation," he added. Article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, withdrawing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir with a constitutional amendment. While Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code, fulfilling the BJP's long-standing promise. Acknowledging the delay in the event, the Prime Minister said, "I apologise that"

There is no higher duty than serving those in need: LG

LG Sinha attended upgradation ceremony of 'Apna Bhojanalaya' at GMC Jammu
The community kitchen is run by Sewa Bharti and supported by J&K Bank along with other donors



JAMMU, APRIL 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the ceremony marking the upgradation of 'Apna Bhojanalaya' at Government Medical College Jammu. The community kitchen is run by Sewa Bharti and supported by J&K Bank along with other donors. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the noble initiative and partook in a meal at Apna Bhojanalaya. The Lieutenant Governor said the Sewa Bharti's enduring spirit of

giving back, empowers individuals and strengthens communities. "There is no higher duty than serving those in need. Sewa Bharti has honored that duty by nourishing bodies, restoring souls, and affirming the dignity of every human life. To strengthen Apna Bhojanalaya is to strengthen the very fabric of our society," the Lieutenant Governor said. (Contd on Pg 2)

No Scope For Large Aircraft At Kargil Airport; Smaller Planes Possible After Upgrade: Ladakh LG



KARGIL, APR 14: Ladakh Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday said there is currently no scope for operating large aircraft at Kargil Airport due to runway constraints,

though smaller planes could be introduced after necessary upgrades, subject to commercial viability. Speaking to reporters here before concluding his four-day tour of the dis-

PM Modi, President Trump speak on phone, review bilateral ties, stress security of Strait of Hormuz?

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he had a telephonic conversation with US President Donald Trump, during which the two leaders reviewed the progress in India-US relations and discussed key regional and global issues, including the situation in West Asia. In a post on X, Modi described the exchange as a discussion with a "friend," noting that both sides assessed the substantial progress achieved in bilateral coop-

CM thanks PM Modi, Gadkari for approval of Sudhmahadev-Dranga, Singhpora-Vailoo tunnels

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for their support and strategic Partnership in all areas," he said. "The conversation comes amid continued efforts by both countries to deepen engagement in areas such as defence, trade, technology, and energy, with India and the United States increasingly



Valley and adjoining regions. The Government of India has approved the construction of the unidirectional twin-tube Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel (12.85 km, including 2-lane plus paved shoulder approaches) and the

Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel (38.61 km, including 2-lane plus paved shoulder approaches) on NH-244 in Jammu & Kashmir, at an estimated total cost of Rs 9,779.42 crore. Recalling his earlier intervention, the Chief Minister said that in June last year, he had written to the Prime Minister and the union Minister highlighting delays in the projects and seeking their urgent consideration. He had urged that the projects be taken up under the NH (O) scheme of the Ministry of Road Transport & (Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Builders-Financial Institutions Nexus Case: CBI Searches In Eight States

NEW DELHI, APR 14: The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 77 locations in eight states in connection with builders-financial institutions nexus case, officials said. The searches were spread across Delhi, Chennai, Puducherry, Bengaluru among other locations, they said. The case was handed over to the CBI by the Supreme Court, which on April 29, 2025 had directed the agency to register seven preliminary enquiries against builders in NCR, including Supertech Limited. Later in the year, the court directed it to (Contd on Pg 2)

Eight Held For Vandalism During Protests Against Sexual Harassment

SRINAGAR, APR 14: Police have arrested eight people allegedly involved in vandalism during protests against sexual harassment of a girl student by a lecturer in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday. A senior lecturer at a government higher secondary school in Sopore was on Monday booked on charges of sexually assaulting a female student in vandalism during a student protest. 25 more identified. Strict action underway against those disturbing public order," police said in a post on its X handle. "We have (Contd on Pg 2)

After Ramban incident, Omar says won't allow 'jungle rule'

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14 Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday warned against attempts to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir, saying his government would not allow "jungle rule" or communal discord to take root in the union Territory. Addressing a function in Bibehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Omar said that certain elements were trying to vitiate the atmosphere. "Let's start a new day, a new beginning. Let the atmosphere and situation remain good. But there are some people who want to establish jungle rule here, who want to spoil the atmosphere and do not like peace. They

want religious disorder and fights," he said. Referring to a recent incident in Ramban district of Jammu region, the Chief Minister said the "killing" of an "innocent" person was unacceptable and urged strict action against those responsible. He also appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure firm action in the case. Tensions flared in Ramban district on Monday after alleged cow vigilantes assaulted and chased a youth, forcing him to jump into a fast flowing river. The youth remains untraced despite rescue efforts. Authorities have constituted a Special Investigation Team to (Contd on Pg 2)

Nation's Willpower As Important As Military Strength For Ensuring Security, Says NSA Doval



GANDHINAGAR, APR 14: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Tuesday described national security as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, and stressed that the biggest mistake in assessing a nation's strength is ignoring the willpower of its people. While factors such as military strength are critical, inherent strength of people often proves decisive in security matters, he insisted. Addressing students at the fifth convocation ceremony of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Doval emphasised that national security is a collective responsibility shared by the entire nation. "National security is a vast, complex, and multifaceted phenomenon. It comprises numerous components: a nation's military might, technological prowess, natural resources, diplomatic strength, and human capital," he said in his address to students passing-out of the government-run university, which has been designated as an institution of national importance. However, what often happens and where errors most frequently occur when assessing this comprehensive national power is in the evaluation of the nation's willpower and the inherent strength of its people, said the NSA. Explaining this, Doval cited global examples and said, "If Russia (then USSR) withdrew from Afghanistan (in 1988-89), or if the United States was compelled to withdraw from Vietnam (Contd on Pg 2)

of national importance. However, what often happens and where errors most frequently occur when assessing this comprehensive national power is in the evaluation of the nation's willpower and the inherent strength of its people, said the NSA. Explaining this, Doval cited global examples and said, "If Russia (then USSR) withdrew from Afghanistan (in 1988-89), or if the United States was compelled to withdraw from Vietnam (Contd on Pg 2)

Fuel Price Freeze: Rs 18/Litre Loss On Petrol, Rs 35 On Diesel



NEW DELHI, APR 14: Losses on petrol have widened to Rs 18 per litre and to Rs 35 on diesel as state-owned fuel retailers continue to keep pump prices frozen despite a sharp rise in input costs, sources said. Despite prices being deregulated more than a decade back, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC),

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have not changed the retail petrol and diesel price since April 2022. Global crude oil prices have seen sharp fluctuations over this period - from above USD 100 per barrel following the Russia-Ukraine war, to (Contd on Pg 2)

Man booked in Budgam for impersonating SSP on WhatsApp

SRINAGAR, APR 14: Police in the Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday said an FIR was registered against a person for operating a fake WhatsApp account in the name of SSP Budgam. "Budgam police station has received reliable information that an individual, Sameer Ali Bhat, a resident of Pallar Budgam, was sharing screenshots of chats with a fake WhatsApp account operating in the name of SSP Budgam among the general public and posing as a close aide in order to influence people," a police spokesperson said. Upon verification, it was found that Bhat is linked to multiple FIRs and was allegedly operating a fake WhatsApp account in the name of the SSP, the officer said. Bhat was also sharing screenshots of conversations involving the fake account to portray himself as a close associate to have undue influence, according to police. Acting swiftly on this information, a case has been registered under relevant sections of law, the spokesperson added.

Jitendra Singh warns against over-reliance on Artificial Intelligence in medical education

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14 Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, cautioned against over-reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medical education, stressing that a strong grounding in clinical practice remains essential for training competent doctors. On Monday, speaking at the release of a medical education textbook, Singh said AI can play a supportive role in healthcare, but only after core medical concepts are firmly understood. "Once a sound clinical foundation is established, AI can serve as an enabler and facilitator," he said, adding that premature dependence on



such tools risks weakening the fundamental learning process required to become a capable clinician. Singh, who has a background in medicine, noted that doctors should be able to rely on their clinical judgement even in the absence of diagnostic tools, drugs, or advanced technologies. His remarks come amid a rapid expansion in medical research and publications, which he said has made it increasingly important for medical education to prioritise conceptual clarity and hands-on clinical training. While technology has

100 DAYS OF NASHA MUKTA ABHIYAN Targeting Drug Cartels To Dismantle Supply Chains In Border Areas

JAMMU, APR 14: With the aim of making Jammu and Kashmir a drug-free region during the 100-day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, the UT Police, in coordination with other security agencies, have launched a major crackdown on the drug mafia, especially in the border districts, to dismantle supply chains and prevent the further transportation of narcotics across the region. Spearheading a decisive (Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

PM Pays...

was late by more than an hour. I left on time, but the 12-kilometre-long roadshow, there was such enthusiasm that it was difficult to move the car quickly. The huge crowd in the 12-kilometre-long stretch, even under this heat, shows the love and blessings. I will take a new inspiration from Uttrakhand." Further, he said that the six-lane Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor will accelerate Uttrakhand's progress while strengthening connectivity. Extending greetings for festivities, "The new year has arrived. I extend greetings for Baisakhi, Puthandu and Bohag Bihu. Badrinath and Kedarnath Yatras will also begin in a few days.

There is...

Lieutenant Governor said that to feed a hungry soul is to invite grace into your own. "To serve food to the hungry is among the most sacred acts a human being can perform. When a hand extends in need and another rises in nurture, divine grace moves quietly between them. This act is not merely kindness. This is humanity at its absolute finest. Our aim should be selfless service to the neighbor, the city around us, and the nation that unites us. A strong J&K means strong families. Strong communities. Citizens empowered to lead, to contribute, to rise. When we lift every sector, we lift the Union Territory itself. Commit to this cause and build a legacy worthy of pride," the Lieutenant Governor said. Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the change needs no vast resources but just the spirit for selfless service, vision, persistence and love for the community. He commended Sewa Bharti, volunteers and donors for transforming millions' lives with their selfless service. "You did not merely feed the hungry, you upheld the dignity of millions. And today, let us take a pledge that this service will never stop. The kitchen of Apna Bhojanalaya will never grow cold and every hand in our society will give to the best of its capacity to those who need it most," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon every section of society to join the war against drug abuse.

Shri Jai Dev, Akhil Bharatiya Chatrawas Pramukh, Sewa Bharti; Shri Parmeet, Sangathan Mantri, Sewa Bharti; Prof. Rakesh Jha, President; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, General Secretary; Shri Sushil Kapoor, Bhojanalaya Sanchalak; Shri Trilok Singh Negi, Shri Ajay Takoo and other officer bearers and volunteers of Sewa Bharti J&K were present.

Shri Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu West; Shri Amitiava Chatterjee, Managing Director and CEO, J&K Bank Limited; Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu; Dr Gautam Mengi, Dr Ritu Singh and other prominent citizens and senior officials also attended the ceremony.

No Scope...

extension of up to 3,000 feet, operational challenges would remain," he said. He added that the landing approach requires a difficult turn for large aircraft, while a mountain ahead poses a challenge during take-off. Operations are currently feasible only from one side, further limiting visibility. The Lt Governor said the runway requires complete resurfacing before any civilian operations can begin. Outlining a way forward, Saxena said smaller aircraft with 19 or 26 seats could be introduced once the runway is upgraded, but stressed that even this would depend on commercial viability. "No private airline will invest unless there is sufficient passenger traffic. Once demand builds up, operations can be scaled accordingly," he said. Clarifying a common perception, he said the airport's non-operational status is not due to reluctance on the part of the IAF. "The Air Force is ready, and civil authorities are also prepared. The main requirement is to ensure commercial viability," he said. Describing his Kargil visit as "highly successful," the Lt Governor highlighted major initiatives taken by his administration in infrastructure, employment, environmental protection, and rural development. He said significant progress was observed at the Zojila Tunnel project, expressing confidence that a breakthrough would be achieved soon. He stressed the need to improve marketing and processing of Ladakh's apricots, stating that despite being among the best in quality globally, the lack of proper packaging and processing limits their market reach. Saxena also called for modernising Pashmina production through improved spinning, weaving, and design support, with plans to involve the National Institute of Design. Emphasising environmental sustainability, he announced the launch of a plantation drive under the "Ek Ped Ma Ka Naam" initiative and the "Ladakh Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert Urban Forestry and Food Initiative" aimed at enhancing food security in the cold desert region. He raised serious concerns over pollution in the main river passing through Kargil, warning that unchecked discharge of wastewater could turn it into a drain. He suggested the installation of decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs) and small STPs, citing successful implementation in Delhi as a model. On urban infrastructure, the Lt Governor acknowledged issues in the Kargil market,

including poor condition, lack of parking, and overhead cables and said he had directed authorities to develop multi-level parking facilities and shift cables underground through a comprehensive plan. In a major employment boost, he said around 200 appointment letters were distributed, with more in the pipeline. He reiterated that all government vacancies in Ladakh would be filled in a time-bound manner, with departmental promotions to be completed by the end of the month. The Lt Governor also announced the launch of the "Him Sarovar" project under which ponds are being constructed in 50 villages to address water scarcity, with plans to expand to all 198 panchayats. He said a Green Corridor project will be launched soon with riverbank development, and announced the resolution of long-pending issues related to expired lease deeds.

PM Modi...

positioning their partnership as a key pillar of stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Over the past decade, ties between New Delhi and Washington have expanded significantly, with multiple high-level engagements and strategic frameworks enhancing cooperation. A key focus of the discussion was the evolving situation in West Asia, where ongoing tensions have raised concerns over regional stability and global energy security. Modi said both leaders emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open and secure, underlining its critical role in global oil supply chains. "The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most vital maritime chokepoints, handles a significant portion of global crude oil shipments, making its stability crucial not only for countries in the region but also for major energy importers like India. Any disruption in this corridor has the potential to impact global markets and fuel prices. While details of the call were limited, diplomatic observers see the exchange as part of ongoing coordination between the two leaders on strategic and security issues, particularly at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty. The emphasis on safeguarding maritime routes reflects shared concerns over ensuring uninterrupted trade and energy flows. The latest interaction underscores the continued importance both nations attach to their Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, with leaders on both sides reiterating their commitment to expanding cooperation and addressing emerging global challenges through dialogue and coordination.

CM thanks...

Highways on priority to ensure their timely completion in line with the broader vision for the development of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation. In his communication, the Chief Minister had expressed his concern that while other NH projects on NH-244 were progressing under NHIDCL, delays in these two critical tunnels were impeding the expected socio-economic benefits for the Chenab region and hindering its efforts to overcome economic backwardness.

After Ramban...

probe the incident. "I would like to request my LG sahib, Manoj Sinha, that those people who did this 'murder' in Ramban, the way they tried to spoil the atmosphere there, they should be dealt with strictly. So that a message comes out from here, that you can do this jungle rule elsewhere, but in Jammu and Kashmir, I will never allow this jungle rule here. I want to give this message from Jabalpur," Omar said. Later, speaking to reporters, Omar termed the Ramban incident "wrong" and criticised individuals taking law into their own hands. "Who gave them permission to act like this? Where is it written that anyone transporting cattle is doing illegal work? These people indulge in hooliganism and want to impose jungle rule. We will not allow that in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Nation's...

(in 1970s) or if the US failed to achieve its objectives in Afghanistan – it was not for a lack of technology or military strength. "Rather, the decisive factor was the spirit and commitment of the local people, what we refer to as nation's willpower." He stressed that the sole objective of warfare is to break the morale of one's adversary, thereby compelling them to accept a treaty on your terms. The NSA said the role of citizens is crucial in building this strength. "In the cultivation of this willpower, the role of general public is of paramount importance, specifically the degree of awareness regarding their own security," he opined. Doval noted India is witnessing a shift in this regard. "Today, after a long time in our history, we are witnessing a new awakening. (That) national security is a collective responsibility shared by the entire nation. It is not the sole responsibility of the armed forces, police, or intelligence agencies — it is the combined strength of all of you that ultimately constitutes our national morale," he told the gathering. Highlighting the role of professionals in security ecosystem, including those in academia, research and operations, he said their knowledge, technical expertise and awareness significantly influence outcomes. The NSA stressed the importance of character and discipline in the field, saying "mental power" and the ability to work as a team are essential qualities

for excelling. Calling commitment the "third indispensable element," Doval said the field of national security demands the highest level of dedication. In a message to youngsters wishing to join the security domain, the NSA asserted, "This is a game in which there are no silver medals. You are either victorious, or you are vanquished. If you win, you make history; but if you lose, you become history. Your very existence will be at stake." During the convocation ceremony, Doval was conferred an honorary Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree by President Murmu in recognition of his contributions to national security. "With the utmost humility, I accept the Honorary Doctorate degree conferred upon me here today. I am deeply grateful for this honour," the NSA added.

Fuel Price...

easing to around USD 70 a barrel earlier this year, before surging again to about USD 120 last month after the US-Israeli attacks on Iran triggered fresh supply concerns.

The three firms were incurring losses of about Rs 2,400 crore per day at the peak last month, which have since narrowed to around Rs 1,600 crore daily after the government cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each – a reduction that was not passed on to consumers but used to partly offset losses, industry sources said.

The losses in March have wiped away all gains they made in January/February, they said, adding the three firms are most likely to post losses in the January-March quarter.

Macquarie Group, in a report on 'India Fuel Retail', said, "At spot petrol-diesel pricing of USD 135-165 per barrel, we estimate India's oil marketing companies lose Rs 18 and Rs 35 per litre on petrol and diesel sales (respectively)."

Every USD 10 per barrel increase in crude adds roughly Rs 6 per litre to marketing losses, the report said. The brokerage flagged a high likelihood of retail fuel price hikes after elections in key states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu at the end of this month. "We see risk of higher pump prices post state elections in April."

India, which imported about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirement in 2025, remains highly exposed to global price swings. Around 45 per cent of imports came from the Middle East, 35 per cent from Russia and 6 per cent from the United States. Despite this, the country continued to be a net exporter of key petroleum products, including diesel, petrol and aviation turbine fuel. While the government cut excise duty on fuels by Rs 10 per litre in March, central levies have been on a declining trend and now stand at Rs 11.9 per litre on petrol and Rs 7.8 per litre on diesel.

Even a complete removal of excise duties would only partly offset OMC losses at current prices, the report noted.

State-level VAT rates, however, have largely remained stable.

The fiscal implications of further tax cuts could be significant. Based on provisional consumption estimates of about 170 billion litres in FY26, a full rollback of excise duties could lead to an annual revenue loss of around USD 36 billion, widening the fiscal deficit by an estimated 80 basis points, it said.

The contribution of fuel excise duties to government revenue has already declined to about 8 per cent in FY26 from 22 per cent in FY17, and now accounts for less than a fifth of the fiscal deficit, down from a peak of 45 per cent.

Higher crude prices also pose a risk to India's external balances. The current account deficit, which was near balance in mid-2025, is expected to widen to around USD 20 billion in the first quarter of 2026. A sustained USD 10 per barrel rise in crude could expand the deficit by roughly 30 basis points of GDP, assuming no policy response, the Macquarie report said.

Earnings visibility for OMCs remains uncertain, with every USD 1 per barrel change in crude prices impacting EBITDA by about 5 per cent. The sector's breakeven crude price is estimated at USD 80-85 per barrel.

Targeting...

battle against the drug menace, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11, launched the historic mass movement for a Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir from Maulana Azad Stadium.

Sinha flagged-off Padyatra and joined the public representatives, senior officials and thousands of citizens in the walkathon from M A Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign under "Nasha Mukht Jammu-Kashmir Abhiyaan".

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shridhar Patil, said, "we have decided to put our best efforts in this direction so that no habitual drug peddler and smuggler can be spared."

Notably, Jammu, Kathua and Samba districts share an international boundary with neighbouring Pakistan.

"We are after breaking the supply chain to curb the smuggling and transportation of drugs across the region," DIG Patil said.

He said, "receivers, conduits and users-all are under scanner," adding, he said, "with police, other stakeholders are also jointly working to achieve the 100 days target of putting their best efforts to make J&K drug free region."

"We are identifying the consumers to reach the supplier and the mafia further," he said and added that the local conduits active along the border belts, are on radar.

On first time and habitual offenders, the top cop said, "counselling, rehabilitation is the key to bring first timers back to the mainstream society and if required, can be sent to the rehabilitation centres but no lenient approach for the smugglers and those involved in the trade."

"The Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan is aimed at curbing substance abuse and dismantling supply chains would lead to a series of coordinated operations targeting both local peddlers and cross-border suppliers," he stated. "Law enforcement agencies are working with renewed focus and coordination to eliminate the drug menace. We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach against drug mafia and their support systems," said Patil adding, "Special teams have been constituted to identify and dismantle networks operating in border areas."

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri-Poonch (located close to the Line of Control), Range, Sandeep Wazir said, "directions are issued to all the police stations to take stern action against the drug traders and those into the trade, directly or indirectly, must not be spared."

"Focus being laid on keeping check on drug smuggling, transportation and consumers by special teams, heightened nakkas and required actions being initiated swiftly to curb the menace," said DIG Wazir.

He said that involvement of civilians acting as 'ear and nose' to the police have also increased manifold since the launch of 100-day of Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan, adding, he said, "people have assured all help and cooperation in the fight against the menace."

The DIG said the police along with all other stakeholders are laying stress on key areas including action against smugglers, habitual consumers, suppliers, adding, "simultaneously, awareness, rehabilitation and counselling are also being taken into consideration to protect our youth from falling into the trap of nefarious designs of the anti-social and anti-national elements."

Meanwhile, Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said, "Strict police action is the need of the hour. We cannot accept J&K to become 'Uda Punjab' and it is high time to raise a collective voice against drug abuse."

Team Jammu is an independent organization that has aggressively raised its voice and launched a massive campaign against drug abuse since 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The hotspots of drugs in the areas close to the India-Pakistan border need a major and result oriented crackdown, so that the mission launched by the administration, shall be fulfilled and J&K becomes drug free," he added.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor has already given a clarion call to make Jammu Kashmir free from the scourge of drugs.

In his address after the launch of 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan', Sinha had said that the next three months are pivotal, with the campaign advancing in six clear phases- Awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation and evaluation.

"We will move forward with the whole government approach to rid J&K of drug menace," the Lieutenant Governor had said.

"Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha also said, "Our neighbour is using cross-border smuggling to poison our communities and undermine our nation's future. Every officer carries one obligation: this must stop. The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers. Their networks will be dismantled without delay."

In a stern warning, the Lieutenant Governor stated that Drug Smugglers' assets will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment will be delivered swiftly.

Builders...

register 22 cases in which homebuyers were duped in the National Capital Region (NCR) by using the subvention scheme.

In September 23, last year, the apex court had allowed the CBI to register six more regular cases into the "unholy nexus" between banks and developers to dupe homebuyers in real estate projects in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mohali and Prayagraj.

Eight Held...

registered a case against lecturer Ghulam Hassan Mir based on a sexual assault complaint against him," a senior police officer said.

Students protested after the matter came to light on Monday, but the situation remained by and large peaceful, he said.

The Director of the Education Department has placed Mir under suspension and ordered a departmental inquiry against him.

Joint Director (North Kashmir) of the department has been appointed as the enquiry officer in the case, and he is expected to submit a report within 15 days, the officer added.



Yudhvir Sethi inaugurates Baisakhi Mela at Canal Road, Celebrates Legacy and "Vocal for Local"

JAMMU, Apr 14: In a grand celebration of culture, tradition, and community spirit, the Heritage Baisakhi Mela was inaugurated at the historic Canal Road by MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi. The event was organized by Tourism Department in collaboration with the Information Department. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with thousands of people attending in the morning and lakhs expected to participate by evening. The mela, deeply rooted in Jammu's cultural history, is closely associated with the historic Ranbir Canal, constructed during the reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh. Since that era, Baisakhi celebrations along the canal have been an enduring tradition, symbolizing prosperity, harvest festivities, and communal harmony. Over time, the mela has evolved into a major cultural attraction, preserving the region's heritage while adapting to modern aspirations. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir



Sethi highlighted the importance of preserving such age-old traditions. He stated that the Canal Road Baisakhi Mela is not merely a festival, but a living reflection of Jammu's rich heritage and identity. He appreciated the tireless efforts of organizers and volunteers who continue to expand and improve the event every year. Sethi acknowledged the contributions of several prominent personalities and organizers, including

Rajesh Gupta of the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Chamber of Commerce President Arun Gupta, and Rajiv Sharma. He also praised the dedicated efforts of BJP leaders and team members such as Virjeshwar Rana, Vishal Rajput, former corporator Amit Gupta, Karan Singh, and Raman Sharma, whose coordinated efforts ensured smooth arrangements and successful execution of the mela. The event began with the blessings of revered

spiritual figure Rajesh Bittu, adding a spiritual dimension to the celebrations. Highlighting the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sethi emphasized that the mela strongly aligns with the "Vocal for Local" initiative. A large number of local vendors, artisans, and small entrepreneurs set up stalls offering traditional cuisine, handmade crafts, decorative items, toys, and games. These stalls not only added vibrancy to the mela but also provided an important platform for promoting indigenous products and boosting the local economy. The atmosphere at Canal Road was filled with enthusiasm and festivity, as families, youth, and visitors from different areas gathered to participate in the celebrations. Cultural displays, traditional food stalls, and recreational activities created a lively environment reflecting the true spirit of Baisakhi.

Sukesh C. Khajuria ask centre to provide Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) facility in J&K

Jammu, Apr 14: Sukesh C. Khajuria, a Senior Social and Health Activist, has written to the Union Health Minister J.P.Nadda to provide Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) is a critical, life-saving diagnostic and interventional technology indispensable for the management of cardiovascular, neurovascular, and peripheral vascular diseases in J&K. He wrote in his representation that in the larger public interest and in furtherance of the constitutional mandate to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all citizens, it was incumbent upon the State to ensure the availability of adequate medical infrastructure, particularly in geographically sensitive and underserved regions such as the Union Territory



of Jammu & Kashmir. He further said that right to health forms an integral facet of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. He regretted that the availability of such advanced medical facilities within the Union Territory remains grossly inadequate and as a consequence, patients—often in emergency and time-sensitive conditions such as stroke or cardiac events—are compelled to seek treat-

ment outside the Union Territory. "This not only causes unwarranted delays in medical intervention but also imposes severe financial and logistical burdens on patients and their families, thereby adversely affecting health outcomes and, in certain cases, resulting in preventable fatalities," he added. He requested that the Ministry should consider the establishment of a fully equipped Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) Laboratory in the Jammu region; and a fully equipped Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) Laboratory in the Kashmir region. These facilities may preferably be installed in premier government medical institutions to ensure equitable access, affordability, and optimal utilization.

MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa delivers on promise, launches lane & drain works

Jammu, April 13: Fulfilling his commitment to grassroots development, MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa today started the construction of lanes and drains in Ward No. 5 of Raipur, Jammu Cantonment Board, reinforcing his agenda of visible and result-oriented governance. The work was initiated in the presence of Bharat Bhushan, Vice Chairman, Cantonment Board Jammu, along with Sahil Mahajan (Mandal President), his team, and other local representatives. Addressing the gathering, MLA Randhawa said that he is committed to transforming every corner of the constituency and ensuring that no area is neglected. He emphasized that basic infrastructure like roads and drainage is not a



luxury but a right of every citizen. He further stated that under his leadership, long-pending issues are being resolved at a fast pace, bringing real change on the ground. He assured the public that development works will continue in all wards with equal priority. The residents appreci-

ated the initiative and expressed confidence in the MLA's proactive approach towards solving public issues. MLA Randhawa also directed officials and concerned contractor to maintain quality standards and complete the project within the set timeline.

Ambedkar Birth Anniversary Commemorated at Congress HQ.

Jammu, April 14, 2026 : District Congress Committee Jammu Urban has paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his 135th Birth Anniversary. In this connection a function was held at PCC HQ Shaheedee Chowk Jammu under the Presidency of Shri Yogesh Sawhney - former Minister, PCC Working President & Former Minister Shri Raman Bhalla was the chief guest on the occasion.



The function was attended by Senior Congress leaders of the party including Th. Manmohan Singh - Ex President DCC Jammu Urban, Dwarka Choudhary, Satish Sharma, Zahida Khan, Bhavishya Sudan, Iqbal Dar, Madan Lal Chhalotra, Vijayant Pathania, Kewal Krishan

Yogi, Sandeep Dogra, Musharaf Hussain, Jernail Kumar, Raj Kumar and others. Former Minister and Working President JKPC Sh. Raman Bhalla paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratan Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for his relentless efforts for the rights of the underprivileged sections of the society and to get them their constitutional rights in every sphere of life on the principle of equality. He said that, the Indian Constitution is a unique document representing the

pluralistic character of our Country. He will always be remembered for his pivotal role in formulating the Constitution of India, the largest democracy of the World. Sh. Bhalla also cautioned the people against the designs of anti-social and anti-national forces and lashed out at the present dispensation in the country for their failure to check such forces. Bhalla said that it is more important to remember Dr. Ambedkar at this point of time when there are attempts to distort history and dilute the democratic and secular structure in the Country. He lashed out at the forces who are trying to destroy and distort the contribution of the Congress party and its great stalwarts during the freedom struggle and in the post independent era. Shri Yogesh Sawhney

remembered the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar during freedom struggle and post independence era. After India gained independence in 1947, Ambedkar accepted Congress' proposal to serve as the country's first Law Minister and was appointed chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee on 29 August 1947. On 26 November 1949, the Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly. He stated that Indian constitution formed under his chairmanship, is one of the best document in the World which takes care of the aspirations of the largest pluralistic society in the World. He was messiah of the poor and downtrodden in the country and dedicated his life for their upliftment and social integration.

Health Awareness Drive on Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination Held at GHS Greater Kailash

Jammu, April 14: A health awareness programme on cervical cancer and HPV vaccination was organized at Government High School, Greater Kailash, Jammu, on the occasion of World Health Day by Unnat NGO. The event was conducted by Neena Ahrol, General Secretary of Unnat NGO. The program was presided over by the Principal of the School, Vandana Sharma. The primary objective of the session was to raise awareness among students about cervical cancer, including its causes, symptoms, and preventive measures, with special emphasis on the importance of HPV vaccination.



Neena Ahrol highlighted the significance of early prevention, regular health check-ups, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She also shared alarming statistics, noting that globally a woman dies every

two minutes due to cervical cancer, while in India, one woman loses her life every eight minutes. Emphasizing the broader impact of women's health, she stated, "A healthy woman is the foundation of

a healthy society, and a healthy society ensures a progressive nation." Students actively participated in the session and were educated about the importance of personal hygiene and timely vac-

ination in preventing serious health conditions like cervical cancer. At the conclusion of the program, Principal Vandana Sharma expressed gratitude to Unnat NGO and all participants for their valuable contribution. Stationery pads were also distributed among the students during the event. The program concluded with a strong message encouraging widespread awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of HPV vaccination for building a healthier and safer future. Prominent attendees included Anju Sethi, Vandana Gupta, Pooja, and others.

Spiritual fervour marks Hanuman Chalisa, Durga Stuti recitation at Trikuta Nagar temple ahead of Baisakhi

Grand Baisakhi celebrations planned with special prayers and prasad distribution

Jammu: A deeply spiritual and uplifting programme featuring the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and Durga Stuti was organized on the eve of Baisakhi at the Shiv Temple, Sector-7, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, witnessing an overwhelming turnout of devotees from across the city. The programme was organized by the temple management committee under the leadership of Shiv Kumar Jolly, who ensured meticulous arrangements for the smooth conduct of the event. The temple premises resonated with devotional chants, creating an atmosphere of peace, positivity, and spiritual energy as devotees joined together in collective prayers for harmony and well-being. Participants showed immense faith and enthusiasm while taking part in the recitations, which are considered highly auspicious and spiritually empowering. The event not only strengthened religious sentiments but also fostered a sense of unity and community bonding among attendees ahead of the festival.



The temple committee informed that elaborate arrangements have been made to celebrate Baisakhi on April 14 (Tuesday) within the temple complex. Special prayer sessions, including recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and Durga Stuti, will be held from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and devotees have been invited to participate in large numbers.

Satish Sharma, Rattan Lal Gupta Reaffirms Statehood Demand, Calls It Constitutional Imperative on Ambedkar Jayant

Lead party functionaries in offering rich tributes to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on his 135 Jayanti

Jammu, April 14: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President (Jammu), Rattan Lal Gupta, on Monday forcefully reiterated the party's demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the issue is intrinsically linked to the constitutional ethos of cooperative federalism as envisioned by B. R. Ambedkar. He was addressing a commemorative function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, to mark the 135th birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar, observed nationwide as Ambedkar Jayanti. The

event was chaired by SC Cell Chairman Vijay Lochan, with Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma as the Chief Guest. In his address, Gupta underscored that Ambedkar's conception of federalism was not merely an administrative arrangement but a normative framework aimed at safeguarding participatory governance, social justice, and institutional equity. He argued that the continued denial of full-fledged statehood to Jammu and Kashmir represents a deviation from this constitutional compact. "The restoration of statehood is not a political concession

but a democratic imperative rooted in constitutional morality. Upholding the federal balance is the most meaningful tribute to Babasaheb," he asserted, calling for a rearticulation of Centre-State relations in line with constitutional guarantees. Paying rich tributes, Gupta further highlighted that the vision of Sheikh Abdullah was deeply consonant with Ambedkar's ideals of social transformation, inclusive governance, and distributive justice. He credited successive National Conference governments for pioneering pro-poor reforms, including landmark land redistri-



bution measures that significantly advanced the socio-economic conditions of marginalized communities. Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, in his remarks, emphasized that the governance model

under Omar Abdullah is anchored in welfare-oriented policymaking and social equity. He described Ambedkar as a transformative statesman a jurist, economist, and social reformer whose enduring

legacy continues to shape India's democratic and constitutional trajectory. "Dr. Ambedkar's life epitomizes resilience, intellectual rigor, and an unwavering commitment to dismantling structural inequities.

His vision remains central to our pursuit of an inclusive, just, and progressive society," Sharma said. Others who paid rich tributes were: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Provincial Secretary Jammu, Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone, Qazi Jalal Ud Din former M.L.A, Bushan Lal Bhat former M.L.C, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President YNC Jammu, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Dr. Shamshad Shan former DDC Chairperson, Rakesh

Singh Raka, Rita Gupta, Rahul Mahajan, Rajinder Chand, Amirsh Sharma Vice Presidents Central Zone, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, Shadab Suhawardhy District President Doda Urban, Ramesh Kumar District President SC Cell, Nadeem Choudhary District President Jammu Urban ST Cell, Mehmood Ahmad Rizvi Advocate District President Jammu Rural "A" ST Cell, Haji Amir Ud Din Khana, Satpal, B.D Dalotra Central Zone Secretaries, Dharminder Block President Jammu.

NPS employees mark Ambedkar Jayanti, demand restoration of old pension scheme in J&K

Urge LG Sinha, Centre to implement OPS/UPS, cite financial insecurity under NPS

Jammu, Apr 14: NPS Employees United Front on Friday celebrated the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with fervour and renewed their demand for restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), urging both the Central Government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure social and financial security for employees.

Under the guidance of Chief Patron Ganesh Khajuria, a programme was held to commemorate the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, with participants recalling his contributions towards social justice, equality, and the protection of workers' rights. On the occasion, members of the Front reiterated that ensuring pension security is in line with the principles of welfare and dignity advocated by



the architect of the Indian Constitution. Addressing the gathering, Chairman Ashwani Sharma, General Secretary Surinder Kaith, Ravi Kaith and other senior members highlighted the growing concerns among employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS). They stated that the existing system lacks guaranteed returns and exposes employees to financial uncertainty after retirement. "The NPS does

not provide assured pension benefits, leaving employees vulnerable to market risks. In contrast, the Old Pension Scheme offers stability, predictability, and social security, which are essential for a dignified post-retirement life," the speakers said. The leaders urged the Central Government to take a compassionate and pragmatic view of the issue and restore OPS for employees. They emphasised that several states have already taken steps in this direction, reflecting widespread concern among the workforce. The Front also appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene and implement the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) in Jammu and Kashmir. They pointed out that employees in the Union Territory currently do not have the option to switch from NPS to UPS, placing them at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in other regions. Raising the issue of parity and fairness, the speakers said that employees in J&K deserve equal opportunities and benefits in pension reforms. "There should be a clear mechanism allowing employees to opt for a more secure pension system. Denying this choice is unjust and needs immediate redressal," they added. The participants collectively resolved to continue their democratic struggle until their demands are addressed. They stressed that the demand for OPS is not merely a financial issue but a matter of social security and dignity for lakhs of employees and their families. The event concluded with a pledge to uphold Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and intensify efforts to secure a stable and assured pension system for all employees in Jammu and Kashmir. Executive members attended the programme were Kuldeep Singh, Manpreet Singh, Sunny Kumar, Rakesh Chander, S. Gurcharan Singh, Jamail Ganaud, Neeraj Rami, Ashok Kumar, Rashpal Dass, Suresh Kumar, Bharat Bushan, Smt. Kanchan Meenia, Smt. Sandeep Kour.

Indian Army organizes Medical & Veterinary Camp for Bakkarwal Community in Mendhar

Rajouri: 14 Apr 2026.

The Indian Army conducted a successful Medical and Veterinary Camp for the Bakkarwal community at Operation Hill Ground in Mendhar, District Rajouri, as part of its ongoing outreach and confidence-building initiatives. The camp, held for the migratory deras, provided a constructive platform for the Bakkarwals to discuss their concerns and challenges related to living in remote high-altitude areas. During the interaction, key issues such as sustenance, availability of basic amenities and overall living conditions were discussed in detail. The Army engaged with the Bakkarwals, deliberating on feasible solutions to improve their livelihoods. The prevailing intelligence situation and the region's overall peace and stability were also reviewed. The camp proved instrumental in strengthening coordination and fostering mutual trust between the Indian Army and the Bakkarwal community. Local residents in areas like Sagra, Sarbati, Salwah and Gursal expressed gratitude for the Army's ongoing efforts to address the needs of remote communities while maintaining peace and stability in the region.



The camp proved instrumental in strengthening coordination and fostering mutual trust between the Indian Army and the Bakkarwal community. Local residents in areas like Sagra, Sarbati, Salwah and Gursal expressed gratitude for the Army's ongoing efforts to address the needs of remote communities while maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Shortage of LPG in Chenab Valley and people suffering due to 25 days booking gaps time. Ajeet Bhagat



KISHTWAR // April 14, Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior leader and Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Region Ajeet Bhagat said that the people are suffering due to the 25 days booking gap time, created lot of problems in domestic and for the traders. Bhagat said that due to a 25 days gap for booking of the LPG the traders and domestic families suffered the shortage a lot to cook food and for the commercial. Which has badly hit the shortage to the traders for commercial

purpose will get one cylinder after 25 days gap.

The National Confrance leader said the joint families and big families are suffering due to a 25 days gap time, have no gas to cook food and the Central Government has stopped giving new connections of gas cylinders.

He said the Central Government claims that there is no shortage of gas, is totally wrong and a total lie.

Bhagat said if there is no shortage of gas then why 25 days gap time? Why new gas connections stopped? Why the commercial cylinder price increased Rs 200/- and domestic Rs 60/- in case there is no shortage of the LPG.

The National Confrance leader said companies have stopped the home delivery in spite of no online booking of LPG on mobiles and OTPs. Bhagat demands Prime Minister Narendra Modi to roll back the increased domestic and commercial price of LPG gas cylinders.

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

JAMMU, April 14, 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 sporting spectacle. The announcement was celebrated at a high-decibel launch event in Mumbai, marked by the presence of internationally renowned football icon Michael Owen, underscor-



ing 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 digital payments. The FIFA-themed card fascia will be available to existing HDFC Bank Pixel Play customers in addition to new Pixel Play applicants from April 11th onwards. FIFA association across HDFC Bank's payments portfolio. 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. Spend & Win campaign with once-in-a-lifetime FIFA rewards: 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. The campaign allows fans to engage with the tournament far beyond matchdays - integrating football passion into everyday spending and digital payments. Mr. Ashish Parthasarthy, Group Head - Branch Banking, Payments, Treasury, Liability Products, Marketing, Virtual Channels and Infrastructure, said, "As India's leading credit card issuer, we are delighted to partner with Visa to bring together the thrill of the FIFA World Cup and the seamless convenience of digital payments to millions of customers."

GCW Udhampur Gives Heartfelt Farewell to Passing Out Students

UDHAMPUR APRIL 14, 2026: Dean Students Welfare Committee of Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, under the able guidance of the principal, organized a "Farewell Party" for the outgoing students, students of Sem. 4th and 2nd bid a Farewell to the students of 6th semester. The programme began with the welcome address by DSW, Dr. Nalini Pathania, principal of the college, was the chief Guest on the occasion. Principal in her address, congratulated the students and wished them good luck for their future. She inspired the outgoing students to move ahead on the same path they have chosen wisely and advised them to remain sincere to themselves and learn some



skills that will help them in their later life. She also congratulated the DSW Committee for organizing the memorable farewell. Total 200 students attended the programme in an enthusiastic manner. Students took part in several cultural activities. Some solo performances were also presented by the students. Major four Competitions were held for the Miss Science, Miss Arts, Miss Commerce and Miss GCW, Udhampur. Winners were declared after the competitions. Sakshi Sharma was declared as Miss Science, Ayushi Gupta as Miss Arts, Laxmi as Miss Commerce and Miss Kajal Dogra was related to the outgoing students and wished them for their future endeavors. She wished that they may cope with all the challenges life throws at them and come out smiling on the other side. Prof. Rachna Bharti, Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj and Dr. Mukteshi Sharma acted as the jury members. They played their role very well and adjudged the programme in a judicious manner. The whole event

was organized by DSW and Committee members successfully. Staff members, who were present on the occasion, were Dr. Monika Gupta, Prof. Lekh Raj, Prof. Anita Gupta, Dr. Mool Raj, Dr. Shivani Suri, Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Prof. Neha Gupta, Dr. Kamaldeep Kour, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Prof. Yash Paul, Prof. Sunil Magotra, Dr. Om Parkash, Prof. Pardeep Singh, Prof. Meenakshi Jangwal, Dr. Neha Anthal, Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Sushma Sharma, Dr. Anita Kumari, Prof. Manju Bala, Prof. Parvinder Kaur, Prof. Pooja Bharti, Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Yash Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Mr. Hans Raj and other academic staff.

Indian Army organizes successful Sarpanch Sammellan

Ramban: 14 Apr 2026.

The Indian Army, successfully organized a Sarpanch Sammellan at Army Camp Mohabal with the aim of enhancing grassroots engagement and fostering stronger civil-military cooperation in Tehsil Khari, District Ramban. The event saw the participation of approximately 29 community leaders, including sarpanches, panches, numberdars and other key opinion makers from the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Given the current security environment in Jammu & Kashmir, the Sammellan proved to be a crucial initiative to sensitize local leaders about their vital role in maintaining community security and



encouraging public vigilance. During the event, participants were briefed about the "Zimmedari System," a proactive mechanism designed to inspire citizens to stay alert and promptly report any suspicious activities to local authorities, thus contributing to overall safety in the region. In addition to the security-focused discussions, a dedicated career guidance session was held as part of the

Indian Army's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and nation-building. The session provided aspiring youth with essential information on the Agniveer Recruitment Scheme and upcoming Army recruitment opportunities. It covered topics such as eligibility criteria, preparation strategies and motivational advice, all of which were well received and appreciated by the local population.

On the Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, BSP Resolves to Form Government in Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu, April 14. On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has sounded the election bugle. Daya Chand the BSP's Central Coordinator and State In-charge—and Darshan Rana the BSP Jammu & Kashmir President—have stated that in the Assembly elections scheduled for 2029 in Jammu & Kashmir, the key to power will lie with the Bahujan Samaj Party; to achieve this, every section of society must unite and extend its support to the BSP. On Tuesday, the Bahujan Samaj Party organized programs in the districts of Samba

and Kathua to pay homage to the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. During a grand event held in Samba district, the BSP's Central Coordinator and J&K In-charge, Daya Chand, was present as the Chief Guest. In the presence of party leaders and workers, he paid tribute to the Constitution's architect, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, and asserted that for Babasaheb's dream to be realized, it is imperative for the Bahujan Samaj Party to come to power; to this end, the Dalit, Backward, and other marginalized sections of society must unite and support the BSP. He remarked that, with the excep-



tion of the BSP, all other political parties have engaged in the act of misleading people belonging to these sections. He further added that during the tenure of the current government, constitutional rights—

such as reservation—are facing continuous attacks, while unemployment, inflation, and corruption continue to rise across the entire country. Meanwhile, in Kathua district, during a program organized by

the BSP, the party's State Chief, Darshan Rana, was present as the Chief Guest. In his presence, party leaders and attending workers paid homage to the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao

Ambedkar, on his birth anniversary. They pledged that bringing the BSP to power is essential to fulfill Babasaheb's dreams, and that achieving this requires the workers to engage in hard work and struggle. Rana affirmed that the Bahujan Samaj Party is moving forward, carrying Babasaheb's mission with it. He asserted that in the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bahujan Samaj Party would form the government on its own strength; to achieve this, however, party workers must unite so that the key to political power may come into the hands of the BSP. It is worth noting that this event was presided over by the BSP's State Coordinator, Sunil Majotra, and was attended by hundreds of Bahujan Samaj Party workers. On this occasion, other party leaders also expressed their views and paid tribute to the architect of the Constitution, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. During the program, BSP Vice President Charanjit Chagotra, General Secretary Raja Singh, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Haji Sheikh Mohammad, Satpal Bavoria, Mangal Dass, Raman Kumar, Sandeep Majotra, Jammu District President Tarsem Lal, Samba District President Davinder Kumar, Kathua District President Bansi.

Observation of Dr Ambedkar Jayanti at Srinagar

135th Birth Anniversary of Dr Ambedkar celebrated at Kashmir Srinagar first time

Srinagar: 14.04.2026: All India Confederation of SC ST OBC Minority organisations observed Bharat Ratna & Architect of Indian Constitution Dr B R Ambedkar Jayanti in state level function at Tagore Hall at Srinagar.

Confederation threw light on the life and contributions of Dr Ambedkar in improving the lot of marginalized sections of society especially SC ST OBC and other deprived sections of society. Dr Ambedkar championed the cause of equality and fraternity in the society. Speakers spoke on the life and teachings of Dr Ambedkar especially his role in framing the Indian constitution which provides equal opportunity to all members of the society. Dr Ambedkar's role in bringing gender equality in society, welfare legislations were remembered on the occasion.



R K Kalsotra State President Confederation exhorted upon the audience to observe Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti with good enthusiasm. He also exhorted for working to save constitution, democracy and fundamental rights, and for strengthening confederation. On this occasion State body was strengthened by inducting Er Arif Irfan as Vice President. Mohd Ismail, Junaid Chauthan, Umarudin Chouhan, Reya Badana, Mohd Shafi, Mohd Farooq Khatan, Altaf Badan, Altaf Khatan, Moha Ali Jinnaha, Noorodin Noorani, Mushtaq Khatana, Ch Miraj Din, Farooq Badana, G H Sheergoji, as State Executive members.

On the occasion a resolution was passed for restoration of reservation in promotion was also passed. All office bearers of state unit from Kashmir province are dissolved and newly appointed state vice president Er Arif Irfan will

constitute district Tehsil units in consultation with newly constituted body and state President. Leaders affirmed to work for saving constitution, democracy, fundamental rights and representations according to population and strengthening Confederation. Others who spoke on the occasion were Er Arif Irfan, Er B L Bhardwaj, Mohd Farooq khattana, Altaf Khattana, Mohd Shafi, Reza Badana, Umarudin Chauthan, Mohd Ismail, Mohd Ali Jinnaha, Ch Mushtaq Khatana, Augustine Paul, Dr Philip John, Haji Noor din Noorani, Furkan Mir, Bashir Ali Tedwa, Gulam Hussain Sherguji, Altaf Khattana, Ch Miraj, Ramesh Sarmal, Dr Roshan Kaith, Anar Nath, Roshan Ch, and many other office bearer of the confederation.

Police nab two drug peddler, seize contraband

BUDGAM, APR 14: In a major success against drug trafficking, Magam Police apprehended two drug peddlers and recovered a significant quantity of contraband substance. The operation was carried out at Watmagam-Magam Road by a naka party of Police Station Magam. A suspicious passenger auto (JK04K-4469) was signalled to stop, but the driver attempted to flee. Acting swiftly, the police team chased and intercepted the vehicle. The accused have been identified as Firdous Ahmad Ganje, son of Gh. Mohammad, resident of Peth Kanihama, and Naseer Ahmad Mir alias Galwan, son of Abdul Gaffar, resident of Mazhama. During the search, police recovered a nylon bag concealed beneath the driver's seat, containing approximately 2 kilograms and 14 grams



of crushed bung patri (cannabis-like substance). A case under FIR Number 44/2026 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Magam. The vehicle used in the commission of the offence has also been seized, and both accused are in custody. Further investigation is in progress. As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Budgam Police has urged religious leaders, civil society members, influencers, and all stakeholders to come forward and support the mission of building a drug-free society, ensuring a safer future for the youth.

Baisakhi Celebrated Across Kashmir, Sikh Devotees Offer Prayers At Gurdwaras

SRINAGAR, Apr 14: Baisakhi was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Kashmir on Tuesday, with the devotees thronging different gurdwaras to offer prayers. The main function was held at Gurdwara Chhatri Padshahi in the Rainawari area of the city, which was attended by a huge number of Sikh devotees. Senior officers of police and civil administration visited the Gurdwara to pay their obeisance. The celebrations by the members of the Sikh community were also held in various districts of the valley. Baisakhi, which marks the beginning of the harvest season, is also a commemoration of the formation of



the Khalsa Panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. Scores of Sikh devotees were seen participating in bhajan keertans and other religious activities. The Sikh community and other NGOs had set up stalls for langar. Medical camps were also organised for the event. Meanwhile, people thronged Mughal gardens, Tulip garden and other parks across Kashmir. People from the Sikh community were seen enjoying the festival with friends and families. The day marked events at various famous tourist spots, including Pahalgam and Doodhpathri, as well as where members of the majority Muslim community also joined the celebrations.

Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyaan: DC Anantnag visits PMPE Colony Vessu, Advises Youth to Denounce Drug Menace

ANANTNAG, APRIL 14: As part of the youth engagement initiatives under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, today visited PM Package Employees Colony, Vessu and witnessed a cricket match played between two cricket clubs of the colony. He was accompanied by ADC, ACR and other officials of administration and concerned departments. On the occasion, the DC interacted with the players and appreciated their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. He encouraged players to actively engage in sports and other constructive activities, so they develop into responsible and mature citizens. Advising youth to denounce the drug menace, the DC highlighted



the significance of Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir" campaign and emphasized the vital role of youth in building a drug-free and healthy society. He urged them to channelise their energy towards sports, education and entrepreneurial avenues so they contribute to the society and nation at large. Dr. Bilal further cautioned about the devastating effects of drugs and expressed hope that with collective efforts of all, the menace can be effectively eliminated from the society. At the culmination, the DC applauded commendable performance of both teams and felicitated them with awards and sports kits. The residents appreciated administration for the encouragement and support towards youth-centric activities and welfare in the colony.

Baisakhi Celebrated with Communal Harmony in Triboni Village of Karnah

Karnah: The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and communal harmony in Triboni village of Karnah, Kupwara district. The event witnessed active participation from civil society, the Indian Army, and the civil administration, reflecting the spirit of unity in the region. A special programme was organized at Gurdwara Singh Sahib, where members of the Sikh community were joined by people from other communities to mark the occasion. The celebration highlighted the cultural richness of the Sikh tradition and the inclusive nature of Karnah's society. Speaking to the media, Joginder Inqalabi from the Sikh



community expressed his appreciation for the collective participation and emphasized that such events strengthen mutual respect and brotherhood among different communities. Raja Waqar, a representative of civil society, also addressed the gathering and described the bond between the Sikh and

Muslim communities in Karnah as exemplary. He noted that this harmony stands as a model of peaceful coexistence. Karnah, a tehsil in Kupwara district with a population of around one lakh, has only one Sikh-majority village—Triboni. Despite their small number, the Sikh community shares a strong and respectful relationship with the Muslim majority. The presence of the Indian Army and civil administration further reinforced the message of unity, cooperation, and shared heritage, making the Baisakhi celebration a symbol of peace and communal harmony in Karnah.

Mega Medical Camp at Lolab Highlights Healthcare Awareness, Anti-Drug Campaign & Viksit Bharat Vision

Kupwara, April 14 : A mega medical camp was successfully organized at Gundmacha, Lolab by the Indian Army (Lolab RR) in collaboration with Quality Health Care Hospital Kupwara, in coordination with the District Administration Kupwara, marking a significant step towards strengthening healthcare outreach in remote areas. The camp was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara along with the Commanding Officer of Lolab RR. The event was also attended by the Managing Director of Quality Health Care Hospital Kupwara, BMO Sogam, Shri Abdul Rahim Wani (Joint Secretary, J&K Apni Party), and other senior officials. Healthcare at the Doorstep: A large team of specialist doctors and paramedical staff provided: Free medical check-ups; Distribution of medicines; Specialist consultations. Thousands of beneficiaries, including women, children, and elderly citizens from various parts of Lolab, attended the camp. The initiative significantly improved access to quality healthcare in this remote region. Beyond Treatment: A Movement for Awareness While addressing the gathering, the Managing Director of Quality Health Care Hospital emphasized that such initiatives are not merely about treatment but about creating awareness, prevention, and empowerment. Key health programs highlighted included Tuberculosis (TB) awareness and screening Hepatitis B & C



screening Non-communicable diseases (Diabetes, Hypertension) Women and adolescent health awareness School and Madrasa health screening Strong Message on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan A powerful appeal was made to the youth regarding the dangers of drug abuse under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. It was emphasized that "Drugs destroy not only individuals but families and the future of society. Youth must choose health, education, and purpose over addiction." The speech highlighted the scientific and social impact of addiction, urging collective responsibility from families, institutions, and society. Importance of Education & Awareness The gathering was sensitized about the critical role of education in: Preventing drug abuse Avoiding exploitation Making informed healthcare decisions Special emphasis was laid on protecting rural populations from being misled by touts and unnecessary referrals, encouraging trust in qualified local healthcare systems. Viksit Bharat Vision & Role of Youth The program strongly aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, emphasizing that a healthy and educated youth is the backbone of a developed nation. Awareness and discipline are essential for nation-building. Rural and peripheral regions must be empowered equally. The youth of Kashmir, particularly Lolab, were encouraged to become contributors to national progress through education, health consciousness, and responsible behavior. Collaboration for Nation Building The collaboration between the Indian Army, District Administration, and Quality Health Care Hospital was widely appreciated. This partnership reflects a holistic approach where Security forces Civil administration Healthcare institutions work together not only for protection but also for social development and public health improvement.

Army Celebrates Baisakhi with Community Meals in Keran Border Villages

Keran Kupwara: In a heart-warming display of unity and goodwill, the Indian Army celebrated the festival of Baisakhi by organising community meals across four Panchayat Halgas and 25 hamlets in the Keran sector of Kupwara district. The celebrations were led by troops of the Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, who joined local residents in marking the harvest festival with enthusiasm and warmth. Soldiers and civilians sat together, shared traditional food, and exchanged greetings, creating an atmosphere of harmony and



togetherness in the border region. The initiative witnessed active participation from villagers, who expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the Army for fostering a sense of unity and strengthening bonds of trust with the local population.

The event brought festive cheer to the region, spreading joy and reinforcing communal harmony. Officials said such outreach programmes reflect the Army's continued commitment to building strong relationships with the people, promoting mutual respect, and encouraging cooperation in far-flung areas. The Baisakhi celebrations in Keran stand as a shining example of cultural unity and shared happiness, leaving behind lasting memories for both the locals and the security forces.

North in News

EDITORIAL

BR Ambedkar's impact is profound, his legacy continues to influence

BR Ambedkar played a pivotal role in shaping India's Constitution and post-independence politics. As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, he led the creation of the Constitution, ensuring it was inclusive and equitable. Ambedkar's contributions included championing social justice. He advocated for reservations and safeguards for marginalized communities, including Dalits and women. Ambedkar shaped Articles 14-17, abolishing untouchability and promoting equality. He emphasized education, industrialization, and social democracy. Ambedkar's party aimed to uplift marginalized communities. He became India's first Law Minister. He played a key role in shaping the country's legal framework. Ambedkar's 1956 conversion to Buddhism with thousands of followers sparked a mass movement against caste oppression. Ambedkar's legacy continues to influence Indian politics, social justice movements, and the fight for equality. BR Ambedkar was a trailblazer in India's history, playing a pivotal role in post-independence politics. His vision for a modern India continues to inspire. Post-independence, Ambedkar founded the Scheduled Castes Federation. His legacy continues to influence Indian politics, social justice movements, and the fight for equality. BR Ambedkar's impact on India is profound. He was a champion of social justice, and his work continues to shape the country's politics and society. Ambedkar's ideas about education, industrialization, and social democracy continue to inspire thinkers and policymakers in India. Today, Ambedkar is revered as a hero by many in India, particularly among Dalits and other marginalized communities. Ambedkar's impact on modern India is profound. His vision for social justice, equality, and democracy continues to shape the country's politics, society, and economy. Some key areas where his influence is evident are reservation system, Dalit empowerment, Women's rights and also education. He emphasized education as a key driver of social change, influencing India's focus on expanding access to education. Ambedkar's legacy continues to inspire social movements, politicians, and individuals fighting for equality and justice.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

ANAND KUMAR

India's steady transition from one of the world's largest arms importers to an emerging defence exporter marks a significant structural shift in its strategic and economic trajectory. For decades, India's defence preparedness depended heavily on foreign suppliers, creating vulnerabilities in times of geopolitical uncertainty. Today, however, the rapid rise in defence exports, coupled with expanding domestic manufacturing capabilities, signals a new phase in India's global engagement - one that blends strategic autonomy with economic ambition.

The latest data underscores the scale of this transformation. India's defence exports reached an unprecedented Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, registering a remarkable year-on-year growth of over 60 per cent. This is not merely a statistical milestone; it reflects a deeper institutional and industrial evolution. Over the past five years, defence exports have nearly tripled, demonstrating sustained momentum rather than a one-off surge. The fact that Indian defence products are now reaching more than 80 countries indicates growing global confidence in their quality, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. A particularly notable aspect of this growth is the balanced contribution from both public and private sectors. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) accounted for slightly more than half of total exports, with a dramatic 151 per cent increase in their export performance. At the same time, the private sector contributed nearly 45 per cent, maintaining steady growth and demonstrating its increasing integration into global supply chains. This synergy between state-led and private enterprise is crucial, as it ensures both scale and innovation within the defence ecosystem. The diversification of exported products further strengthens India's position.

country is no longer limited to exporting low-value components; it is increasingly supplying complete systems and advanced platforms. The export

of systems such as the BrahMos missile, the HAL Tejas fighter aircraft, the Akash air defence system, and the Pinaka rocket system illustrates India's growing technological sophistication. The interest shown by countries across Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America suggests that Indian defence products are becoming viable alternatives to traditional suppliers. This transformation has not occurred in isolation.

It is closely linked to policy reforms aimed at improving ease of doing business in the defence sector. Streamlined export procedures, digitised approval mechanisms, and simplified regulatory frameworks have significantly reduced bureaucratic delays. The increase in the number of registered defence exporters - from 128 to 145 - may seem modest, but it reflects a broader trend of expanding participation and confidence among Indian firms. The role of the Department of Defence Production and coordinated policy support has been instrumental in this regard. At the political level, this shift aligns closely with the vision of self-reliance articulated by the Indian government. The emphasis on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in defence is not merely about import substitution; it is about building a globally competitive industrial base that can meet domestic needs and serve international markets.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has repeatedly highlighted that India's goal is to become a major defence manufacturing hub, and the current export figures suggest that this ambition is steadily being realised. The geopolitical context has also played a crucial role in shaping opportunities for India. The ongoing fragmentation of the global order, coupled with conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, has led many countries to diversify their defence procurement sources. Traditional suppliers are either constrained by political considerations or overwhelmed by their own strategic commitments. In this environment, India's emergence as a

reliable and relatively neutral supplier offers an attractive alternative.

Simultaneously, shifts within Western alliances are opening new avenues for cooperation. The evolving stance of the United States under leaders like Donald Trump, including periodic tensions within NATO, has prompted both the US and European countries to rethink aspects of their defence strategies. The growing emphasis on burden-sharing and strategic autonomy in Europe has led to increased interest in partnerships beyond the transatlantic framework. In this context, India's deepening defence ties with both the United States and the European Union are particularly significant.

India's designation as a 'Major Defence Partner' by the US and the ongoing development of a long-term defence cooperation framework highlight the strategic convergence between the two countries. Similarly, the recent EU-India Security and Defence Partnership signals Europe's recognition of India as a key player in maintaining regional and global stability. These partnerships are not limited to arms sales; they encompass joint production, technology transfer, and collaboration in emerging domains such as cyber security and artificial intelligence. What makes this moment especially consequential is the broader trend of deglobalisation and protectionism. As countries increasingly prioritise domestic industries and secure supply chains, there is a growing demand for trusted partners who can offer both reliability and flexibility.

India's democratic credentials, relatively stable political environment, and expanding industrial base position it well to meet this demand. In many ways, India stands at the intersection of competing global trends - benefiting from both the fragmentation of traditional supply chains and the search for new, dependable manufacturing hubs. However, challenges remain. While export growth is impressive, India still lags behind established defence exporters such as the United States, Russia, and France in

terms of scale and technological depth. Issues related to quality assurance, timely delivery, and after-sales support need continuous attention. Moreover, the private sector, despite its growing role, requires greater access to financing, technology, and global markets to fully realise its potential.

Another critical aspect is the need for sustained investment in research and development. Indigenous innovation will determine whether India can move up the value chain and compete in high-end segments such as advanced fighter jets, next-generation submarines, and cutting-edge missile systems. Collaboration with global partners can accelerate this process, but it must be complemented by strong domestic capabilities. Despite these challenges, the trajectory is clearly positive. The integration of Indian firms into global supply chains, the increasing acceptance of Indian defence products, and the alignment of policy, industry, and strategic objectives all point toward a durable transformation. Defence exports are not just a source of revenue; they are a reflection of national capability, technological progress, and geopolitical relevance.

In this sense, India's rise as a defence manufacturing hub represents a convergence of economic and strategic interests. It enhances national security by reducing dependence on imports, boosts economic growth through high-value manufacturing, and strengthens diplomatic influence by positioning India as a key partner in global security architecture. As the world navigates an era of uncertainty and shifting alliances, India's evolving role in the defence sector offers both opportunities and responsibilities. If current trends continue, India is well on its way to becoming not just a participant but a significant player in the global arms market. The challenge now is to sustain this momentum, address structural gaps, and ensure that growth in defence exports translates into long-term strategic advantage.

Footprint expands

The illusion of peace amid ongoing conflict

BY ASHA IYER KUMAR

We are into the second day of the so-called truce in the Middle East, touted as victory by all who lobbed bombs into the other man's territory with impunity and disregard for more than a month. On Wednesday - Trump's 'big day for world peace' - hundreds were slaughtered and wounded in Lebanon, and just before I started writing this column, I heard three explosions behind me, echoing from interceptions in some part of the city.

Two nights ago, when the world was pushed to the brink, with no clue about what the morning would bring, when alarm clocks were set to the deadline in these parts and people sprang up to read the breaking news, one could at once hear a collective sigh of relief from every window across the globe. But two days later, what was perceived to have been achieved seems more illusory, and I am

forced to redefine the lexicons involved: 'Truce' and 'cease-fire' do not necessarily mean peace.

Whoever believes this is a pivotal point in the proceedings that only got more and more complicated with each passing day has to be delusional. And at this moment, the world probably chooses to be so, because respite and resolution often depend on how you respond to a situation than how the situation itself unfolds. The markets rallied instantly and oil prices dipped. We boosted ourselves with the thought that the worst is over now, and life will jig back to normalcy in a jiffy - as soon as the word 'cease-fire' rang out from the portals of the White House. As if, in two weeks, a blustering world leader out to pilfer other nations' wealth, his crony whose dictionary doesn't contain the word 'truce', a hard-line theocratic regime that refuses to give up, and its regional proxies will all sit

down at a banquet and declare: let's be friends and get on with life and business.

Nothing that has happened in the past two days points at a resolution that will guarantee lasting peace. This is not a nihilistic prophecy. It is what a rational mind can conclude considering how divergent the demands on either side are, how all stakeholders and the impacted parties in the Gulf region are excluded from the 'closed door' talks, how there has been blatant violation of the promise to hold fire and how the language itself has changed - Lebanon is not included in the deal, and so, Israel retains the power to pound them with any device of ruin.

'Truce' has become a hollow word-offering peace selectively while violence continues elsewhere. Peace cannot be dispensed in pieces. It cannot arrive in barrages of bombs. It cannot happen overnight with overblown claims of victory. What we now have is an

uneasy calm punctured by sporadic attacks continuing in the Gulf countries, which we are persuading ourselves to believe as impending peace. Because the mind wants reassurance, even if it is chimerical and fleeting.

For now, there is cautious optimism that may hold for a short while - a brief psychological relief that something is in the works. Can we expect a viable outcome? Will it be worth the paper it is written on? Given the direction in which the ceasefire has gone, the dominant sentiment is one of scepticism.

It is a war that began without clear-cut objectives and spiralled out of control, leaving the world confused by its shifting narratives. Nothing concrete has been accomplished, despite repeated assertions. How this predicament will be resolved remains uncertain. What, then, was this war about - power, strategy, or simply destruction? The answer remains unclear.

ACE of Spades Division Commemorates Rajouri Day 2026 with Honour, Pride & Unity

Rajouri: 14 Apr 2026.

The Ace of Spades Division commemorated Rajouri Day 2026 with immense pride, honour and respect for the brave soldiers and civilians who sacrificed their lives during the liberation of Rajouri in 1947-48. The day began with a solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Gujjar Mandi Chowk, where tributes were paid to fallen heroes, including Brigadier Mohammad Usman and Lieutenant Ram Raghoba Rane, for their remarkable leadership during the liberation of Rajouri on 13 April 1948. The occasion was marked by the participation of the Indian Army, J&K Police, BSF, CAPFs, civil administration and



local citizens, showcasing a unified civil-military synergy.

The event featured an impressive lineup of cultural performances, including a Pipe Band, Army Dog Unit salute and a Mallakhamb display by

Army troops. Students from Valley View Army Public School participated in cultural presentations and an audio-visual tribute to Operation SINDOOR honoured the brave soldiers who gave their lives for the nation. Sporting events, such as the Volleyball Tournament and Rajouri Marathon, were also held to promote community spirit, discipline and fitness. Local talent was recognised in the "Rajouri's Got Talent" and "Shan-e-Pir Panjal" cere-

monies, celebrating the contributions of individuals in various fields.

To further strengthen the spirit of progress, the Digital Bharat Dashan initiative was launched to enhance educational outreach, while telemedicine services continued to improve healthcare access in remote areas. The day also featured local cultural exhibitions, handicrafts, food stalls and Army equipment displays, reflecting the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." The celebrations served as a reaffirmation of the collective resolve for unity, national integration and a progressive future for Rajouri and beyond.

Kissan Congress celebrates Dr Ambedkar Jayanti at Pargwal, highlights his enduring legacy

Bharat Priye stresses relevance of Ambedkar's ideals in present era; distributes study material and sweets among students

Akhnour: The JKPC Kissan Congress today organized an impressive celebration of Dr Ambedkar Jayanti at Pargwal in Akhnour, with Chairman Bharat Priye leading the programme and highlighting the enduring relevance of B.R. Ambedkar in the present era.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, youth, and party workers, reflecting a collective commitment to remembering and promoting the ideals of Dr Ambedkar. The programme began with floral tributes to the portrait of the great leader, followed by addresses emphasizing his contributions to the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Bharat Priye paid rich tributes to Dr Ambedkar, describing him as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a visionary reformer who dedicated his life to the upliftment of marginalized and under-



privileged sections of society. He stressed that Dr Ambedkar's principles of equality, justice, and fraternity remain the cornerstone of Indian democracy and continue to inspire generations.

He noted that in today's rapidly changing socio-economic landscape, Dr Ambedkar's emphasis on education, empowerment, and social harmony holds

even greater significance. "His vision was not only to secure rights but also to create awareness among people about their duties and responsibilities towards building a just society," Bharat Priye said.

Elaborating further, he highlighted that Dr Ambedkar's contributions were not limited to drafting the Constitution but extended to shaping poli-

cies aimed at ensuring social and economic justice. He urged people, especially the youth, to imbibe his values of hard work, discipline, and determination, and to actively participate in nation-building.

Focusing on grassroots outreach, Bharat Priye said that such programmes are vital to spreading awareness about social equality

and the importance of education in rural areas. He emphasized that empowering students with basic educational resources can make a meaningful difference in their lives and help them achieve their aspirations.

On the occasion, copies and pens were distributed among needy students as a gesture to encourage education and academic growth. Sweets were also distributed among participants, adding to the festive spirit and reinforcing a sense of community bonding.

Participants appreciated the initiative, stating that the event not only honours the legacy of Dr Ambedkar but also serves as a platform to educate younger generations about his ideals and their relevance in modern times. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Sumandeep Singh, Mandeep Singh, Bader Singh, Swarnu Devi, and Ajmer Singh.

Jasrota gets Rs 29 Cr infrastructure boost; Jasrotia lauds Dr Jatinder Singh's proactive support

Projects to ensure all-weather connectivity, reduce monsoon disruptions, and boost access to healthcare, education, and markets while strengthening rural economy

Jasrota, Apr 14: In a significant push towards strengthening rural infrastructure and connectivity,

BJP MLA Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, today inaugurated multiple development works and dedicated a major road project to the public, while expressing heartfelt gratitude to Union Minister Dr Jatinder Singh for his consistent support, guidance, and visionary leadership in addressing the genuine demands of the people.

The inaugurated works include the construction of a 46.8-metre LSB/vented causeway at RD 300 Km 4th on road T01 Km 9th to Bakhta via Mangloor, a 27-metre LSB/vented causeway at RD 575 Km 5th on road T01 Km 7th to Bakhta via Mangloor, and a 33.60-metre LSB/vented causeway at RD 275 Km 6th on road T01 Km 7th Bakhta via Mangloor. These projects, executed along with blacktopping, have been completed at a total cost of Rs 528.48 lakh. On the occasion, the MLA also dedicated the PMGSY road from Bakhta to Mangloor, making total cost of project at Rs 29 crore, marking a major milestone in enhanc-



ing road connectivity in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Jasrotia emphasized that these projects will significantly ensure all-weather connectivity, and improve access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and markets for the residents of remote and rural areas. He noted that better road infrastructure will also boost local economic activities, benefiting farmers, traders, and small businesses.

Elaborating on the broader impact, the MLA stated that the newly constructed causeways will play a crucial role in ensuring uninterrupted connectivity during rainy seasons, when earlier the villages would often face isolation due to overflowing nallahs. With

the construction of vented causeways, the risk of disruption has been minimized, ensuring safer and smoother movement of people, goods, and emergency services throughout the year. He further highlighted that improved road connectivity will open new avenues for agricultural growth, enabling farmers to transport their produce to markets more efficiently and at reduced costs, thereby increasing their income potential. The better road network is also expected to encourage small-scale industries, enhance tourism prospects in nearby areas, and generate employment opportunities for local youth.

Jasrotia added that the strengthened connectivity will have a direct social impact as well, ensuring

quicker access to hospitals, schools, and government services. Students will benefit from safer and more reliable transportation, while patients requiring urgent medical attention will be able to reach healthcare facilities without delay.

Highlighting the role of Dr Jatinder Singh, the MLA said that the Union Minister has always remained at the forefront in extending every possible help whenever genuine issues are brought to his notice. "Dr Jatinder Singh's commitment, accessibility, and clear vision for holistic development have been instrumental in fast-tracking such projects in our constituency," he said. He further added that under the dynamic leadership of the Union Minister, the

Jasrota constituency has witnessed unprecedented development, with a focused approach on infrastructure, connectivity, and public welfare.

The MLA remarked that the timely sanctioning and execution of these works reflect the Minister's dedication to grassroots development and his keen understanding of the needs of the people.

Locals present on the occasion appreciated the government's efforts, stating that the newly constructed causeways and roads will reduce travel time, enhance safety during monsoon seasons, and provide a reliable transport network for the region, ultimately improving their overall quality of life. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Sarpanch Rakesh, Sarpanch Kewal, Sarpanch Roshan, Sarpanch Kuldeep Gupta, Sarpanch Singh, Satiish Singh, Samar Singh, Mangal Singh, Parveen Maghar, Dinanath, Sanjay, Chain Singh, Panch Bishan, Balkar Singh, Sagar Singh, Lal Singh, Naib Sarpanch Mohan, Gulam Ali, and Shokat.

Samba Police organizes Anti-Drug rally under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan on

Samba, April 14, 2026: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Samba Police organized a large-scale anti-drug awareness rally on the auspicious occasions of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti and Baisakhi. The initiative aimed to promote a drug-free society and sensitize the public—especially the youth—about the harmful effects of substance abuse. The rally commenced from Guru Ravidas Temple, Channi Manhansa, Vijaypur and witnessed enthusiastic participation from police personnel and people across all sections of society including local youth.

The rally passed through Swankha Morh, National Highway, Vijaypur Market, Gudwal, Chak Salarian, Keso, Pakhri, Rangarh Market, Mahal Shahan, Swankha, Gho Brahmana, Rara, Rari and other areas of the district, before culminating back at Guru Ravidas Temple, Channi Manhansa, Vijaypur. On the occasion, Samba Police emphasized the



need for collective responsibility in eradicating the menace of drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion, Police Officers reiterated the commitment of the Samba Police towards intensifying anti-narcotics efforts and engaging with the community through awareness campaigns.

Highlighting the relevance of the day, Police Officers paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, acknowledging his vision for an equitable and progressive society, and encouraged citizens to uphold these ideals by rejecting substance abuse.

The spirit of Baisakhi, symbolizing prosperity and new beginnings, was also invoked to inspire individuals to adopt positive and healthy lifestyles.

Samba Police appealed to the public to actively cooperate by sharing information related to drug trafficking in their area, assuring that the identity of informers would be kept strictly confidential.

A pledge was also taken by participants to combat drug abuse and contribute towards building a safer and healthier society.

Central University of Jammu organized academic trip to Baderwah

Jammu, 14 April 2026: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized an academic trip cum training camp for the students of Centre for Comparative Religion and Civilization (CCRC) at Baderwah in Doda district of J&K, UT. Altogether twenty students, research scholars and faculty members took part in this two days academic trip cum training camp.

This academic trip cum training camp was led by the director of CCRC, Prof. Nirajita Bhandari along with three faculty members. Prof. Bhandari said that the event was organized to provide students experiential learning opportunities and field based learning exposure. This academic event was initiated by the inspiration of Honorable Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Prof. Bhandari said that the first auspicious visit was to Vasuki Nag Temple which is associated with ancient serpent worship traditions.



The second visit was to Chandi Mata temple. This fascinated the entire community with firsthand knowledge of regional traditions and architectural types. Local people said that this temple attracts a large number of pilgrims during the festival of Navratri celebrations.

Surely, the peaceful and spiritually uplifting atmosphere of the temple enhanced the learning of geography and ecology of the students. Director said that students visited Bhaderkali Bhawan and also Baderwah campus of University of Jammu in Naitih Park everyone had a thrilling time enjoying nature, pho-

tography, sketching landscapes, short hikes and exploration and nature walks made it very soothing.

The most anticipated moment for everyone was undaunted and exhilarating walking on fresh snow. Group games in snow, short hikes, frolic jumps all filled enthusiasm in the hearts of participants. Faculty members—Dr. Arvind Rituraj, Dr. Amita Gupta and Dr. G.V. Snigdha Raj, research scholars—Rohit, Naresh, Deewanshu, Rishita, Heenam and Ankit, PG students—Vishal, Aditi, Aman, Himanshi, Ojswi, Asika, Sorabh took part in this academic and cultural trip.

Movement Kalki Intensifies Signature Campaign for Granting 'Rashtra Mata' Status to Gau Mata



Jammu, Date: 14 April 2026 Movement Kalki today organized a massive signature campaign during the Tawi Mahotsav in support of granting 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother) status to Gau Mata, ahead of the proposed memorandum submission on the 27th. A large number of devotees and local citizens participated enthusiastically and extended their full support to the campaign. The signature drive was conducted under the leadership of Sapna Hindu. On this occasion, the founder of Movement Kalki, Deepak Singh, was also present. People actively came forward to sign and

express their commitment to this noble cause. Prominent members and office bearers present during the event included Saurabh Sharma, Mohammad Bilal (Legal Advisor), Rajkumar, Sanjeev Dubey, Sanjay Thakur, Manav Sharma, and Manita Devi, among others. While interacting with the public, representatives of Movement Kalki stated that Gau Mata is the foundation of Indian culture and Sanatan Dharma, and therefore deserves to be recognized as 'Rashtra Mata'. They appealed to the government to reconsider its stance and grant Gau Mata its rightful status

in a sacred land like India. The organization urged citizens to come out of their homes on the 27th, gather in large numbers at their nearest Tehsil offices, and participate in a peaceful rally to submit a memorandum to the Tehsildar, demanding that the government grant 'Rashtra Mata' status to Gau Mata. The program concluded successfully with strong public participation. Movement Kalki expressed confidence that with growing public support, this campaign will soon take the shape of a mass movement and deliver a powerful message to the government.

IPL 2026: Injury scare for Rohit adds to MI concerns

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Already going through an underwhelming campaign in IPL 2026, Mumbai Indians are anxiously awaiting clarity on former skipper Rohit Sharma's fitness after the veteran opener is suspected of suffering a hamstring injury during their IPL 2026 clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Rohit, 38, retired hurt in the sixth over of the chase after scoring 19 off 13 deliveries, including two fours and a six. The discomfort first surfaced before the opening ball of Rasikh Salam's over, prompting a lengthy on-field assessment by the physio. Although he briefly resumed and faced one more delivery, Rohit immediately walked off, unable to continue.

The franchise has confirmed that the extent of the injury will only be known after scans, which are scheduled to determine his



availability for Mumbai Indians' upcoming fixture against Punjab Kings on April 16.

"I'm not entirely sure yet, perhaps it's a bit of a hamstring issue, but I can't say for certain. I was in the dugout, so I don't have much information on it," teammate Sherfane Rutherford said after the match.

Rohit's potential absence would come as a significant setback for Mumbai Indians, who have already lost three of their first four matches this season and are struggling to build momentum.

The experienced opener has been one of the brighter spots in an otherwise inconsistent campaign, scoring 137 runs in four innings, including a half-century.

Earlier in the game, Rohit and Ryan Rickelton had given Mumbai a flying start in pursuit of a daunting 240-run target, racing to 56 without loss in just five overs. However, the injury halted his innings abruptly, disrupting the chase and adding to the team's concerns.

Injury scare for Kohli

While Mumbai await updates on Rohit, Royal Challengers Bengaluru were also dealing with an injury scare of their own. Virat Kohli, who scored a 38-ball 50 in RCB's innings, did not take the field during Mumbai's chase due to an ankle issue.

However, teammate Krunal Pandya downplayed the concern, suggesting it was not serious.

"I mean, I have not spoken to the physio yet, but I think he'll be fine," Pandya said.

Krunal also backed Kohli's overall form despite a relatively slower knock by his standards.

"He has been striking at around 200 if you look at the last two or three games. At the end of the day, what matters is how we are playing as a unit. If we are able to put up 230-240, we will take that any day. If you look at his stats, he has been batting at a very good strike rate," he added.

AIFF takes strong stand after alleged racist abuse in Kerala Blasters vs Bengaluru FC match

New Delhi, Apr 14:

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has strongly condemned alleged racist behaviour during a recent Indian Super League clash, reaffirming its zero-tolerance stance and referring the matter to its Disciplinary Committee for investigation.

The controversy stems from a match between Kerala Blasters FC and Bengaluru FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, where a viral video allegedly showed a fan directing racist remarks at Blasters defender Fallou Ndiaye. The clip quickly circulated on social media, sparking widespread outrage and renewed concerns over racism in Indian football.

In an official statement issued on Tuesday, the AIFF confirmed it had received complaints



regarding discriminatory behaviour during the ongoing ISL 2025-26 season and reiterated its commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all players.

"The AIFF maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards racism. The complaints have been referred to the Disciplinary Committee, an independent judicial body, for examination as per the AIFF Disciplinary Code," the federation said, adding that it would refrain from further comment while

proceedings are ongoing.

Emphasising its stance, the governing body stated that the Indian football community stands united against racism and that "those who bring hatred into our stadiums have no place in our game." Meanwhile, Kerala Blasters also issued a strong response, condemning the incident as "appalling" and confirming that the matter had been formally reported to league and federation authorities.

CSK look to build momentum against winless KKR

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings will take the field with renewed belief when they host Kolkata Knight Riders in their upcoming Indian Premier League clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, with both teams entering the contest at very different points in their campaigns.

For CSK, the previous outing marked a turning point. After a string of underwhelming performances in IPL 2026, they finally clicked as a unit to register their first win of the season against Delhi Capitals. It was a game that showcased what the side is capable of when both batting and bowling click together, and they will now look to build on that momentum.

The batting unit found its spark through Sanju Samson, whose explosive 115 off 56 balls set the tone for the innings and gave the team a much-needed boost. That knock not only anchored the innings but also proved early aggression, allowing others to

play with greater freedom. With Samson now settled, CSK will expect their top order to function with more clarity going forward. At the same time, there remains scope for improvement. Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad is yet to make a significant impact this season, and the team will be hoping he leads from the front with the bat. A strong start at the top will be crucial, especially on a surface like Chepauk where building partnerships often defines the outcome.

The bowling unit, however, showed encouraging signs in the last game. The return of Dewald Brevis gave CSK greater flexibility in their combination, allowing them to field a more balanced attack. Gurjapneet Singh impressed on debut with his ability to extract bounce, while Jamie Overton's disciplined approach was rewarded with a four-wicket haul. Akeal Hosen's inclusion also added variety, particularly in the powerplay, giving CSK more control in the early

New Trial Over Maradona's Death Begins In Argentina

San Isidro, Argentina: A new trial over the death of Argentine football legend Diego Maradona begins Tuesday a year after a scandal involving a judge caused the first trial to collapse. Maradona, considered one of the world's greatest players ever, died in November 2020 at the age of 60 while recovering from brain surgery at a private residence. He died of heart failure and acute pulmonary edema — a condition where fluid accumulates in the lungs — two weeks after going under the knife.

His seven-person medical team were indicted over the conditions of his convalescence in the northern Buenos Aires suburb of Tigre, described by prosecutors as grossly negligent. But two and a half months into their trial, after hours of sometimes tearful testimony



from witnesses, including Maradona's children, the proceedings came to a halt. The trial was annulled in May 2025 after it emerged that one of the judges overseeing the trial was involved in a documentary about the case, potentially breaking ethics rules. The judge, Julieta Makintach, was

later impeached. The new trial, which will hear from some 120 witnesses, will again seek to determine if Maradona's medical team is responsible for his death. Seven health care professionals — doctors, psychologists, and nurses — who were treating him at the time of his death are accused of homi-

cide with possible intent — pursuing a course of action despite knowing it could lead to death. They risk prison terms of between eight and 25 years if convicted. The defense maintains the larger-than-life Maradona, who battled cocaine and alcohol addictions, died of natural causes. "If there's one thing that has been ruled out, it's a malicious criminal plan to kill Maradona.

Anyone who continues to maintain that is cruel to the family and the cause," Vadim Mischanuk, lawyer for psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, told Radio Con Vos on Sunday. News of the death of the 1986 World Cup champion brought hundreds of thousands of Argentines onto the streets in mourning in the midst of the Covid pandemic. The trial is expected to last until July.

Swimming Becomes First Major Olympic Sport To Lift Restrictions on Russian Athletes

New Delhi, Apr 14:

Lausanne: Russian swimmers, divers and water polo players will be allowed to compete without restrictions and with their national flag and anthem. The decision by governing body World Aquatics marks a major shift in how a key sport treats Russia ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and prompted condemnation by Ukraine. World Aquatics said on Monday it will remove restrictions which required Russian and Belarusian athletes to be vetted and to compete as neutrals.

It excluded Russia and Belarus from its events like the World Championships after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, then allowed limited participation as neutrals a year later, and further eased the rules since. "Senior athletes with Belarusian or Russian sport nationality will be permitted to compete in World Aquatics events in the same way as their counterparts representing other sport nationalities, with their respective uniforms, flags and anthems," World Aquatics said in a statement. It had previously relaxed the rules for junior athletes.



World Aquatics President Husain Al Musallam added: "We are determined to ensure that pools

and open water remain places where athletes from all nations can come together in peaceful competition." Ukraine condemns decision World Aquatics isn't the first sports body to reinstate Russia in full — judo did it in November and taekwondo in January — but it's by far the biggest. Russian Sports Minister Mikhail Degtyaryov thanked Al Musallam "for his firm position on this issue" and said they'd discussed the issue together in January. "It is very important that international sporting dialogue is bearing fruit and enables the orderly restoration of sporting ties," Degtyaryov, who also heads the Russian Olympic Committee, wrote on the social media app Max. Ukraine Minister of Youth and Sports Mariya Bidnyi condemned the decision.

PCB imposes strict sanction on Blessing Muzarabani for opting IPL over PSL

New Delhi, Apr 14:

The Pakistan Cricket Board has imposed a two-year ban on Zimbabwe pacer Blessing Muzarabani after he withdrew from the Pakistan Super League at the final stage to participate in the Indian Premier League 2026.

Muzarabani, 29, had gone unsold in both leagues' auctions before being roped in as a replacement player by Islamabad United. However, in a late turn of events, he opted out of his PSL commitments to join Kolkata Knight Riders as a replacement for Mustafizur Rahman.

Confirming the decision, the PCB announced that the pacer will be ineligible for the next two editions of the PSL with immediate effect.



board said in an official statement. The governing body further underlined the seriousness of the breach, stating, "The attempt to move away from such commitments without valid cause is a violation of contractual obligations and the principles of good faith that govern global professional sports."

"Following a thorough disciplinary review, the PCB has announced that Zimbabwean cricketer Blessing Muzarabani is declared ineligible to participate in the next two (2) editions of the HBL PSL, effective immediately," the

BCCI revises GT-CSK schedule, swaps venues due to municipal corporation polls in Gujarat

New Delhi, Apr 14:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has revised the schedule for two Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 matches involving Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings due to municipal corporation elections in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat on April 26. As per the revised schedule, the afternoon fixture between GT and CSK, originally set to be played in Ahmedabad on April 26, will now take place at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, with the match starting at 3:30 PM IST. The reverse fixture has also been swapped. The May 21 clash, initially scheduled in Chennai, will now be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad,



with a 7:30 PM IST start. In an official statement, the BCCI said the changes were made to ensure the smooth conduct of the tournament while accommodating local administrative requirements related to the elections. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announces a revision in the schedule of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026," the statement read. "The afternoon fixture between Gujarat Titans and Chennai

Super Kings, originally scheduled to be played in Ahmedabad on April 26, 2026, will now be held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, with the match starting at 03:30 PM IST." "Accordingly, the reverse fixture between Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans, scheduled to be played on May 21, 2026, will now be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, with the match set to begin at 07:30 PM IST," it added.

ICC Player of the Month: Sanju Samson, Amelia Kerr rewarded for match-winning displays

New Delhi, Apr 14:

India's Sanju Samson and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr have been named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for March, respectively, following a string of match-winning performances on the global stage. Samson's rise to the top honour caps off a remarkable turnaround during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, where he emerged as India's unlikely hero in the knockout stages. Initially on the sidelines, the wicketkeeper-batter seized his opportunity from the Super Eights clash and never looked back.

He delivered a series of defining knocks under pressure, including an 97 against the West Indies, followed by back-to-back scores of 89 in the semi-final against England and the final against New Zealand. His consistency and composure played a pivotal role in



India successfully defending their title, earning him the Player of the Tournament award as well.

Reflecting on the recognition, Samson said the award marked one of the most memorable phases of his career, highlighting the significance of contributing to a World Cup-winning campaign.

He edged out stiff competition from teammate Jasprit Bumrah, who starred with the ball in the final, and South Africa's Connor Esterhuizen.

Meanwhile, Kerr continued her dominance in the women's game with a sensational all-round display across formats. The 23-year-

old was instrumental in New Zealand's ODI and T20I series wins over Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Kerr amassed 176 runs and claimed 18 wickets in ODIs, including a stunning 7/34 performance, while also scoring 276 runs and picking up six wickets in T20Is. Her consistency extended to an impressive streak of 11 consecutive 30-plus scores in the shortest format.

Currently the top-ranked T20I all-rounder, Kerr's impact earned her multiple Player of the Series honours during the month.

In her response, Kerr credited team unity and belief as key factors behind the White Ferns' success, emphasising the collective effort over individual milestones. She finished ahead of Australia's Beth Mooney and South Africa's Ayabonga Khaka to secure the award.

UP govt panel announces 21% wage hike after Noida violence, workers continue stir

New Delhi, Apr 14: Aday after protests turned violent in Noida Phase 2, the Uttar Pradesh government has announced a sharp increase in interim minimum wages, raising them by around 21 per cent for workers in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad.

The revision comes as part of a response to growing labour unrest in the region, with workers demanding better pay amid rising costs. Despite the announcement, protests continued on Tuesday morning, indicating that tensions on the ground remain far from resolved. According to the Noida District Magistrate's office, unskilled workers in



Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad will now receive Rs 13,690 per month, up from Rs 11,313. Semi-skilled workers' wages have been raised from Rs 12,445 to Rs 15,059, while skilled workers will now earn Rs 16,868 instead of Rs 13,940. The revised interim rates have been made effective from April 1. Revised wage structure across districts

and false news being circulated on several social media platforms."

Government calls for balance amid economic pressure

In an official statement, authorities said the Centre is working on introducing a national minimum "floor wage" under the new Labour Codes, aimed at ensuring a baseline wage across states. The state government is currently consulting employer bodies and labour unions, reviewing suggestions and objections before taking a final call. Officials noted that industries are facing global and economic challenges, including rising input costs and declining

BJP leader Sanjay Tandon welcomes FAR hike move, urges free implementation to boost Chandigarh's growth

Chandigarh, Apr 14: Senior BJP leader and party's National Council Member Sanjay Tandon has welcomed the move by the Chandigarh Administration to increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR), terming it a progressive step towards urban development and economic growth. He expressed hope that the decision would be finalised at the earliest and implemented swiftly in the larger public interest. Tandon said that he had consistently taken up the issue with senior functionaries of the Administration, including the Adviser and the Administrator, to expedite the process of enhancing FAR norms. He noted that the move has been under active consideration as part of broader efforts to reform building by-laws and promote vertical growth in the city. Welcoming the policy direction, Tandon emphasised that the Administration should go a step further and allow the FAR increase without imposing any additional charges on residents and developers. He pointed out that neighbouring cities like Panchkula and Mohali have relatively liberal development norms, making them more attractive for real estate and industri-



al investments. He asserted that a free-FAR increase would significantly boost investor confidence and encourage expansion across key sectors such as IT, healthcare, and education. "This reform has the potential to unlock Chandigarh's economic capacity and transform it into a major hub for emerging industries," he said. It is worth noting that an 11-member committee has allowed the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in Industrial Area, Phases 1 and 2, to be increased to 2, effectively allowing industries to construct nearly three times more built-up space than earlier.

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi extend festive greetings, highlight spirit of unity and renewal

New Delhi, Apr 14: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday conveyed greetings to people across the country on the occasion of several harvest and regional New Year festivals, underlining their message of hope, prosperity, and unity. "In a post on X, Kharge extended his wishes for festivals celebrated across different regions, including Baisakhi, Bohag Bihu, Puthandu, Poila Baisakh, Biju, and Maha Sishubh. Pana Sankranti. He said, "Our warm wishes on the joyous occasions... marking the arrival of the new year in different parts of our country, these festivals bring with them renewed hope, optimism



and the spirit of fresh beginnings." Highlighting the larger significance of these celebrations, Kharge added, "May these celebrations fill every home with joy, usher in prosperity, and strengthen the bonds of unity and amity among all."

FS Misri arrives in Berlin for India-Germany Foreign Office consultations

New Delhi, Apr 14: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday arrived in Berlin for India-Germany Foreign Office consultations. The visit comes after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited India in January 2026. In a post on X, Indian Embassy in Berlin said, "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri arrives in Berlin for India-Germany Foreign Office consultations. The visit follows Chancellor H.E. Friedrich Merz's successful visit to India in January 2026 and reflects continued regular high-level exchanges between India and Berlin." Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday arrived in Berlin for India-Germany Foreign Office consultations. In Berlin, the Foreign Secretary



will co-chair the India-Germany Foreign Office Consultations alongside Geza Andreas von Geyr, State Secretary of the German Foreign Office. The discussions would cover diverse domains of bilateral co-operation including

trade and investments, defence and security, technology, green energy, development co-operation, education and people-to-people ties as well as global and regional matters of mutual interest. The Foreign Secretary is also expected to meet

other dignitaries and senior government officials in both places. Earlier on Monday, Misri co-chaired the India-France Foreign Office Consultations with Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Martin Briens. In a post on X, Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal said, "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri co-chaired the India-France Foreign Office Consultations with Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Martin Briens, holding discussions on a wide range of issues including civil nuclear energy, defence & space, cyber & digital cooperation, AI & innovation and people-to-people & cultural ties, along with global and regional developments."

Vijay to campaign in TN's Tiruppur today; roadshow in key seats amid tight security

New Delhi, Apr 14: Actor-turned-politician Vijay is set to intensify his election campaign in Tiruppur on Tuesday evening, canvassing support for candidates of his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), across eight key Assembly constituencies. According to party sources, Vijay will campaign in Tiruppur North, Tiruppur South, Avinashi, Palladam, Kangayam, Dharpuram, Udumalpet, and Madathukulam constituencies as part of a high-energy outreach programme aimed at consolidating support ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Vijay is scheduled to depart from Chennai by flight and arrive in Coimbatore earlier in the day. From there, he will travel by road to Avinashi, where his campaign will begin. At around 3 p.m., he will kick off a roadshow from the Attayampalayam divi-



sion, standing atop a specially arranged campaign vehicle. The roadshow will pass through key areas, including the old bus stand and new bus stand zones in Avinashi, where Vijay is expected to address the public and appeal for votes in support of TVK candidates. Following this, the campaign convoy will proceed along the national highway to Perumalalur, where he will continue his outreach activities. The final stretch of the roadshow will extend up to Pooluvappatti, covering densely

populated pockets and commercial areas. Throughout the route, Vijay will interact with supporters, party workers, and the general public, seeking to energise the party's grassroots base in the region. Authorities have granted conditional permission for the campaign between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., with strict guidelines in place to ensure public safety and order. In view of the large crowds expected, extensive police security arrangements have been deployed across Avinashi, Perumalalur, Pooluvappatti, and surrounding areas. Senior police officials are closely monitoring the situation to prevent any untoward incidents. Meanwhile, in a sudden development, TVK announced the cancellation of Vijay's scheduled campaign programme in Dharmapuri later in the day despite prior approval from the Election Commission.

IMD predicts continued heatwave across TN for next few days

New Delhi, Apr 14: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that intense heat conditions will continue across interior parts of Tamil Nadu over the next few days, with maximum temperatures likely to remain up to 3 degrees Celsius above normal until at least Friday. The department has warned that hot and dry weather will persist, particularly during peak afternoon hours, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses and public discomfort across several districts. According to the IMD, interior regions are expected to record temperatures ranging between 39 and 41 degrees Celsius over the coming days, while coastal areas will experience high humidity



along with elevated temperatures. In Chennai and its suburbs, the maximum temperature is likely to touch 37 degrees, with humid conditions making the weather feel significantly hotter than recorded levels. On Monday, the heatwave tightened its grip across Tamil Nadu, with temperatures crossing 40 degrees in multiple locations. Karur Paramathi recorded the highest temperature at 40.6 degrees. Vellore and Erode followed closely at 40 degrees each. Madurai Airport, Namakkal, and Tirupattur registered around 38.9 degrees, while Coimbatore, Madurai city, Salem, and Dharmapuri recorded temperatures near 38.3 degrees. Palayamkottai and Tiruchirappalli

West Asia Conflict: India faces 2.5 million poverty risk, UN warns



New Delhi, Apr 14: The conflict and military escalation in West Asia threatens to push 2.5 million people in India into poverty and the country is projected to experience some loss in its human development progress, according to estimates and projections by the United Nations. The United Nations Development Programme, in a report titled 'Military Escalation In The Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia And The Pacific' noted that the

poverty is expected to rise from around 400,000 to 2.5 million, the report said. It added that the number of people pushed into poverty in the world as a result of the conflict rises from approximately 1.9 million to nearly 8.8 million across scenarios, with South Asia accounting for the largest share, ranging from about 1.7 million to over 8 million, reflecting both the subregion's population size and its higher exposure to income and price shocks. China is estimated to experience a more moderate increase in the number of people at risk of falling into poverty, from around 115,000 to over 620,000, reflecting small proportional changes applied to a very large population base. Highlighting the estimated poverty impact of the military escalation, the report said that a 28-day conflict, most severe scenario with 8-month.

ISI-linked CCTV espionage case: Toll plazas targeted to map India's transport arteries, says report

New Delhi, Apr 14: Investigators probing the ISI-linked CCTV espionage network have uncovered a deeper and more worrying layer, with operatives allegedly directed to monitor toll plazas alongside railway stations and military sites, officials said. The development underlines the scale at which sensitive, real-time movement data was being targeted across the country, raising concerns over how critical transport corridors could have been mapped or exploited.



According to officials, the focus on toll plazas was not incidental. These hubs offer valuable information on vehicle flows, security deployment and the movement of goods carriers. As per officials, a terror strike at a toll plaza could cause widespread disruption and bring traffic movement to a halt. The ISI may have been eyeing containers and essential goods vehicles that regularly pass through such checkpoints. Why toll plaza data matters for terror operations. Officials explained that real-time access to toll

plaza surveillance could aid both terror groups and smuggling networks. Details of security arrangements and vehicle movement patterns can be used to move arms, ammunition or narcotics with minimal risk. When terror groups and drug smugglers get live access to toll plaza

security patterns and vehicle flow, it effectively hands them a moving window to ferry weapons and drugs across checkpoints, another official said. Such information could also be used to plan targeted ambushes on specific vehicles. Investigators further warned that such data may enable planning of high-impact attacks, including car bomb blasts at busy transit points. The information could be used to orchestrate vehicle-borne explosions that would block traffic and result in casualties, an official added. **Link to earlier terror plans under probe** The findings have also drawn parallels with earlier investigations. In the Faridabad module case, accused individuals had allegedly plotted multiple car bomb attacks across North India. The plan partially unravelled after security agencies tightened surveillance in Jammu and Kashmir, leading one accused to flee to the city near Delhi's Red Fort in panic. Authorities say the renewed interest in such tactics reflects a continuing push among terror outfits to carry out vehicle-borne attacks. **Over 1,000 toll plazas part of potential surveillance grid** India currently has over 1,000 operational toll plazas, all equipped with CCTV. Investigators suspect that the espionage module aimed to tap into this network by installing additional solar-powered cameras at key points to harvest as much footage as possible.

Price hikes, outlook cuts - What airlines are doing as fuel costs surge

New Delhi, Apr 14: A surge in jet fuel prices driven by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has upended the global aviation industry, forcing airlines to raise fares and revise financial outlooks. Jet fuel prices have soared from \$85 to \$90 per barrel to \$150 to \$200 per barrel in recent weeks, a financial hit for an industry where fuel accounts for up to a quarter of operating expenses.



Malaysia X
The Malaysian airline's executives said the company had cut 10% of flights across the group with a surcharge of about 20% on fuel in general.

Air France-KLM
The airline group said it planned to increase long-haul ticket prices to address surging fuel costs, with cabin fares set to rise by 50 euros (\$58) per round trip.

Air India
The Indian flag carrier said it would revise its fuel surcharge from a flat domestic surcharge to a distance-based grid. It said surcharges on international routes did not compensate for the exponential rise in jet fuel prices.

Air New Zealand
The airline said on April 7 it would slash flights

through May and June and hike fares, having been one of the first to announce broad increases to ticket prices when the conflict broke out. It also suspended its full-year earnings forecast due to fuel market volatility.

Akasa Air
India's Akasa Air said it was introducing a fuel surcharge ranging between 199 and 1,300 Indian

rupees (\$2 to \$14) on domestic and international flights.

Alaska Air
The U.S. airline said it would increase fees for the first checked bag by \$5 and by \$10 for the second on its North American flights, as well as for its Hawaiian Airlines unit. It hiked prices for a third checked bag from \$50 to \$200.

American Airlines
The U.S. carrier said it would hike checked baggage fees by \$10 each for the first and second checked bags and by \$150 for the third checked bag on domestic and short-haul international flights. The airline also trimmed certain benefits for economy passengers.

Cathay Pacific
The Hong Kong airline said it would cut some flight from mid-May until the end of June, cancelling about 2% of its scheduled passenger flights, while its budget airline HK Express is cutting around 6 per cent of flights. The carrier previously said it would hike its fuel surcharge by 34 per cent across routes from April 1.

Government notifies new pricing norms for low-grade iron ore to boost steel supply

New Delhi, Apr 14: In a move to unlock vast reserves of low-grade iron ore and ensure long-term raw material security for the steel industry, the Ministry of Mines on Tuesday notified new rules to make low-grade iron ore economically viable by introducing a revised pricing framework for royalty calculation. The new rules calculate the Average Sale Price (ASP) for Haematitic Iron Ore below the threshold value, making beneficiation economically viable. The Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on April 10, 2026, aim to bring Banded Haematite Quartzite (BHQ) and Banded Haematite Jasper (BHI) into the usable category, addressing concerns over depleting high-grade



resources, the Ministry of Mines said in a press release. Previously, iron ore with less than 45% iron (Fe) content lacked a defined Average Sale Price (ASP), which led to royalties being charged based on higher-grade prices, making the beneficiation of low-grade materials such as Banded Haematite Quartzite (BHQ) and Banded Haematite Jasper (BHI) commercially unviable. The threshold value of a mineral is the limit below which the material obtained after mining can be discarded as waste. The notified threshold value for Haematitic Iron Ore is 45% Iron (Fe) (Min.). There are huge quantities of iron ore below the threshold value in the country and some of which is in the form of BHQ or BHI, which are the principal "host rocks" that contain iron ore. Iron ore below 45% Fe content was previously considered as waste because the cost of separating the iron from the silica was too high. With modern technology, these can now be "beneficiated".

Retail inflation eases to 3.40% in March, food prices show mixed trends

New Delhi, Apr 14: Retail inflation for the month of March was recorded at 3.40% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. The corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban areas stood at 3.63% and 3.11%, respectively, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Food inflation for March stood at 3.87% (provisional), with rural and urban rates at 3.96% and 3.71%, respectively. According to MoSPI data, onion prices declined by over 27%, while potato prices fell by nearly 19%. Prices of garlic and pulses such as arhar (tur) and chickpeas also eased, providing relief to consumers. However, tomatoes and cauliflower recorded notable price increases, albeit lower than the levels seen in February. Among non-food items, inflation in silver jewellery remained exceptionally high at around 148%, while prices of gold and diamond jewellery rose by nearly 46%. Year-on-year housing inflation for March stood at 2.11%, with rural and urban inflation at 2.54%



and 1.95%, respectively. "The current headline CPI inflation at 3.40% remains broadly aligned with the RBI's medium-term price stability objective. The persistence of low prices in the transport group and moderate housing inflation suggests that underlying supply-side pressures are contained. However, volatility in food components warrants continued policy vigilance, as fears of a poor monsoon due to El Niño conditions loom large," said Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCCL. Among states with populations above 5 million, Telangana recorded the highest combined inflation at 5.83%, followed by Karnataka and Kerala.

Government notifies ₹10,000 crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to boost startup financing

New Delhi, Apr 14: The Government has notified the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (Startup India FoF 2.0) with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore to mobilise venture and growth capital for the country's startup ecosystem. The Startup India FoF 2.0 builds upon the strong performance of the earlier Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0), launched in 2016 under the Startup India Action Plan to address funding gaps and catalyse domestic capital for startups, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The new fund will deploy its Rs.10,000 crore corpus through commitments to eligible Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) across the 16th and 17th Finance Commission cycles. Investments under Startup India FoF 2.0 will focus on AIFs sup-



porting priority segments, including deep-tech startups, early growth-stage ventures backed by smaller AIFs, technology-driven and innovative manufacturing startups, as well as sector- and stage-agnostic startups.

The scheme will follow a structured selection process for AIFs, including screening by a Venture Capital Investment Committee (VCIC) comprising veterans from the startup ecosystem. It incorporates robust monitoring

and oversight mechanisms, with an Empowered Committee (EC) to monitor implementation and performance. Provisions for co-investment by the Government and institutional investors under an umbrella framework have also been included, with appropriate Governance safeguards. Operational guidelines and the composition of the VCIC will be issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Startup India FoF 2.0 is expected to play a critical role in advancing India's innovation-led growth agenda. By supporting startups that build globally competitive technologies, products, and solutions, the scheme will strengthen economic resilience, boost manufacturing capabilities, generate high-quality jobs, and position India as a global innovation hub.

Unseasonal rains delay summer demand surge, but growth outlook remains intact: Report

New Delhi, Apr 14: New Delhi (India), April 14 (ANI): Demand for summer products like air conditioners, refrigerators, air coolers, fans and water purifiers slowed in March due to unseasonal rains earlier this year. Rainfall in January and February, first in the South and then in the North, affected sales during what is usually a key period.

A report by Yes Securities said dealers are being cautious about stocking up for the summer season. Inventory levels have now normalised, with dealers holding about 20 per cent less stock than last year. "Channel inventory has normalised, while dealers are cautious in building up inventory for the upcoming summer season. Dealers have cut down their inventory by 20% compared to the previous year. On wires and cables front volumes have taken a hit in the month of March as dealers have started to de-stock after aggressively stocking in month of January and



early February," the report stated. The wires and cables segment also saw weaker demand in March. After heavy stocking in January and early February, dealers began reducing inventory. Demand from the construction sector has slowed, as buyers are

delaying purchases in the hope of lower prices. While enquiries continue, they are not turning into confirmed orders. "Dealers after aggressively overstocking in month of January and early February have started to de-stock in month of March as they are waiting for prices to cool off before placing new orders... Moreover, enquiries are not translating into firm orders, resulting in lower offtake from the channel," the report noted. On pricing, larger companies such as Polycab and KEI Industries raised prices by 3.4 per cent from March 21. Smaller players increased prices by around 10 per cent. This has nar-

rowed the price gap between brands, which could benefit bigger companies by helping them gain market share. In the fan segment, sales grew modestly, mainly driven by ceiling fans. There is a clear shift toward energy-efficient BLDC fans, which made up over 30 per cent of total sales in March. However, the lighting segment remained weak due to slower project execution in both consumer and business markets. However, despite the slowdown, the Yes Securities report expects summer products to deliver double-digit revenue growth with high single-digit to low double-digit volume growth this season.

IIM Lucknow Launches CRO Programme to Build Integrated Growth Leadership for India's Evolving Economy

Mumbai April 14: The Chief Revenue Officer (CRO) role is rapidly emerging as one of the most influential positions in today's C-suite. Organisations are wrestling with fragmented growth efforts, rising customer complexity, and under-realised returns from digital and AI investments. In this milieu, the need for leaders who can unify revenue strategies across functions has never been greater. Responding to this strategic shift, Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIM Lucknow) has announced the launch of its Chief Revenue Officer (CRO) Programme, a 10-month executive education programme designed to equip senior leaders



with the capabilities required for integrated revenue ownership in complex, high-growth environments. Delivered by IIM Lucknow's distinguished faculty, the programme develops strategic, financial, and AI-enabled judgment across the full commercial ecosystem—spanning sales leadership, growth marketing, customer monetisation, pricing strategy, analytics, and digital innovation. The curriculum emphasises revenue orchestration, enabling leaders to move beyond managing siloed functions to architecting and leading enterprise-wide growth systems. Participants will engage through weekly live online sessions, contemporary case-led discussions, applied frameworks, and a faculty-guided capstone project designed.

Ahana Announces RBI Reporting Solution for Co-operative Banks Using Its Proprietary Data Model

Bangaluru (Karnataka) [India], April 14: Ahana today announced a solution-led initiative for co-operative banks, built on Ahana's Data Management Solution platform and delivered through the Data Model designed by Ahana, a business solution purpose-built for co-operative banks to simplify RBI reporting in environments where data resides across core banking, treasury, and digital channels. Reporting cycles still rely heavily on extraction, validation, reconciliation, and spreadsheet-driven workflows. Co-operative banks often manage reporting data across multiple systems and departments, leading to reconciliation overhead and inconsistent reporting outcomes. Common conditions include disconnected core banking, treasury, and digital systems; RBI reporting that takes days per cycle; higher error rates due to manual consolidation; and difficulty producing a unified customer view.

Audit readiness adds complexity. In many environments, audit data is distributed across departmental systems without a historical data retention strategy, and reports are manually created from on-premises backups, increasing turnaround time and contributing to repeated audit delays. The same operating conditions will require substantial manual effort, with approximately 30 to 40 personnel across functions such as Credit Monitoring, Accounts, Treasury, and Forex involved in data extraction, validation, and consolidation for MIS and reporting. A governed RBI reporting solution for co-operative banks and audits Data Model designed by Ahana is being used to deliver a regulated reporting framework for co-operative banks, focused on simplifying RBI reporting where reporting cycles depend on manual consolidation.

IBC amendments aim to boost recoveries for lenders in a shorter timeframe: ICRA

New Delhi, Apr 14: In its decade-long journey, the IBC has seen six amendments with the aim to achieve time-bound recoveries and maximisation of the value of the assets. The latest amendments approved by the Parliament introduce various new frameworks while strengthening a current framework. Given the slowdown in recovery rates in 9M FY2026, ICRA believes the amendments are aimed to boost recoveries for lenders in a shorter timeframe. ICRA noted that the proposed amendments aim to



"reduce delays, maximise value for all stakeholders, and improve governance" while introducing new provisions that follow global best practices for resolving stressed assets. According to an ICRA report, the legislative update addresses the back-log of "protracted delays in legal proceedings and an excessive litigation burden that continues to strain the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)." These changes focus on

streamlining the admission process and reducing the significant haircuts previously seen by creditors. A primary shift in the framework involves the removal of discretionary power from the NCLT during the admission of insolvency applications. The new rules specify that if a default exists and the application is complete, the tribunal must admit the case. With the new amendment, now "The NCLT will not have any discretionary power while admitting or rejecting an application under 7 of the IBC despite the existence of a default

as was done in the past for a few cases." ICRA expects this will expedite the admission of cases in the NCLT. The amendment also establishes a strict 14-day timeline for the NCLT to approve or reject an admission. To further eliminate ambiguity, Information Utilities (IU) records now function as the primary proof of default. Governance within the Committee of Creditors (CoC) also sees a significant change, as financial debt owed to related parties of the corporate debtor is no longer included when determining voting shares.

Sat Sharma pays tributes to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Jammu, Ashok Koul in Kashmir

JAMMU/KASHMIR, 14 APRIL 2026: Bhanviya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its senior leaders paid heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, organizing a series of programmes across the Union Territory to commemorate the life and legacy of the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

The main programme in Jammu was led by J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), along with MLAs Vikram Randhawa, and Devyani Rana, and District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia. Floral tributes were offered to Dr. Ambedkar, remembering his unparalleled contribution towards social justice, equality, and nation-building.

Sat Sharma, addressing on the occasion, said that Dr. Ambedkar was a



visionary leader who worked whole-heartedly to realize inclusive India after freedom from British rule. He emphasized that the BJP has given Dr. Ambedkar the respect and recognition he truly deserved, which, he stressed, was long denied by the Congress leadership. He stated that prominent Congress leaders,

including Jawaharlal Nehru, sidelined Dr. Ambedkar on crucial national issues, ultimately compelling him to resign from the ministry. Sat Sharma added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is firmly committed to the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka

Viswas," ensuring justice, dignity, and equal opportunities for the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. Meanwhile, in Kashmir, the main programme was organized at Bandipora by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, who paid rich tributes to Dr. Ambedkar at the BJP office.

Ashok Koul, in his address, reiterated that Dr. Ambedkar's ideals continue to guide the BJP's policies and governance. He asserted that while previous governments failed to honour his legacy in true spirit, the Modi-led government has taken concrete steps to uphold his vision of social equality and empowerment. He further said that the BJP remains dedicated to strengthening the rights of the downtrodden and ensuring inclusive development across all regions.

BJP Jammu District President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, State General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, MLA Yudhvir Sethi, District Prabhakar Brijesh Rana, and other leaders paid floral tributes at the BJP office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

BJP Kashmir Displaced District also paid tributes at the BJP office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

Baisakhi celebrated with zeal and traditional fervour in District Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, APRIL 14: The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and cultural spirit in District Kishtwar. The celebrations were marked by the organization of a traditional historic Dargal and a Nukkad Natak at the historic Chowgan Ground under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The event was organised as a part of the ongoing UT Wide 100 Days Nasha Mukti JK Abhiyan Campaign by the District Administration Kishtwar in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIC), Social Welfare Department Kishtwar and Dargal Committee Kishtwar.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event witnessed the participation of thousands of people from across the region, reflecting the district's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage. In his message, the ADC extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the people and lauded the participants of the Dargal for their commendable efforts in upholding the legacy of this iconic event.



The Dargal drew enthusiastic participation from wrestlers and spectators alike, showcasing the region's deep-rooted love for traditional sports. The event not only provided entertainment but also served as a platform to promote communal harmony and social unity.

The ADC also distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up of the Dargal competition, as well as participants of the Nukkad Natak, acknowledging their

enthusiastic and commendable participation.

A Nukkad Natak was also presented by Kishtwar Art Production, delivering a strong message to the audience about staying away from drug abuse. Among others present on the occasion were DSWO Kishtwar, Tariq Parveaz Qazi, Tehsildar HQ to DC, Mohd Rafiq Naik along with other officers, staff of DIFR (DIC) Kishtwar and Members of the Dargal Committee Kishtwar.

An empowered woman is the foundation of an empowered society: Sanjita Dogra

Jammu, 14 April 2026: Continuing her weekly public outreach initiative, Sanjita Dogra, General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, and Headquarters Incharge, held her regular Tuesday public darbar at Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, where she listened to the grievances and concerns of women from various parts of the region.

During the interaction, several women raised issues related to social welfare, healthcare access, financial assistance, and domestic challenges.

Sanjita Dogra assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the appropriate authorities for timely redressal.



She said that the primary objective of holding such public darbars is to provide a platform where people, especially women, can voice their issues without hesitation. Listening to

their voices, understanding their problems, and making continuous efforts toward meaningful solutions is our fundamental duty," she said. Highlighting the impor-

tance of women's empowerment, she said that an empowered woman is the foundation of an empowered society. When women are strong, confident, and self-reliant, they contribute

significantly to the progress and stability of families, communities, and the nation as a whole. She further added that empowering women through education, economic opportunities, and social security should be a top priority.

Sanjita Dogra also reiterated the commitment of the Modi government and the party toward women-centric policies and welfare schemes. She appealed women to come forward, be aware of their rights, and actively participate in shaping a better future for themselves and society.

Sanjita Dogra reaffirmed her dedication to addressing public concerns, particularly those affecting women, with sincerity and urgency.

Ashok Koul chairs BJP organizational meet in Bandipora, stresses booth-level strengthening

Bandipora, 14 April 2026: Jammu & Kashmir BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, chaired an organizational meeting with District Office Bearers, Constituency Presidents, and Morcha Presidents at the BJP Office Bandipora. District President Mudasar Farooq Jaan also addressed the meeting, which was convened to review party activities and strategize measures to further strengthen the party structure while expanding its outreach at the grassroots level. Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, emphasized the importance of intensifying ongoing party programmes and ensuring their effective implementation across all levels. He stressed that the party must focus on strengthening its organizational base at the booth level throughout the district, as booth-level workers form the backbone of the party. He further highlighted the need for better liaison between party leaders and the public to understand and address grassroots concerns effectively. Ashok Koul asked the leaders to actively organize party pro-



grammes among the masses to establish stronger connections with the people, spread awareness about the party's ideology, and educate citizens about various public welfare schemes launched by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He reiterated that the Modi government is committed to serving the people with dedication and ensuring inclusive development for all sections of society. Koul also called for the swift and successful completion of Mandal-level training camps under the Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan, terming it essential for equipping party workers with organizational skills and ideological clarity. Mudasar Farooq Jaan reaffirmed the district unit's commitment to strengthening the party at every level. He assured that all party workers in Bandipora will work with dedication to implement the organizational directives and reach out to the masses effectively.

DGPC Jammu Celebrates 327th Khalsa Sajna Divas with Devotion and Spiritual Fervour at Gurudwara Yaadgar Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Kour Nagar

327th Khalsa Sajna Divas Celebrated with Devotion and Spiritual Fervour at Gurudwara Yaadgar Guru Nanak dev Ji Chand Kour nagar.

JAMMU, APR 14: The 327th Khalsa Sajna Divas, commemorating the historic creation of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699, was celebrated with deep religious devotion, enthusiasm, and spiritual fervour across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir today. In Jammu, the main ceremony was organized by the District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu at Gurudwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji, where a large number of devotees, including women and children from various parts of the region, gathered to pay obeisance and seek divine blessings. The occasion marks a defining moment in Sikh history when Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth, upholding the eternal principles of equality, courage, justice, and selfless service, while abolishing caste-based discrimination and instilling a distinct collective identity rooted in dignity and righteousness.

Prominent Sikh preachers and renowned Ragi Jaahas from within and outside the Union Territory enriched the congregation with soulful Gurbani Kirtan and inspiring discourses. Among them were Bhai Sartaj Singh Ji Basranwa



(Parcharak, Ganga Nagar), Bhai Sarbjit Singh Ji (Hazoori Ragi, Sri Darbar Sahib), Bhai Narinder Singh Ji (Parcharak, Sikh Mission J&K), Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji and Bhai Harbans Singh Ji (Hazoori Ragis, DGPC Jammu). Through their kirtan and sermons, they eloquently highlighted the spiritual and historical significance of Khalsa Sajna Divas and the circumstances that led to the formation of the Khalsa.

Various religious and social organizations, including the Sikh Missionary College, set up stalls for the distribution of religious literature to spread awareness about Sikh teachings and values. The Akhara Nihang Singhan, led by Jathedar Narninder Singh of Buddha Dal, showcased the traditional Khalsa martial art

"Gatka," which was widely appreciated by the Sangat. S. Harjit Singh, Member and Incharge of the Dharam Parchar Committee, DGPC Jammu, elaborated on the profound vision of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who created the Khalsa by initiating individuals from diverse castes and regions, thereby laying the foundation of a casteless and egalitarian society. He also expressed gratitude to the Sangat for their participation and acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Sewadars involved in Langar preparation, distribution, and other arrangements.

S. Surjit Singh, General Secretary, DGPC Jammu, conducted the proceedings and extended thanks to the police and civil administration, including the Traffic Department, CID, PHE,

PDD, and JMC Jammu, for their cooperation in ensuring the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Baisakhi Samagam. DGPC office bearers, including Vice President S. Balvinder Singh and S. Tejinder Singh, were also present on the occasion. Remembering the

unparalleled sacrifices of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and the four Sahibzadas, speakers paid rich tributes to the great martyrdom tradition of the Khalsa Panth, which continues to inspire humanity towards truth, justice, and fearless living.

Nations Development Association Commemorates 135th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

JAMMU : Nations Development Association (NDA), a registered non-governmental organization (NGO) with NITI Aayog, Government of India, in collaboration with Sushil Bharat Jammu under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, commemorated the 135th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar across multiple locations including Samba, Bishnah, Nagrota, Ramgarh, R.S Pura, Arnia, Akhnoor and other adjoining areas of the Jammu region. Speaking on the occasion, Sushil Singh, Chief Functionary of Nations Development Association (NDA), underscored the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in contemporary society. He emphasized the



importance of education, social awareness, and active youth participation in fostering an inclusive and progressive nation, while reiterating NDA's commitment to grassroots-level initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir aimed at promoting social har-

mony and community development.

The programmes witnessed active participation from volunteers, youth, and local residents, who paid floral tributes and reflected upon the invaluable contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the principal

architect of the Indian Constitution and a steadfast advocate of social justice, equality, and human dignity. On the occasion, Principal Anju Bakshi of Bal Shishu Shiksha Kender Secondary School, Kalu Chak, Harvinder Singh, Branch Manager SVI

Ramgarh, Happy Sharma, District President Samba, and Akash Singh Charak, District President Jammu, along with other distinguished dignitaries and organizational representatives, graced the events and shared their perspectives on Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and their relevance in the present era.

The events focused on promoting the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, encouraging participants to contribute meaningfully towards nation-building. The programmes concluded with a collective pledge to uphold these principles and work towards building a just, equitable, and progressive society inspired by the ideals of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Lieutenant Governor dedicated Tawi Riverfront Project (Phase-I) to the public, on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi

JAMMU, APRIL 14: On the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha dedicated Tawi Riverfront Project (Phase-I), developed at a cost of Rs 156 crore, to the public.

In Phase-I of Tawi Riverfront Project, Jammu Smart City Limited has developed promenades on the left bank, right bank, and the central island, creating four continuous stretches for walking, jogging, and cycling.

A dedicated ghata area has also been developed for the sacred Tawi Aarti.

"Our vision is to create inclusive, accessible, and enriching spaces for every citizen. The Tawi Riverfront embodies this

ethos with a seamless blend of tradition and modernity, where development harmonises with nature," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was attending the 3-day long Tawi Mahotsav, organized by Jammu Smart City Limited, where he joined the citizens for the Tawi Aarti, and launched a series of transformative urban initiatives aimed at elevating the overall environment of the Tawi riverfront and the surrounding area.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone for 4-lane connecting road to the right bank with a bridge to decongest a critical stretch of city and directly connect

Bhagwati Nagar rotary with Jewel Chowk.

The development of green spaces along the top promenade of the Left Bank was also launched by the Lieutenant Governor. The one-kilometre stretch will transform Tawi Riverfront into an ideal urban space and a vibrant hotspot for residents and tourists.

The Lieutenant Governor said under the Urban Challenge Fund, two major initiatives are being taken up: real estate monetisation of Phase-I and the extension of the riverfront from Bikram Chowk Bridge to Har Ki Paudi. He emphasised that these

"Tawi Mahotsav-2026"



initiatives will play a pivotal role in transforming the Tawi riverfront into a vibrant tourist destination, a premier recreational hub, and a dynamic economic centre. The Lieutenant Governor observed that our culture holds that cities along rivers retain even the winds infused with timeless values. "Jammu embodies this

truth. This ancient temple town is the heart of spirituality, culture and a living metaphor. For millennia, this land has beckoned saints, philosophers, and artists, enriching itself with their cultural and spiritual legacies. Over the past five-six years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's leadership, we have strived to amplify Jammu's grandeur and cultural consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that culture thrives only when lived and passed to the next generation through its values. "Those who built the city did not build it for themselves alone. They built it with

confidence and trust that those who followed would understand and honor this priceless inheritance. The measure of a life is not what you gathered, but what you gave. Not what society offered you, but what you returned to it," he further said. The Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug Pledge to the citizens. He also felicitated the winners of the traditional dangal.

Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Sat Sharma, Member of Parliament and President, Bharatiya Janata Party; J&K; Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Atal Dulloo, Chief

Secretary; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, J&K Shakti Department; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Devansh Yadav, M u a c i P a l Commissioner Jammu and CEO Jammu Smart City Limited and senior officials were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly- Yudhvir Sethi, Arvind Gupta, Vikram Randhawa and Surinder Bhagat; Rajesh Gupta; President Vishwa Hindu Parishad (J&K and Ladakh); religious leaders; prominent citizens and people from all walks of life also attended the Tawi Mahotsav.

Shri Machail Mata Ji Temple reopens Div Com, IGP Jammu pay obeisance at Revered Shrine



KISHTWAR, APRIL 14: The sacred Shri Machail Mata Temple, nestled in the spiritual expanse of Machail Valley in District Kishtwar, was reopened for pilgrims on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, today, heralding the commencement of the annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2026. The religious event also marked the shifting of the idol (Murti) of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local priest Preshawan Singh to the Main temple and a huge rush of devotees amid religious rituals and a grand fair. The reopening of the revered temple was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Singh Tuti, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma and SSP Kishtwar, Naresh Singh, who paid their obeisance at the sacred shrine. After paying the obeisance, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu took a comprehen-

sive review of the arrangements put in place for the smooth and safe conduct of the Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2026. The review included an assessment of security protocols, provision of electricity, water supply, sanitation, langar sewa, accommodation, transportation and healthcare facilities for the devotees. The Divisional Commissioner directed for effective implementation and enforcement of RFID registration, with counters to be established for on-spot registration at Gauri Shankar Mandir Sarkoot and Gulabgarh. He emphasized that no entry shall be permitted without the registration. He issued instructions for the strict implementation of sanitation measures, including the deployment of sanitation workers and proper management of plastic waste to make the Yatra 100% plastic-free. Further, directions were issued to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to Machail and adjoining areas. The

Divisional Commissioner also directed for adequate water supply and provision of accommodation facilities in educational institutions (schools and colleges) in the event of adverse weather conditions and emergencies along the Yatra route from Gulabgarh to Machail. It was informed that helicopter services shall also be initiated after obtaining permission. "There shall be no movement of pilgrims, nor any establishment at the cloudburst-affected site at Chishoti," the Divisional Commissioner directed. The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to assess the feasibility and undertake necessary measures to increase the height of the bridge at Chishoti. Underscoring the cultural and religious significance of the Shri Machail Mata Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner said the shrine has emerged as major attraction for promoting spiritual tourism in the region. He assured full support from the administration for the successful conduct of the Yatra and emphasized the importance of providing a secure and comfortable environment for the pilgrims.

Satish Sharma leads Baisakhi Milan celebrations at Akhnoor; pushes for preserving cultural legacy

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today participated in the grand Baisakhi Milan celebrations at Pambadwan Akhnoor, Jammu.

He extended warm greetings to the people and highlighted deep-rooted cultural, historical and social significance of celebrating Baisakhi. He emphasized that the festival plays a vital role in upholding the rich traditions, agrarian ethos and composite cultural fabric of the region. The event witnessed an impressive public turnout, including the community leaders, youth and local residents, who gathered to



celebrate the vibrant festival of Baisakhi, reflecting the spirit of unity and cultural pride. Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the importance of preserving the cultural heritage and

strengthening communal harmony through such celebrations. "Baisakhi is not merely a harvest festival but a reflection of our identity and heritage. It symbolizes prosperity, hard work, and

unity, and reminds us of our responsibility to preserve and promote our cultural values," the Minister said. Reiterating the government's commitment to inclusive development, he

stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between progress and preservation of cultural traditions. The program also witnessed active interaction between the Minister and the public, with several participants putting forth their concerns and suggestions. "Satish Sharma assumed timely acknowledgment of their genuine issues, reaffirming his commitment to responsive and people-centric governance. The Minister appreciated the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm of the people, stating that such gatherings reflect the strong cultural fabric and unity of the region. The venue remained vibrant with festive enthusiasm, showcasing the essence of togetherness and cultural legacy."

CMO reviews functioning, ongoing works at PHC Assar

ASSAR, APRIL 14: To review the functioning of health facilities, Chief Medical Officer Dr Tanveer Ahmed Rather conducted a surprise inspection of PHC Assar. The visit was aimed at checking staff attendance and assessing the overall functioning of the health facility. During the inspection, the CMO visited all sections of the PHC and thoroughly reviewed staff attendance and service delivery. Dr. Rather also interacted with the staff on duty and impressed upon them to work with greater dedication and commitment in order to ensure quality healthcare services to the public. Later, the CMO reviewed the ongoing construction work of the BPHU Laboratory at PHC Assar, where Dr Syed Mohd Ismail



JAMMU, APRIL 14: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, today chaired a meeting with the transport associations, vehicle dealers and other key stakeholders to review critical issues and enhance the overall functioning of the Transport Department across the Union Territory. During the meeting, the Transport Commissioner also held an interactive session with the representatives of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), discussing their concerns and exploring ways to further improve coordination between the department and the vehicle dealers. Detailed deliberations were held on a range of the important matters, including promotion of alternate energy vehicles in line with evolving government

polices. The issue of customers showing interest in selling off freshly purchased vehicles and concerns regarding the fees charged in such cases were also discussed. The dealers raised concerns about the increasing trend of second-hand vehicles being brought from other states and sold within the Union Territory. The Commissioner stressed the need for strict verification and proper documentation in such transactions to ensure transparency and prevent irregularities. The role of automobile dealers in promoting road safety through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives was also highlighted. The Commissioner urged all the stakeholders to take proactive steps in spreading awareness about

responsible driving practices and road safety measures. Emphasizing adherence to all norms while selling the vehicles, the Commissioner directed the dealers to strictly follow the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) and ensure full compliance with all regulatory requirements. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Anju Gupta, Joint Commissioner Vikas Anand, RTO Kashmiri Qazi Irfan, RTO Jammu S Jasmeet Singh and all ARTOs, who shared their inputs to further improve road safety and departmental performance across the Union Territory. The meeting was also attended by Sanjay Agarwal, President FADA along with other members.

J&K F&ES launches Fire Service Week; reports 25% drop in fire incidents, Rs5,000 cr property saved in 2025

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: The Fire Service Day was observed today at the headquarters of Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Batamalo, here, with the launching of the week-long Fire Service Week to be held across the Union Territory from April 14 to 20, 2026.

Led by Director Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, the officers and personnel paid floral tributes to martyrs of the historic Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944, commemorated annually as Fire Service Day. A two-minute silence was observed for the fire fighters who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the ceremonial function, Alok Kumar said the week aims to promote fire prevention, preparedness and public safety awareness. This year's theme is "Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society-Together for Fire Prevention".

Director Fire Service informed that the department responded to 6,039 fire calls, 59 rescue calls and 53 false calls during 2025. With 322 fire tenders and Quick Response Vehicles and 2,157 personnel deployed, the department saved property worth nearly ₹5,000 crore while limiting losses to around ₹300 crore.

He said that the fire incidents fell by 1,994, nearly 25 percent compared to the previous year, attributing the decline to sustained prevention measures and growing public awareness.

Emphasizing the community participation, the Director Fire Service said 10,794 awareness programmes under initiatives like "Har Ghar Fire Fighter" have reached over 10.7 lakh people across J&K. To strengthen compliance, 3,728 fire safety measures were carried out in the hospitals, schools, hotels and commercial establishments. The department also played a key role in disaster response, including rescue and dewater-

ing operations during recent floods and safety arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025. During the Fire Service Week, the department will conduct fire safety campaigns, mock drills, evacuation exercises, lectures and live demonstrations across the UT to educate the citizens on prevention and emergency response.

Appealing for public support, the Director urged the citizens to adopt basic fire safety measures and help build a fire-safe society. He reaffirmed its commitment towards safeguarding the lives and property, upholding its motto: "We Serve to Save."

Editor, Publisher, Printer & Owner: Rajni Sharma, Published at: Sec-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu

Early Times Printing Press Samadhian Road, Jammu

E-Mail: editor.northinnews@gmail.com

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

