

North in News

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

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Pakistan has orchestrated drug smuggling to fund terrorism and destroy our young generation: LG

JAMMU, APRIL 15: "Drug abuse isn't just a law & order issue but a social cancer requiring every part of society to fight. I urged for "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach. I believe when the government's strength and society's resolve act as one, then even the toughest challenges crumble," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday. The Lieutenant Governor said for decades, Pakistan has orchestrated drug smuggling into Jammu Kashmir to fund terrorism and destroy our young generation. "We will map every hotspot. And I promise you: we will hit each one like a surgical strike. Not a single smuggler will be spared. The entire network will be dismantled," he said. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a public meeting in Ramban as part of the Drug-Free Jammu campaign.



the Padyatra from District Police Line to District Administrative Complex, Ramban. He was joined by

public representatives, senior officials of civil and police administration; civil society members, religious leaders, members of business and trade community; ex-servicemen; prominent citizens, various stakeholders, women, students, youth, and people from different walks of life in large number, who were galvanized with resolve to eradicate drug addiction at its roots, transform the society, and secure our youth's future, he said. Addressing a massive gathering, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted society's role in fight against drug menace and called for collective

(Contd on Pg 2)

Modi appeals to people to take nine pledges on health, conservation of nature, service, others

MANDYA, APR 15 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday appealed to people to take nine collective pledges, ranging from water conservation, natural farming, to fitness and service, to realise a "developed Karnataka and a developed India". Listing his priorities, Modi said his first request is about water conservation and better water management, followed by afforestation under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (One tree in the name of mother) campaign, cleanliness in public and religious places, strengthening local products through "Vocal for Local", promoting domestic tourism, adopting chemical-free natural farming, encouraging healthy eating with millets and reduced oil consumption. Modi also urged people to embrace yoga and fitness, and to nurture service. "If we move forward with honesty and determination on these nine resolutions, we can rapidly progress towards a developed Karnataka and a developed



India," he said while addressing an event organised to inaugurate Sri Guru Bhairavaiya Mandira at the Adichunchanagiri Mahasamstana Math in Mandya. The Mandira is a memorial dedicated to the revered seer, Sri Balasinghacharya Mahaswami, the 71st Pontiff of the Math, revered by the dominant Vokkaliga community. Modi also released a book titled 'Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahima Stotram' along with former Prime Minister and JD(S)

(Contd on Pg 2)

Craftsmen true ambassadors of J&K's cultural heritage: CM



SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: In a major boost to promote Kashmiri handicraft sector, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, today inaugurated the 'Know Your Artisan' programme at Kashmir

Haat here, under the Handicrafts and Handloom's ongoing 'Soulful Kashmir' brand promotion campaign. He also inaugurated the new GI Testing Lab, Giant

LED Video Walls and launched high precision fibre analysis equipment along with DesignWeave software, designed by IICT Srinagar. Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, M.L.A Zaidhal, Tavvir Sadiq, M.L.A Hazratbal, Salman Sagar along with Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh and other senior officers of Industries & Commerce Department were also present on the

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Displaced Kashmiri Pandits hold protest in Jammu, seek two-fold increase in relief amount

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : Kashmiri Pandits on Wednesday held protests in Jammu, demanding a two-fold increase in monthly relief from the existing ceiling of Rs 13,000 per family. They accused the authorities of failing to revise the assistance for the past eight years. Led by the community leader Ravinder Koul, scores of protesters gathered at the Press Club Jammu, raising slogans and pressing for enhancement of relief in view of

the past eight years, there has been no enhancement in the relief despite a steep rise in inflation. The assistance follows a fixed structure and no family receives more than around Rs 13,000 per month," Koul said, questioning how a family can sustain on such a meagre amount. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene and ensure justice by increasing the relief to double the current amount. Koul said there is

(Contd on Pg 2)

Amarnath Yatra registration begins in Jammu; pilgrims flock in large numbers

JAMMU, APR 15 : The registration for the annual Amarnath yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas began on Wednesday, with a large number of devotees thronging counters set up here for the pilgrimage. The advance registration is open in both online and offline modes. The 57-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunda Devi route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Ballal route in Ganderbal -- on July 3 and will conclude on Raksha Bandhan on August 28. "The registration for Amarnath Yatra has begun. There is heavy rush as pilgrims are coming to get themselves registered. It has been opened in both online and offline modes," Punjab National Bank's Jammu Circle Head, DGM Pankaj Kumar Verma, told reporters here. Punjab National Bank



acts as the nodal bank for the yatra. Across India, 556 bank branches are involved in the registration process, out of which 310 branches of Punjab National Bank participate. In Jammu, six counters have been set up," he added. The offline branches in

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Visually impaired J-K girl secures 95% in CBSE Class 10 board exam

SRINAGAR, APR 15 : A visually impaired student in Srinagar has scripted an inspiring story by securing 95 per cent marks in the Class 10 board examination conducted by the Central Board of School Education, the results of which were declared on Wednesday. Zainab Bilal, who aspires to study computer applications, scored 475 out of 500, with a perfect 100 per cent in computer science. "Since my childhood, I have wanted to get into the information technology sector. I intend to do my bachelor's degree in computer

(Contd on Pg 2)

Cross-border narcotics network busted in Jammu; most-wanted drug lord arrested

JAMMU, APR 15 : The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said a major narcotics network with interstate and cross-border links was busted with the arrest of most-wanted drug kingpin Gulzar Ahmad alias Lau Gujjar along with several of his associates. Senior Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Joginder Singh said Gujjar had been supplying narcotics in bulk quantities across the region, and evading capture for more than two decades, terming his arrest a major breakthrough. "He was a hardcore criminal and a key figure in the drug supply chain. His network has

(Contd on Pg 2)

CAG flags academic, regulatory lapses at University of Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged multiple academic, regulatory and administrative deficiencies in the functioning of the University of Jammu, including running courses without mandatory approvals. The CAG recommended corrective measures and said that the university should strengthen its affiliation process to ensure that only institutions meeting regulatory norms are granted affiliation, along with the preparation of comprehensive

inspection reports to safeguard academic quality. It also drew attention to the issues of poor industry linkages, delays in evaluation and weak placement outcomes. The university was offering a wide range of programmes, including 38 doctoral, 24 MPhil, 50 postgraduate, 19 undergraduate courses, besides diplomas and certificate programmes across eight faculties, the CAG report on Union Territory finances for the year ended March 31, 2024, said. However, the audit noted

(Contd on Pg 2)

Darbar Move: Govt Orders Shift Of Offices To Srinagar From May 4



JAMMU, APR 15: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday ordered the annual Darbar Move of offices from Jammu to Srinagar for the Summer Season 2026, outlining a detailed schedule for closure, reopening, transportation, security, and administrative arrangements. According to Government Order No. 786-3K(GAD) of 2026 dated April 15,

offices observing a five-day week will close in Jammu on April 30 after office hours, while those following a six-day week will close on May 2. All offices are scheduled to reopen in Srinagar on May 4. As per the order, officers moving in camp will carry only 33 per cent of staff strength or a maximum of 10 officials, whichever is less. (Contd on Pg 2)

Pakistani Delegation led by Army Chief Munir reaches Iran For peace talks



ISLAMABAD, APR 15: A Pakistani delegation, led by Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, reached Tehran on Wednesday as part of Islamabad's efforts to resolve the conflict between the US and Iran. The Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the military, said in a statement that Munir is part of a delega-

tion that also includes Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. "Field Marshal Asim Munir...and Mr Mohsin Naqvi, Interior Minister, along with the delegation, arrive at Tehran as part of the ongoing mediation efforts," it said. The visit comes as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif embarked on official visits to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Türkiye on Wednesday. The visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar will be in the bilateral context, where the Prime Minister will meet the leadership of the two countries to discuss ongoing bilateral cooperation as well as regional peace and security, the Foreign Office said. The visits are part of an effort to facilitate the US and Iran to reach an agreement to end the ongoing conflict. Earlier, the US and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Jammu SSP Terms Drug Menace Conspiracy By 'Enemy Country', Warns Of Strict Accountability

JAMMU, APR 15: Police here have intensified crackdown against narcotics under the 100-day 'Nasha Mukh Abhiyan', with Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh warning of strict accountability of police personnel, asserting that in any police station area, either the station house officer (SHO) will remain or the drug peddler — "there is no place for both". He termed the drug menace a conspiracy by the "enemy country" to push society into addiction, also flagging the alarming proliferation of the illicit trade, saying eight to ten new persons are taking to drug peddling every minute, particularly in the trade of 'chitta' (adulterated heroin). "The anti-drug campaign launched on



March 11 by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is being implemented in letter and spirit, with a zero-tolerance approach against narcotics. The campaign is being pursued on multiple fronts including strict enforcement, public awareness, and rehabilitation," the SSP told reporters here. He noted encouraging signs, with some individuals voluntarily surrendering and families ap-

proaching authorities for help. "Earlier, these issues were hidden, but now we must openly discuss them in every household," he said. The SSP said enforcement measures are being expanded to include cancellation of licences, blacklisting of vehicles, scrutiny of government benefits, and financial investigations into illicit assets. Flagging alarming rise in drug peddling, he

(Contd on Pg 2)

Bills to operationalise women's quota listed for introduction in Lok Sabha today

NEW DELHI, APR 15 : The government has listed three bills for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Thursday to implement the women's quota law by 2029, and increase the strength of the House to up to 850. According to a bulletin issued on Wednesday, "The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026", "The Delimitation Bill, 2026" and "The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026" will be introduced and debated for passage in the Lower House. While

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will introduce the first two bills, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce the third one. The Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha has allocated 18 hours for the debate, which may run on Friday. The Rajya Sabha will later take up the bills as passed by the Lok Sabha. According to the draft Constitution amendment bill, Lok Sabha seats will be increased to a maximum of 850 from the current 543 to "operationalise" the

(Contd on Pg 2)

Vandalism during protests against harassment of girl student in J-K: Five more held

SRINAGAR, APR 15 : Police have arrested five more 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 Wednesday. The total number of arrested has now risen to 13.

A senior lecturer at a government higher secondary school in Sopore was on Monday booked on charges of sexually assaulting a female student, police said.

"In continuation of sustained action against elements involved in disrupting a recent student protest at Government Girls Higher Secondary School,

(Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

Pakistan...

"If the neighbour's house is on fire, yours is not safe. Because drugs don't spread like flames but they spread like wind. That's why a 'Whole of Society' response is our only real and potent weapon against drug menace. I firmly believe when society stands united behind a cause, the law becomes a thousand times stronger. We must build a community where the dealer fears law, and the one who breaks free from drugs feels proud of themselves, their family, their society, and their government," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said history proves that organized societies drive change and women's power plays a crucial role.

"This fight belongs to mothers and sisters, elders, youth, teachers, panchayats, athletes, and elected representatives alike. It is not the job of just one department. Defeating addiction is our collective responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every Panchayat and Ward to form women's vigilance committees.

"Women are the frontline of this war. You know where the household money goes. If anyone in the family showing symptom of addiction, don't hide it. Don't call him a criminal. Call him a patient. But that patient needs society's help, not just four walls," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directly addressed the youth and observed that drugs are not cool but they are slavery to drugs and drug dealers.

"Channel your energy into sports fields, art, and in study. In schools and colleges, we will make drugs a symbol of cowardice, not cool. Treatment, identification, and rehabilitation will be our priority," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that each drug de-addiction centre must be genuine and equipped with all necessary resources. "Strict monitoring of these centres is essential. If any centre is found operating illegally or causing harm to society and the youth, it must be shut down within 24 hours without any hesitation, irrespective of how influential the individual running it. No one should be spared. Action is already underway against all such centres", he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed police officials to break drug supply chains, list all Ramban drug traffickers at police stations and dismantle drug networks.

"The time for silence for society is over. Our divisional and district administration have prepared a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy covering every ward and panchayat. This fight is ours, all of us. If we fail today, future generations won't forgive us.

Let us make a pledge today that no drug dealer will find shelter in our village or our street. Every addict will be guided toward healing. Every young person's energy will be channelled toward purpose," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug Pledge and flagged off a bike rally. A series of awareness programmes inspired citizens to take an active role in the crusade against narcotics.

Modi...

supremo H D Deve Gowda. Ahead of the inauguration of 'Mandira', the Prime Minister visited Jwala Peeta - where, according to a legend, Lord Shiva resided for penance - and also Sri Kalabhairavaharwa Swamy temple and offered prayer there.

"I often say that Karnataka is rich in both Tatva-Jnana (philosophical wisdom) and Tatva-Jnana (technological knowledge), meaning both the depth of philosophy and the strength of technology are present here," Modi said.

The prime minister praised the role of the monastery in guiding society through spirituality and moral values, noting its nearly two-thousand-year-old legacy.

Referring to the lineage of seers, he said, Balagangadharanatha Mahaswami had elevated the institution's legacy, while Nirmalanandantha Mahaswami is carrying it forward with renewed energy.

Modi said such spiritual leaders went beyond religious guidance to address social challenges.

"They understood people's joys and sorrows, felt their struggles, and showed society the path out of suffering and hardship," he said, adding that devotion, for them, meant taking responsibility for society rather than withdrawing from it. He highlighted the late seer's contributions to education and healthcare, noting that hundreds of institutions established under his guidance have benefited rural and underprivileged communities.

"Swami ji believed that quality healthcare should not be a privilege of a few, but must reach every citizen," Modi said. Drawing a parallel with government initiatives, the prime minister said schemes like Ayushman Bharat have enabled free treatment for crores of poor citizens and have been extended to senior citizens above 70 years to ensure dignified healthcare access.

Recalling the seer's compassion towards all living beings, Modi cited efforts to protect peacocks as an example of environmental and cultural consciousness.

"This is not just about environmental conservation, it is also connected to our cultural consciousness," he said, noting that the peacock is India's national bird and associated with Lord Subrahmanya.

"Constructing the Shri Guru Bhairavaiyaka Mandir in honour of his guru is not merely building a structure, it is giving form to a sacred emotion," Modi said.

He added that the site would emerge as a centre of service, spiritual practice, and inspiration.

Referring to Mandya as 'Shukkrak Nagara,' Modi praised the region's agricultural richness and the warmth of its people. He also underlined the importance of millets, particularly ragi, and acknowledged the role of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda in popularising traditional foods.

"Obesity is becoming a major challenge in our country, and to tackle this, we should also try to reduce oil consumption in our food by ten per cent," he said.

Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, current pontiff of Adichunchangiri Math, Union Ministers Mithi Nirmalanandantha Mahaswami, Union Ministers H D Kumaraswamy and Shobha Karandlaje were among those present.

Craftsmen...

occasion. The latest edition of Soulful Kashmir campaign continues the momentum built over the past year, in line with Chief Minister's commitments made during his Budget Speech, aimed at strengthening Brand Jammu & Kashmir and promoting the region's rich handicrafts and handloom heritage.

Immediately after his arrival, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Giant LED Video Wall installed at Kashmir Haat and the

Department's new initiative of Live Demos under 'Try Your Hands' segment, set up to provide an immersive experience to the visitors and tourists so that they feel the hard work of artisans and back-end processes involved in making such niche crafts.

The Chief Minister himself tried his hands at warping of yarn an arduous exercise that goes into handweaving the pashmina. He was specifically impressed by the prototypes on display designed by the School of Designs and CDI. The Chief Minister later visited the main Exhibition Gallery where 30 display-cum-sale counters offering authentic hand-made products have been set up. During his interaction with various Ship Gum, National and J&K Awardees, he expressed deep appreciation for the initiative and the remarkable craftsmanship on display.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the initiative marks a significant step in promoting Brand J&K and enhancing the visibility of the handicrafts sector. He emphasised that artisans are the custodians of the region's cultural identity and said the programme aims to provide them direct market access, ensure fair value for their work, and strengthen the authenticity of traditional products.

The Chief Minister emphasised upon holding of such events with greater frequency and duration, so that the 'golden hands' and rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir are provided an ideal platform to reach out to a larger target audience. He directed the Handicrafts and Handloom Department to institutionalise the 'Know Your Artisan' initiative as a regular feature and to extend the present edition to maximize the outreach and impact.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged people to visit Kashmir Haat to experience the world-class art and craft created by the "magical hands" of Kashmiri artisans.

He emphasized that such visits not only allow people to witness the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir firsthand, but also directly support local artisans by encouraging the purchase of authentic handmade products.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who also holds the Industries & Commerce portfolio, reaffirmed the department's commitment to continue organizing such initiatives across multiple locations, ensuring wider visibility, enhanced market access, greater footprint of visitors and buyers and sustained socio-economic upliftment of the artisan and weaver community.

The event is expected to witness overwhelming response from visitors, tourists and stakeholders, marking yet another significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to position Jammu & Kashmir as a global hub for high-quality handicrafts and handloom products.

Displaced...

a widespread misconception about the condition of Kashmiri Pandits receiving relief. "People, especially those living outside the valley, believe that all pandits are getting substantial support and living comfortably, which is not true," he said. He clarified that the relief is limited to specific categories, including over-aged unemployed individuals, small businessmen and displaced agriculturists, while government employees and pensioners are not covered. Highlighting the plight of over-aged unemployed individuals, he said many educated individuals who were in their 30s at the time of displacement have crossed the eligibility age for employment and continue to struggle without opportunities. Koul said the community has repeatedly raised the issue with successive governments and the Union home ministry, but no concrete mechanism has been put in place so far. "Our demand is simple - conduct a proper survey, assess the financial condition of such individuals and provide an economic rehabilitation package. We are not asking for unrealistic compensation but a dignified rehabilitation," he said. The protestors said that despite decades of hardship and repeated assurances, issues related to enhancement of cash assistance and compensation remain unresolved.

Amarnath...

Jammu, including those of J-K Bank and PNB, witnessed long queues since 8 am as devotees lined up an hour before the start of the registration process.

"I want to be among the first to pay obeisance at the cave shrine. This is why I came early this morning to get my tickets registered. This will be my second yatra," Jammu resident Yamni Sharma told reporters.

Sharma, who will be undertaking the yatra via the Pahalgam route with her parents, sister and brother, said there is huge improvement in facilities and normally is prevailing in Kashmir, so more Hindus should come and pay obeisance. Vinood Kumar, who had come from Pathankot in Punjab for registration at the PNB branch in Rehri Colony, said this is the 11th time he is undertaking the yatra.

"We have always paid obeisance at the cave shrine in the first batch for the last many years. This year too, we have registered for the pilgrimage," he said.

"Our message to all devotees is to come and pay obeisance and seek blessings. For us, this yatra is in our annual calendar," he said.

The PNB DGM said as the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly, support from banks has also increased.

"We are anticipating that the number of people will rise further. Accordingly, we are assessing how we can further simplify and ease the bank registration process," he added.

The offline registration can be done in 556 bank branches across the country, including 310 branches of Punjab National Bank, 90 branches of J&K Bank, 37 branches of Yes Bank and 99 branches of SBI, besides others, officials said.

CAG flags...

that the university had obtained approval from the All India Council for Technical Education for only two technical programmes - MBA and MCA - while four other technical courses were being run without approval. "Further, the MCA programme had not been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation, depriving students of quality assurance benefits".

The report also highlighted deviations from prescribed academic standards, including non-adherence to the AICTE model curriculum and lack of required infrastructure in programmes such as M Tech Computer Science.

On degree norms, the CAG observed that the university failed to align course nomenclature with guidelines of the University Grants Commission. "The Business Administration in Hotel Management (BBA-HM) course continued with outdated nomenclature and duration, in violation of UGC regulations".

The audit further pointed out that teacher education pro-

grammes were being conducted without recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education. "The university neither sought mandatory approvals nor adhered to prescribed norms for admissions and faculty requirements".

In terms of academic collaboration, the CAG pulled up the university for weak industry-academia linkages.

"Of 26 MoUs signed with national and international institutions, only two were fully functional, while 20 remained non-operational. The industry-academia partnership centre, established in 2019, was also found non-functional due to infra-structure constraints".

The CAG report said that the university's innovation and startup ecosystem was similarly underperforming. The University Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (UBIC) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), set up to promote entrepreneurship, remained largely inactive with activities limited to webinars".

The report also raised concerns over poor placement outcomes. "Of over 1,000 students enrolled in professional courses between 2017 and 2022, only 224 secured placements, while students from general courses had virtually no placement support".

The audit report pointed to "serious" deficiencies in the examination system, including errors in marks cards, incorrect evaluation of answer sheets and delays in re-evaluation results. "The audit noted that up to 27 per cent of students saw their results change from fail to pass after re-evaluation, indicating significant flaws in assessment processes", it added.

Delays were also reported in PhD thesis evaluation, with only 22 per cent completed within the prescribed six months, it added, noting that in some cases, delays extended up to over four years, adversely affecting students' academic progression.

The CAG also pointed to instances of out-of-syllabus questions in 135 examination papers, leading to re-examinations and awarding of grade marks, but noted that no action was taken against erring paper setters.

On research, the audit found delays and incomplete projects, with eight projects remaining unfinished despite expenditure while terming monitoring mechanisms as "inadequate".

"The University Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (UBIC) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), set up to promote startups and entrepreneurship, remained non-functional, the audit said, adding that the university failed to provide adequate support for innovation and startup ecosystems"; it added.

Additionally, the report highlighted that 82 per cent of affiliated colleges had not obtained accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, despite mandatory requirements.

It also found that several colleges were operating with temporary affiliation for years and lacked qualified teaching staff.

The report highlighted that placement activities were confined to a few select departments. "Of around 1,100 students enrolled in professional courses between 2017 and 2022, only 224 secured placements through the Placement Cell".

The CAG further noted that 84 colleges under the university were functioning with temporary affiliation for periods ranging from six to 15 years. "In 51 physically verified colleges, 13 had no teachers appointed in 24 agencies, and no government colleges did not possess prescribed qualifications".

Pakistani...

Iran held rare direct talks in Pakistan over the weekend imed at ending their conflict, but the talks ended early Sunday without any agreement. According to the official, the second round is expected in the coming days for which Pakistan has been making all-out efforts. The conflict began after the US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28, paralysing global energy markets and disrupting trade. (

Bills to...

senors' reservation law before the 2029 parliamentary polls, allowing a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census. Seats will also be increased in state and Union territory assemblies to accommodate 33 per cent reservation for women.

The seats reserved for women in Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies "shall be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a state or Union territory," the draft bill circulated among Lok Sabha members said.

Among other provisions, the bill seeks to amend Article 81 of the Constitution.

"The House of the People (Lok Sabha) shall consist of not more than 815 members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the states; and not more than 35 members to represent the Union territories, chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law provide," it says.

Sources in the NDA, meanwhile, said the delimitation commission will determine the final number of seats, and hence the bill does not specify an exact seat count or a fixed percentage (such as 50 per cent).

The figure of 850 represents only the upper limit for the total number of Lok Sabha seats.

Seat allocation will be based on proportional representation, with the southern states likely to benefit under this formula.

The 2011 Census is being used as the reference point. A special three-day sitting of Parliament has been convened from April 16 to 18, during which amendments to the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act, mandating 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, will be brought for implementation in 2029.

Darbar Move...

Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has been directed to provide sufficient buses on May 1 and 3, with advance ticketing starting from April 20.

The order further states that each convoy will be accompanied by a crane, two empty buses, and mobile workshops to address any breakdowns en route. J&K Police will escort the convoys and ensure priority passage through key tunnels, including the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel and Banhal-Qazigund Tunnel.

Healthcare arrangements will be made along the route at multiple places including Bhatjar Kothi, Udhampur, Chenani, Ramban, Ramsu, Banihal, and Qazigund, with necessary instructions to be issued by the Health and Medical Education Department.

Employees have been instructed not to occupy government or municipal accommodations without proper allotment, though they may reside in Jammu accommodations for family use under prescribed conditions. Ration counters will also be established in Srinagar for move employees.

A uniform Special Move Travelling Allowance of Rs 25,000 has been sanctioned for employees undertaking the move within the stipulated timeline, while advance salary for April will be drawn on April 29.

The order also specifies that leave during the move period will be granted only under exceptional circumstances, with three days of special casual leave allowed for Jammu-based employees opting for it.

The General Administration Department will establish the Summer Secretariat in Jammu, while all departments have been directed to detach staff before April 27. Accommodation arrangements in Srinagar will be handled as per past practice.

Office timings upon reopening in Srinagar have been fixed from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM for Civil Secretariat and departments within its premises, and from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM for offices outside, observing a six-day week.

Jammu SSP...

rowing into Jammu, he said, "We will target the entire supply chain and hit it hard - very hard. I have issued clear directions in any police station's jurisdiction, either the drug peddler will remain or the SHO - there is no place for both." He urged the public to actively support the ongoing 100-day drive. "Our goal is clear - to dismantle the entire drug network, ensure that not a single peddler remains active, and rehabilitate victims to bring them back into society," he said, asserting that the battle against the drug menace has reached a critical stage, and must be brought to an end.

He noted additional often drives users into crime, including theft, and eventually into drug peddling, creating a vicious cycle that fuels the illegal trade. "We must bring our youth out of this trap at any cost, and this is only possible when society stands united," he said.

Issuing a strong warning, he said those attempting to continue illegal drug activities by evading law enforcement are making a serious mistake. "No one involved in drug trafficking, at any level, will be spared. At the same time, innocent individuals will not be harassed," he asserted.

Vandalism...

Sopore police have arrested five more miscreants during night-long raids," the officials said.

They said the accused had infiltrated a peaceful protest by students and created law and order disturbances, including acts of vandalism resulting in damage to public property.

On Tuesday, the police said five persons have been arrested. Sopore police continues to take swift and targeted action against all those involved, they said.

The officials said 13 more people have been identified and efforts are underway to apprehend them at the earliest. The raids and search operations will continue till all such elements are brought to justice, they added.

Police said it will not allow any individual to take advantage of sensitive situations to disturb public peace.

"All those involved in creating disorder will face firm and lawful action, and no one will be spared. Sopore police appreciates the continued cooperation and support extended by the people of Sopore in maintaining peace and order and urge all citizens to remain vigilant and continue assisting law enforcement agencies," the police said.

Protests by students broke out after the matter came to light on Monday.

The Director of the Education Department has placed the lecturer 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 is expected to submit a report within 15 days.

Visually...

applications," said Zainab, who became one of the first visually impaired students to write the CBSE examination using a laptop, without the assistance of a scribe. The 16-year-old, who studied at the Learning Resource Centre of Delhi Public School in Srinagar, thanked the institution and her teachers for their support in achieving her goals. "I am thankful to Vijay Dhar (owner of the school) and my teachers for their support. I do not have words to thank my parents, who have been the biggest support of my life," she said.

Zainab said she should not give up on her kids. "I can do it, anyone can. They just need your support," she said. Zainab has been outstanding in extracurricular activities as well. She interviewed Omar Abdullah and Bollywood superstar Amir Khan when she was just 12. They were aired on Radio DPS, a radio station operated by the students of the school.

Cross-border...

now been fully identified and dismantled," the SSP told reporters here. He said Gujarat entered the criminal world as a bovine smuggler in 2006 before launching himself into drug trade in 2016, and scaling up operations by 2019. A Pakistan-made pistol was recovered from his possession at the time of his arrest on April 4, the SSP said, adding that three of his associates were also arrested and more than 700 grams of heroin was seized. Interrogation of around 10 more suspects linked to the network is underway, while around two dozen other suspects have been identified and are under surveillance, he said. SSP Singh said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a superintendent of police rank officer has been constituted to probe the case, who would examine forward and backward linkages of the network including financial trails and assets created through illicit trade. The police are trying to ascertain the source and the routes through which these illicit supplies entered India - whether through Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir or through other border areas, he said. Singh said the weapon recovered from the accused drug lord indicates a Pakistan link. "We are investigating that aspect as well, pointing towards broader narcotics case in Jammu district alone and dozens of FIRs are registered against him in other states under different identities. Highlighting the crackdown against drug syndicates, he said police have so far registered 103 cases related to drug peddling in Jammu district this year. Out of these, nine cases involved commercial quantities of contraband. Nearly 11 kg of heroin has been seized, along with poppy husk, ganja, controlled medication capsules, and other such contraband, he said, adding around 20 driving licences have been cancelled, and nearly 200 vehicles linked to drug activities have been blacklisted.



Mahavir International hails PM Modi for Naari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam; terms it as ‘Game Changer for Women

Jammu, April 15: The Mahavir International Jammu Centre hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the landmark Naari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam (Women’s Reservation Act, 2023) and termed it a historic step towards ensuring women’s political empowerment and equal representation.

Addressing the press conference, Secretary Rajni Jain said that the Act marks a transformative moment in India’s democratic journey. She highlighted that while women constitute nearly 50% of the population, their representation in Parliament remains around 14%, underlining a clear gap. The provision of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, including SC/ST seats, she said, will bridge this imbalance and empower women to actively participate in decision-making. She hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing forward such a visionary reform aimed at inclusive governance.



Vira Mona Jain also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, stating that despite decades of democracy, women have remained underrepresented in legislative bodies. She noted that the legislation is a long-awaited structural reform that will ensure women’s voices are heard at the highest levels of governance and policy formulation. Vira Leena Jain emphasised the broader social impact of the

Adhinyam, noting that increased representation of women in governance has been globally linked to better outcomes in education, healthcare, nutrition, and social welfare. She hailed the initiative as a progressive step that will inspire young girls to aspire for leadership roles and contribute to nation-building. Vira Richa Jain termed the legislation a “milestone reform,” stating that it corrects decades of imbalance in political representation.

She hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for enabling a reform that strengthens democracy by making it more participatory, inclusive, and reflective of the country’s true demographic composition. The members collectively hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing forward such a progressive and long-awaited reform, noting that the Act represents a shift from women development to women-led development. They also stressed the importance of its timely implementation so that women can benefit in the upcoming electoral processes.

The press conference concluded with a unified message that the Naari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam is not just a policy decision, but a structural reform in Indian democracy—aimed at ensuring equitable representation and building a more inclusive, empowered, and forward-looking India.

JMC Commissioner announces regulated reopening of Bikram Chowk Subway

JAMMU, APRIL 15: Amid rising concerns over safety and repeated closure of the Bikram Chowk subway, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav on Wednesday conducted an on-site inspection of the facility. He directed to restore its safe and regulated operation.

The inspection was carried out in presence of officials from the concerned police station, members of the municipal sanitation team including the Health Officer and Deputy Commissioner (North). The purpose of the visit was to assess ground realities and take prompt action to address issues related to misuse, hygiene and public safety.

The Commissioner announced that the subway shall remain open daily from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM to prevent anti-social and illegal activities that typically occur during late hours.

Police officials were asked to carry out regular patrols and maintain strict vigilance in and around the subway during operational hours to ensure the safety of commuters. At the same time, sanitation teams have been directed to maintain cleanliness and hygiene by ensuring routine



cleaning and monitoring.

To further strengthen security, the subway has been equipped with adequate lighting and CCTV surveillance systems to keep track of commuter movement and deter misuse. The Commissioner emphasized that the subway will function under continuous joint supervision of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Police Department, ensuring sustained maintenance, accountability and a safe environment for the public.

Inter-College Panel Discussion on “Democracy and Dissent” Held at Dogra Degree College

Dogra Degree College (Autonomous), under the aegis of its NSS Unit, successfully organized an Inter-College Panel Discussion to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. The discussion, held in the college auditorium, revolved around the theme “Democracy and Dissent: Are We Upholding Ambedkar’s Ideals and aimed to promote critical dialogue among youth on constitutional values, social justice, and equality. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and a floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar. In his welcome address, Mr. Balwant Singh Parihar highlighted the continued relevance of Ambedkar’s vision in con-



temporary democratic discourse. The panel discussion was effectively moderated by Ms. Kamakshi Vaid, who guided the session with clarity and engagement. Students from various institutions, including Rhythm Sambyal (B.A. 2nd Semester) and Suvidha Sambyal (B.A. 4th Semester) GDC Samba, Sonia Sharma and Ramesh Chander (B.Sc. 2nd Semester) and Ritika

Gupta (B.A. 2nd Semester) GCW Parade, Shiv Paul (B.Ed. Special Education, 4th Semester) and Nixon Gour (B.A. (Hons.) Political Science, Semester II) MHER College, Mehak Mahajan and Sina Ganai (B.A. LLB 4th & 8th Semester) Dogra Law College, and Gurbani Kaur (B.A. 2nd Semester) Lakshya Mahajan, and Anushi Sharma (BBA 2nd Semester) Dogra Degree College.

Bali Bhagat backs Women’s Reservation Move, slams opposition for ‘hypocrisy’ “Nari Shakti at Core of New India; “33% Quota a Game-Changer”: Bali Bhagat

Jammu, April 15: Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat on Wednesday strongly backed the Women’s Reservation legislation, terming it a “historic and transformative step” under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while launching a sharp attack on opposition parties for their “double standards and past obstruction.” In a statement, Bhagat said that the passage and proposed implementation roadmap of the Women’s Reservation Bill reflects the BJP-led government’s unwavering commitment to women empowerment and inclusive governance. “Prime Minister Modi has once again demonstrated that he delivers on his promises. The vision of women-led development is no longer rhetoric—it is being translated into reality,” he said.



Taking a dig at parties like the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Bhagat recalled the chaotic scenes during the introduction of the Women’s Reservation Bill in 2010. “The not forgotten how

MPs tore copies of the bill and made indecent remarks in Parliament. Those who disrespected women’s representation then are now trying to mislead the public with hollow statements,” he added. Bhagat further said that the amendment process to ensure the bill’s implementation before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections shows the government’s seriousness in giving women their rightful political space. “Linking it with the census framework is a procedural step, but the intent is clear—33% reservation will become a reality soon,” he asserted.

Edging sentiments expressed by BJP leaders across the country, Bhagat said there is growing enthusiasm among women regarding the legislation. “From villages to cities, women are welcoming this decision. It is a

proud moment for Indian democracy that women will have stronger representation in Parliament and state assemblies,” he said. Highlighting the broader vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Bhagat said women will play a central role in shaping India’s future. “Empowering women politically, economically, and socially is key to building a strong, self-reliant nation. Under PM Modi’s leadership, India is moving decisively in that direction,” he added.

He also urged opposition parties to rise above politics and support the initiative in the national interest. “This is not about BJP or NDA—it is about the future of India’s daughters. The opposition must stop playing politics over such a crucial reform,” Bhagat said.

Local Youth Must Get First Right to Jobs in Jammu & Kashmir — Shiv Sena (UBT)

Jammu: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) Jammu & Kashmir Unit President, Manish Sahni, has raised serious concerns over the recent recruitment process for academic posts at the University of Jammu, demanding priority for local youth.

In a press statement issued from the party’s central office, Sahni stated that the adoption of an all-India recruitment process is limiting opportunities for local candidates, leading to growing dissatisfaction among educated unemployed youth in Jammu & Kashmir. Sahni further said that several states across the country have imple-



mented strong and effective policies to safeguard the future of their local youth, and Jammu & Kashmir must take cues from such models. Citing examples, he noted that in Maharashtra, state policies emphasize knowledge of the Marathi language and long-term domicile, ensur-

ing clear advantages for local candidates in universities and government departments. Similarly, in Uttarakhand, institutions like Garbhal University and Kumaun University provide preference to local candidates in various positions, while also valuing regional knowledge in the

selection process. Sahni added that in Punjab, the mandatory requirement of Punjabi language (up to matric level) for government jobs and university recruitment acts as a protective mechanism for local youth. Likewise, in Himachal Pradesh, “Himachali bonafide” candidates are given preference and additional weightage. He urged the Jammu & Kashmir administration to study these models and formulate a special policy ensuring priority or weightage for local youth, so that they receive fair opportunities within their own region. Sahni also stated that after the abrogation of Article 370, a sense of

insecurity regarding employment has increased among the youth of the region. If local candidates do not receive adequate opportunities even in local educational institutions, the situation may become more serious. He clarified that Shiv Sena is not against merit, but emphasized that along with equal opportunity, regional balance is equally important. He further demanded that the university administration ensure a transparent recruitment process and implement concrete measures to safeguard the interests of local youth. Sahni warned that if local interests continue to be ignored,

JU Organizes Hands-On Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Filing

Jammu, April 15: The Department of Commerce, University of Jammu, organized a successful Hands-On Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Filing for the students of M.Com II Semester under the course Entrepreneurship and New Ventures.

The workshop was designed to familiarize students with the procedures of IPR filing and to strengthen their skill base by equipping them with practical knowledge essential for protecting intellectual assets in today’s competitive business environment. The sessions witnessed active participation from students, making the event both interactive and



informative. The workshop began with engaging sessions by esteemed resource persons. The first session was conducted by Dr. Yashpal, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, focusing on the fundamental concepts and practical dimensions of Intellectual Property Rights, providing students with a clear

understanding of IPR frameworks. The second session was delivered by Dr. Jagjeet Singh, Associate Professor, GDC, Udhampur. He highlighted the practical applications of patents, trademarks, and copyrights, and discussed their critical role in fostering innovation and safeguarding entrepreneurial ideas.

MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa Felicitates Winners of 2nd Sr. Men National Tapeball Championship

Jammu, April 15: Demonstrating his continued commitment towards encouraging youth and promoting sports culture in the region, MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, today attended the victory celebration of the 2nd Senior Men National Tapeball Championship at Hotel Sarovar, Jammu, as the Chief Guest.

The event was graced by Sh. Jagar Choudhary as Guest of Honour and was organized by the J&K Tapeball Association under the able chairmanship of Sh. Paramejit Randhawa. Addressing the gathering, MLA Randhawa extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the players, coaches, and organizers for



bringing laurels and showcasing exceptional talent at the national level. He lauded their dedication, discipline, and team spirit, stating that such achievements inspire the younger generation to actively participate in sports and stay away from social evils. Highlighting the pivotal role of sports in nation-building, he reiterated that

the government is committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and providing ample opportunities for youth to excel in various disciplines. MLA Randhawa also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Tapeball Association for successfully organizing the championship and nurturing grassroots talent across the region.

Sanjay Aggarwal Chairperson FADA Jammu met Vishesh Paul Transport Commissioner

JAMMU, APR 15: A delegation led by Mr Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson, Federation of Automobiles Dealers Associations Jammu (FADA) met Mr Vishesh Paul, Transport Commissioner J&K. Mr Aggarwal was accompanied by FADA Jammu Regional Directors Mr Sanjay Mahajan, Mr Manik Batra, Mr Ravinder Gandotra, Mr Prateek Jain, Mr Ashish Gupta, Mr Vikas Rathore, Mr Kanav Aggarwal, Mr Pradeep Jain, Mr Suresh Malhotra, Mr Atul Abrol and Mr Rohan Kotwal. Mr Anju Gupta, Additional Commissioner, Mr Vikas Anand Joint Commissioner,



Mr Jasmeet Singh RTO Jammu, Mr Qazi Irfan RTO Kashmir and other officials of Transport departments were present in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the various issues and challenges faced by automobile dealers in J&K.

many such ELVs are being diverted to the UT for re-registration, taking advantage of relatively relaxed norms. The influx of these outdated vehicles is leading to congestion on roads and putting extra pressure on existing infrastructure. He proposed the introduction of a Green Tax @ 10% on such unsafe and unfit polluting vehicles. Mr Aggarwal said that current EV policy of J&K which is under formulation, and primarily extends benefits and incentives only to Electric Vehicles (EVs). Several states across the country have adopted EV policies, wherein Strong Hybrid,

and CNG vehicles are also included and are recognized as environmentally friendly alternatives. He requested to consider revisiting the EV policy for J&K and expand its scope to include, Strong Hybrid, and CNG vehicles, to make it inclusive in the larger interest of environmental sustainability and public convenience. He also shared that VAT % on CNG is the highest in the country 21% and this needs to be looked into. Mr Aggarwal said that RVSF centers in J&K should be opened at the earliest as the consumers are currently unable to avail the benefits of scrapping.



SMVDU's SCSE Students Participate in Industry Speaks 2.0 at IIT Jammu

Katra, Apr 15: Students from the School of Computer Science & Engineering (SCSE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, actively participated in the prestigious "Industry Speaks 2.0" event held at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu. The event, centered around the theme "Powering the Future: AI, Semiconductors and the Next Tech Revolution," brought together eminent industry experts and academicians to discuss emerging technologies, evolving skill requirements, and future career opportunities. During the two-day event, 20 students along with faculty members attended the panel discussions on Day 1, followed by 13 students and faculty members on Day 2. The major representation was



from SCSE, along with participation from other Schools including School of Electrical Engineering (SOEE), School of Mathematics & Computing (SoMNC), and School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE), as well as one student from the M.Sc. Data Science program. The event featured distinguished speakers from leading organizations such as AMD, Microsoft, IBM, Samsung,

HP, Dell, Birlasoft, ZF Group, Pegsystems (Gen AI), GSPANN, SuzeGA, and Agilisium, who shared valuable insights on AI-driven careers, semiconductor ecosystem development, and the alignment between academia and industry needs. Students gained significant exposure to key aspects such as developing a strong problem-solving mindset, understanding the importance of clarity in defining real-world problems, and the responsible

use of AI tools. The discussions emphasized that while data and resources are widely available, the real challenge lies in their effective utilization and in building strong conceptual understanding rather than relying solely on automated solutions. During the interactive sessions, students actively engaged with the panelists by raising thoughtful questions on academia-industry collaboration, problem-solving approaches, and the effective

use of AI. Students including Shubham Saini, Tanvi Jammwal, Naresh Kumar, Manesh Kumar, Mukti Porwal, Subham Prasad, Rimjhim Kri Gupta, Jugraj Singh, Shailja Kumari, Rishu Patel, and Srishri Jaiswal participated in the discussions and gained valuable insights. A notable contribution was made by Dr. Sonika Gupta from SCSE, whose active participation and insightful interactions during the panel discussions were highly commendable. Her engagement not only enriched the learning experience for the students but also reflected the strong academic presence of SMVDU at the event. The sessions further highlighted the importance of adopting a "problem-first" approach, ethical responsibility in AI.

SAMBA POLICE ORGANIZES ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Samba, April 15, 2026: As part of ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Samba Police today organized anti-drug awareness programmes at three different locations in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba, Vijaypur and Ghagwal. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from large numbers of students and locals of the area. The anti-drug awareness programmes were conducted by Samba Police at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Samba, Govt. Middle School Rakh Barotian Vijaypur and Modern Educational Institute Higher Secondary School Ghagwal. The events were conducted under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in which Addl. SP Samba, DySP Hqs Samba, DySP DAR Samba, SHO PS Ghagwal, SHO PS Vijaypur and other police



officers delivered informative lectures highlighting the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse. Students were encouraged to stay away from drugs and focus on their academic and personal development. Utilizing the opportunity, the participants were also made aware about the three New Criminal Laws implemented across the country since July 2024 highlighting their significance and key provisions. During the sessions, the

officers reiterated that Samba Police is committed to eradicate the drug menace from the district by taking strict legal action against drug smugglers and suppliers. Police officers also emphasized the need of collective responsibility in eradicating the menace of drug abuse. The initiative of J&K Police in raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse was widely appreciated by the school management and all the attendees.

Dagger Science Park Inaugurated in Baramulla, Boosting Experiential Learning and Scientific Innovation in Kashmir Valley



Baramulla : The Dagger Science Park, a pioneering educational initiative developed as a joint venture between Assam Foundation and Indian Army, was formally inaugurated in a distinguished ceremony marked by enthusiastic participation and community engagement. The event witnessed the

participation of students from various educational institutions and community personnel. A Science Park highlights the active involvement of students, who confidently demonstrated and explained various scientific experiments installed within the park. Their presentations reflected both conceptual clarity and

practical understanding, underscoring the park's role as a hands-on learning platform. The Science Park stands out as one of its kind facility in the Kashmir Valley. Designed to foster scientific curiosity and experiential learning, the park aims to serve as a catalyst for educational development in the region. By providing an interactive environment for students, it is expected to significantly enhance interest in science and innovation among young learners. This initiative represents a meaningful step toward strengthening educational infrastructure and inspiring future generations in the Valley.

Medical Camp and Yoga awareness program held at Government Polytechnic Reasi

REASI, APR 15: As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched by District Administration Reasi, today a Yoga and Wellness-focused awareness program and Medical camp was organised at Government Polytechnic College Reasi under the able guidance of worthy Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Sh. Kumar Abhishek (IAS). The event was organised by AYUSH, Health and Social Welfare Department to promote health awareness and encourage a healthy lifestyle among students. The program began with welcome address by Principal of college



Dr. Arun Bangotra, who motivated the students to stay away from drugs and stresses on the ill effects of drugs and emphasized the college's resolve to continue the campaign's objectives. Dr. Kamal Kishore Dubey, District Nodal officer AYUSH Reasi highlighted the importance of wellness and healthy liv-

ing. This was followed by a health check-up and medical session conducted by Dr. Sonal Bhole, Medical Officer AYUSH Reasi. A yoga session was then conducted by Sh. Majid Malik (Yoga Instructor, AYUSH Reasi), where students actively participated in various asanas. Further, Sh. Pankaj Kumar

(Medical Assistant) and Sh. Nadeem Khan (Pharmacist) from AYUSH Reasi, Smt. Shuruchi Sharma from Social Welfare Department Reasi also shared valuable insights on health and wellness. A speech on mental well-being was delivered by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Banotra (Superintendent, ITI Reasi). Dr. Bilal Ahmed (Doctor, District Hospital Reasi) addressed the students and emphasized the importance of maintaining good health. A motivational speech on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also delivered by Sh. Yojraj Mengi, senior citizen. On the occasion a pledge

GDC Thannamandi holds Extension Lecture on Human Geography



THANNAMANDI, APR 15: Department of Geography under the aegis of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Government Degree College Thannamandi organised an online extension lecture on "Various Aspects of Human Geography" for Semester II students. The programme was held under the patronage of Principal Dr. Shanin Ahmed Azad and guidance of Dr. Ashfaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator, who appreciated the initiative and stressed the need for academic enrichment programmes. Dr. Nawaz Malik, Assistant Professor, Government Degree College Poonch, was resource person on the

occasion, who spoke at length on various dimensions of Human Geography and highlighted recent climate changes and their impact on food resources and food security. Professor Altaf Ahmed, Head, Department of Education, attended the event as Guest of Honour and appreciated the efforts

Polycab, India's No.1 Wires & Cables Company, opens Quick Service depot in Amritsar to Strengthen North India Distribution

New 15,000 sq. ft. facility to accelerate deliveries and enhance supply chain responsiveness across key markets

Jammu, 15 April 2026: Polycab India Limited, India's No.1 wires and cables company, has further strengthened its distribution infrastructure with the launch of its new "Quick Service Depot" in Amritsar.



The strategic initiative reinforces Polycab's commitment to building a robust, agile supply chain that supports faster deliveries, improved service responsiveness, and deeper market reach across Punjab & Jammu. Spread across approximately 15,000 sq. ft., this 'Quick Service Depot', will support the distribution of all Polycab's diverse product portfolio

including wires & cables, lighting, fans, switches, switchgear, conduits & pipes, solar products and more, enabling faster order fulfillment and improved product availability for channel partners and customers across the region. This initiative will bring products closer to key mar-

kets, reduce lead times, ease inventory pressure and enhance service levels across the region. Commenting on the development, Mr. Ishwinder Singh Khurana, Executive President and Chief Business Officer (B2C), Polycab India Limited, said, "Strengthening our

distribution network is a key strategic priority for Polycab. Punjab and Jammu are important markets for us, and the new Quick Service Depot in Amritsar complements our existing warehouse in Zirakpur, further strengthening our regional distribution infrastructure. This

facility will significantly enhance service responsiveness by enabling faster deliveries and efficient order fulfilment for our channel partners and customers across the region." With a strong focus on operational excellence and customer-centricity, Polycab continues to strengthen its nationwide logistics and distribution infrastructure in line with growing demand across its product portfolio. By expanding its regional warehousing footprint, the company aims to improve supply chain efficiency while ensuring quicker product availability across markets.

BLSKS FELICITATES ARTISTES FOR CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF PERFORMING ART

Jammu, April 15th 2026. To promote the traditional culture of J&K, BhartiyaLokSangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) felicitated artistes for their notable contribution in the field of performing art specially for their excellent performance in the Musical Play "Mata Sukrala ki Kahani" at Abhinav Theatre on 09th of April 2026. Mr. V.K. Magotra MD, BLSKS Jammu who was the Chief Guest, honoured over 50 artists/ technicians by giving away certificates on the occasion. Dr. Anju Dogra, Medical Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Health Department, was the Guest of Honor on the occasion. The Chief Guest lauded the role of BhartiyaLokSangeet Kala

Sansthan (NGO) in promoting the Traditional folk culture of the region especially by its staging one and half hour balled on Mata Sukrala ki Kahani for the first time in J&K recently. Sukrala Devi Shrihna dedicated to mother goddess Mal Devi, the reincarnation of Sharda Devi. The Word 'Mal' connotes 'Malyudhi' which depicts the Combat between Goddess and buffalo Demon Mahishasur, in which the latter was defeated by the hands of Goddess Durga. Mata Sukrala Devi Ji is Kul Devi of Dogras. The white line coated imposing edifice of the temple stands erect majestically. The pilgrims have to scale flights of many steps to reach venerated temple. The goddess has

manifested herself here in the shape of a Shila seated on a Brass Lion with a silver mounted head. Behind it, is also an image of Mahishasur Mardini standing on the body of Mahishasur. The Goddess is depicted with four Arms & a sword in one of her hands in the ancient temple. The play written, produced and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Earlier, welcoming the Chief Guest Dr. M.L. Dogra chairman BLSKS, apprised the objectives of the organization in reaching out to the people to keep alive our traditional folk culture



including folklores of leading deities/saints of the regions. Sh. Dogra while felicitating the awardees said their recognition in varied talents not only encouraged the writers but boosted their moral in strengthening the social fabric and a meaningful society which is sensitive towards the human feelings and aspirations. He also said play dance,

drama cum musical production in the shape of opera under the title "Mata Sukrala ki Kahani" was dedicated to promote the concepts of National Integration and Communal Harmony. The main aim of the production was to enrich Duggar culture, tradition of folk theatre of Jammu region. The production would help revival of traditional folk of J&K

region as well as for channelizing the energies of youth towards Nation building. The Production was unique of its kind and would be highly appreciated in India and abroad. The production was well scripted with all traditional folk lore form of Duggar Pradesh like as Haran Chahija, Jattar and Bhagatia (FolkJagar theatre of Jammu region) which had religious ramifications. Sh. M.C. Kotwal, Secty. BLSKS, speaking on the occasion said that art, culture and literature are outlets to ooze out venom, jealousy, hatred and vengeance from society and refine our emotions, attitude and dealings and therefore, artistic pursuits need to be encouraged at all levels.

Smt. Usha Raina, Troupe Leader, BLSKShanthee the Chief Guest dignitaries/ artists / technicians for their excellent performances in various musical play including Raja Mandlik on the behalf BLSks. The Grand Mega Event "Mata Sukrala ki Kahani", was staged in the presence of august gathering of Lt Governor, J&K, Manoj Sinha, Honble MLAsYudvir Sethi, Devyani Rana, Satish Sharma, Padam Shree Awadhes Balwant Thakur, Dr. S.P. Verma, many social & religious prominent, personalities a galaxy of JK-UT officers including Brij Mohan Sharma, principal Secretary, Deptt of culture JK-UT and a large no of people in jampacked auditorium of



DC Srinagar launches revamped Official District Website to enhance accessibility, transparency, citizen-centric information sharing

SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: In a step towards strengthening digital governance and enhancing public service related transparency & information sharing, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today formally launched the revamped Official website of District Srinagar here at Conference Hall of the DC Office. The upgraded digital platform has been designed to provide a more user-friendly, accessible and efficient interface for citizens, ensuring seamless access to government services, information, and updates. The initiative reflects the District Administration's continued commitment to leveraging technology for transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance. Speaking on



the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the revamped website marks an attempt in improving communication between the

administration and the public. He highlighted that the platform has been redesigned with improved navigation, better-organized content and enhanced readability, enabling citizens to easily access key services and vital information. He further stated that the integration of real-time updates, including social media feeds, will ensure timely dissemination of information and keep the public informed about government initiatives, programs and district-level developments. Underscoring the importance of sustainability and relevance of digital platforms, the DC stressed the need for regular updates and continuous improvements based on user feedback. He encouraged departments to actively contribute to maintaining the platform as a dynamic and responsive information hub. The DC also appreciated the efforts of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) District

Srinagar led by DIO, Shahnaz Nayeem and ADIO, Syed Mujadid and their entire team for their dedicated work in upgrading and modernizing the website. He urged them to continue innovating and developing more digital solutions aimed at improving governance and service delivery. The event also saw participation of Additional District Development Commissioner Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Information Officer Fayaz Ahmad, DDO, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, District Informatics Officer (NIC) Shahnaz Nayeem, ADIO Syed Mujadid and other Officers.

Two-Day Consultative Meeting on framing regulations of JKSSSA Commences

Srinagar, April 15: A two-day consultative meeting for the formulation of regulations of the Jammu and Kashmir School Standards and Safety Authority (JKSSSA) commenced here today at JKBOSE, Srinagar, bringing together key stakeholders, subject experts, and representatives from NIEPA, New Delhi, the School Education Department, JKSCERT, Higher Education Department, Universities of the UT and Administration. The meeting aims to deliberate upon and develop a comprehensive, robust and contextually relevant framework of regulations to guide the functioning of JKSSSA. The initiative is a significant step towards strengthening institutional mechanisms for ensuring quality standards, safety protocols and infrastructural parameters across



schools in the Union Territory. During the inaugural session, Mr Gh. Hassan Sheikh, Chairperson, JKBOSE, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the importance of establishing a transparent, accountable and forward-looking regulatory architecture aligned with NEP 2020 and contemporary educational needs. Prof Rasmita Das Swain from NIEPA, New Delhi highlighted the necessity of integrating best practices, stakeholder perspectives, and field realities into the bylaw framework. Over the course of two days, the consultative meeting, reflecting a collaborative and participatory approach to policy formulation towards an inclusive and responsive framework to the evolving needs of the school education system, will focus on key thematic areas including governance structure, regulatory mandates.

Training Programme for Master Trainers on Houselisting, Housing Census 2027 Commences at IMPARD Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: Training Programme for Master Trainers on Houselisting and Housing Census (Phase-I) under Census 2027 commenced today at the Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), Main Campus, M.A. Road, Srinagar. The programme is being organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, and the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India. The four-day training programme, scheduled from April 15 to April 18, is witnessing the participation of



around 34 Master Trainers drawn from various districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These Master Trainers will play a pivotal role in cascading the training further by training field-level trainers at the district level, who will subsequently train enumerators and supervisors across different blocks, ensuring effective implementation of Census operations throughout the region. In his inaugural address, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Course Coordinator, highlighted the critical importance of the Census as the largest and most comprehensive source of statistical data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the population.

KVK Budgam empowers Tribal Farmers with Training cum Input Distribution under TSP program

BUDGAM, APRIL 15: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai in collaboration with TSP ICAR organized awareness cum input distribution programme under the Project entitled "Promotion of natural farming in tribal areas of Kashmir". Tribal farmers of village Surayyar Chadwara, received inputs like drums, buckets, gloves and shoes for preparation of bio-resource inputs for Natural Farming. Scientists and technical staff of KVK Budgam also attended the awareness programme. Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, who was chief guest on the occasion, emphasized the importance of adopting innovative, climate-resilient, and sustainable agricultural technologies. She urged tribal farmers to maintain regular contact with KVK scientists and field officers to ensure proper technical guidance and maximize the benefits of government-supported schemes. She also spoke about the status, scope, challenges, and



imperativeness of Natural Farming in Kashmir. She explained the dynamics of water, soil, and climate while terming Natural Farming as the 'Farming of Microbes'. Prof Raihana Habib Kanth stressed the importance of minimum/ zero

tillage or conservation agriculture to ensure better Natural Farming. She urged the participating scientists and farmers to dig deeper into the understanding of biotic and abiotic developments in the farms practicing Natural Farming. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming community in the valley. Head KVK Budgam Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVKs in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/awareness programmes. He encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming.

Artists bring MSCBMC Trust's Jashan-e-Bahar workshop to life in Srinagar

Srinagar, April 15, 2026: The National Art Workshop under Jashan-e-Bahar, organised by the Master Sansar Chand Banu Memorial Charitable Trust (MSCBMC Trust) in collaboration with Petronet LNG Limited, witnessed an extraordinary gathering of acclaimed artists from across the country, whose creativity and mentorship became the defining force of the entire workshop. Prominent participating artists included Suraj Kumar (Delhi), Sandeep Murlidhar Aher (Mumbai), Rahul Jagannath Mhetre (Mumbai), Vijaylaxmi Deepak Mer (Mumbai), Navinath Ramchandra Kshirsagar (Pune), Sachindra Nath Jha (Delhi), Javid Iqbal (Srinagar), Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Zargar Zahoor (Srinagar), Syed Mursaleen (Srinagar), and Sulab Ahmad Hakeem (Srinagar). These artists brought with them a rich diversity of artistic styles and regional influences, turning the



workshop into a vibrant confluence of ideas and expression. Through live painting sessions, demonstrations, and close interaction with participants, they showcased their expertise—ranging from traditional techniques to modern contemporary art forms. Their works reflected depth, creativity, and innovation, as canvases came alive with bold colours, intricate detailing, and powerful themes. Each artist contributed uniquely, offering participants not just technical knowledge but also insights into artistic thinking, composition,

and storytelling through art. What stood out was their hands-on mentorship and constant engagement with students. The artists guided young participants at every step—encouraging experimentation, refining techniques, and boosting confidence—making the workshop an immersive and inspiring experience. Expressing her appreciation, Trust President Anuradha Rishi said that the participation of such distinguished artists elevated the workshop to great heights, adding that their dedication, creativity, and mentorship have left a deep and lasting impact on the young artists, inspiring them to pursue excellence in the field of art.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for Mega Padyatra under NMBA

KUPWARA, APRIL 15: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today chaired a review meeting to finalize arrangements for the upcoming mega rally/Padyatra being organized under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) scheduled on 17 April 2026. During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held regarding variation, logistical and administrative arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the rally. Emphasis was laid on coordinated efforts among all concerned departments for effective execution of the programme. The ADC directed the officers to ensure adequate



arrangements for transportation, security, medical facilities, drinking water, and sanitation. He also stressed the importance of widespread awareness and active participation of students, youth, civil society members, and the general public to make the rally impactful. The ADC reiterated the commitment of the administration to eradicate drug abuse and urged all stakeholders to work collectively to make the mega rally a grand success and to spread a strong message against substance abuse through the sub-division Handwara.

Kashmir's First Private University Project Gains Momentum As WathHarbour Unveils Vision, Anthem & Launches Membership Drive
"A Transformational Step For Future Generations": Veteran Educationist

Srinagar, Apr 15: In a bold initiative aimed at redefining the future of education in Jammu & Kashmir, the WathHarbour Foundation introduced its ambitious "Kashmir First Private University Project" at a grand event highlighted by a membership drive, campaign anthem launch, vision document unveiling, and a short film screening. The event witnessed participation from a distinguished gathering of leading academicians, education policymakers, prominent scholars, community leaders and representatives from trade, industry and civil society, reflecting widespread support

for the initiative. The programme was graced by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, as Chief Guest, alongside a galaxy of eminent personalities including Ms. Neha Jain (IPS, SP East) she was represented SSP Srinagar, Senior Counsel Advocate Zaffar Shah, former Chairman JKPCS Latief-Zaman Deva, noted poet and social activist Zareef Ahmad Zareef, PSA Founder & Patron Dr. G.N. Var, WathHarbour Foundation Founder Dr. Mehboob Makhdoom, Former Radio Kashmir Broadcaster Peerzada Abdal Mahjoor, Jagmeet Kaur Bali (President



All Sikh Minority Employees Association), Faiz Ahmad Bakshi (Gen. Secretary KCC&I), NIT Dean International Officers Prof. M.A. Shah, Former joint director School Education, Ahmad, Former KAS Officer

Aijaz Kakroo, Adv A.R Hanjura (Social Reformer, WathHarbour Member), S.P Qasir (Consultant), Dr. Afifa Kamil's (Former Director SKUAST-Kashmir), Dr. Nighat Fatima (Former Principal Government Degree College, Department of Higher Education), Riyaz Ahmad Shoga (Ex- Banker), Private School's Association (PSA) President Bilal Ahmad Bhat, General Secretary M.Syed Wani, Finalist Secretary Hilal Ahmad Khan, Director Media & Communications Dr. Owais Mattoo, PRO B.A. Shah, Social Activist Dr. Touseef Bhat, Trade Leader Peer Imtiaz ul

Hassan, Moulana Hassan Afzal Fordosi, Moomin Wani WathHarbour Foundation Coordinator several others. The event was hosted by Dr. Farhat Umar, while the WathHarbour team and stakeholders were present in large numbers. In his welcome address, PSA Founder & Patron, Dr. G. N. Var termed the Private University Bill a historic step that can transform Jammu & Kashmir into an educational hub. "This legislation will create new opportunities for students and strengthen both school and higher education in the region," he said. Dr. Var thanked Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Ms. Sakeena Itoo, all MLAs and especially Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani for supporting the initiative and attending the event. He said their presence reflected the government's commitment to educational reform and the future of students in Jammu & Kashmir. Addressing the gathering, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani termed the recently passed Private University Bill as a historic milestone and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening higher education infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir.



North in News
EDITORIAL

Public awareness can only make campaign against drugs effective

Public awareness is the backbone of any effective campaign against drug abuse, because enforcement and rehabilitation alone cannot dismantle the social, psychological, and economic ecosystem that sustains addiction, and when communities are informed, vigilant, and empathetic, the demand for narcotics shrinks while stigma around seeking help reduces. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan exemplifies this approach by mobilizing over 96.5 lakh people across 20 districts through street plays, rallies, school programs, and door-to-door counselling drives that demystify addiction as a medical and social issue rather than a moral failing, and the campaign's decision to engage Panchayati Raj institutions, mohalla committees, ward surveillance groups, religious leaders, and women's self-help groups ensures that messaging reaches households directly instead of staying confined to posters or official speeches, creating a web of local watchdogs and first responders who can identify early signs of substance use among youth. Schools and colleges become critical nodes, with more than 16,000 institutions integrating anti-drug content into morning assemblies, curriculum, and peer-led clubs so that children grow up with refusal skills and a clear understanding of how drugs alter brain chemistry, impair judgment, and derail careers, while parents are simultaneously sensitized through PTMs and community meetings to spot behavioral changes, financial secrecy, or physical symptoms without resorting to punishment that drives the user further into isolation. Mass media amplifies this groundwork, as Doordarshan, Radio Kashmir, local newspapers, and digital platforms run survivor testimonies, expert interviews, and explainers on the legal consequences under the NDPS Act, including the J&K government's recent SOP to revoke passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar-linked benefits, and arms licenses of traffickers, which sends a dual message that the state is tough on supply but supportive toward users who seek treatment. Awareness also means equipping the public with actionable knowledge, like the helpline numbers of District De-addiction Centres, the location of 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities, and the process of anonymous reporting. Ultimately, public awareness in the anti-drug fight is not a one-time event but a sustained ecosystem of education, empathy, accountability, and opportunity, where every teacher, imam, sarpanch, mother, and friend understands their role in preventing first use, interrupting habitual use, and supporting recovery, and the J&K model shows that when awareness moves from government offices to living rooms and playgrounds, demand reduces, supply chains get exposed, and recovery becomes a community achievement rather than an individual battle, making the campaign not just about saying no to drugs but about saying yes to health, dignity, and collective responsibility.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

The Time Is Now: Why Women's Reservation Will Transform Indian Democracy

Ms. Shobha Karandlaje

While taking my first oath as a Minister of State, I looked around the packed room and made a count. The number of women present in that space could be counted on a single hand. This visual left a mark, not as a personal achievement, but as a clear indication of the long distance that women are yet to traverse in the public sphere.

I belong to a small village near Puttur in coastal Karnataka, a traditionally rich region, where women have always shown their resilience and strength. I know what it meant to channel that strength into public life, to walk a path that few had walked before and how not every woman gets the same chance with that same fire. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has already been passed. The Parliament spoke in September 2023; the Constitution was amended but now comes the difficult part: keeping that word.

Democracy That Represents Its People

India is home to 670 million women but for many long years, our lawmakers have represented merely 15% of that population. A democracy which continuously excludes half of its citizens from the process of decision-making cannot be considered as true democracy; it remains a work in progress. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is an important step towards completing this endeavour, but a law on paper holds little value unless it is effectively executed. The census needs to be

conducted. Following that, delimitation must occur, and one third of the seats in both Parliament and every state assembly should be occupied by women in due course.

When women are included at the table where laws are made, the focal point of legislative changes. Panchayati Raj institutions where 33% reservation for women was implemented decades ago show a measurable shift in priorities. More budgets were allocated to water, health, education and child nutrition. There was less tolerance for corruption and more accountability to communities. It is not mere a coincidence. It is representation in action.

Breaking the Cycle

I have heard the argument that women should rise "on their own merit." I reject the sentiment, but I respect the premise. Merit does not exist in a vacuum. It flourishes where opportunity exists.

For generations, structural barriers- social, economic and cultural- have kept brilliant women out of politics. The selection process for candidates has always favoured those who have well established networks and contacts, inherited political capital and freedom from domestic responsibilities. Women, on the other hand, have had none of these advantages in their favour.

Reservation does not lower the bar. It removes the wall.

Women were initially dismissed when they entered Panchayats in large numbers. Eventually, in study after study, they were rated as more effective, more accessi-

ble, and more honest than their male counterparts by their own communities. When given a fair chance, women do not just participate. They lead.

What This Means for Policy

My extensive experience in the government has taught me that who is in the room determines what is discussed. Women legislators push for maternal health funding when it would otherwise be cut. They flag the gendered impact of policies that might fall hardest on women in practice. They bring constituency concerns that male colleagues, through no fault of their own, simply do not encounter.

33% reservation in Parliament and state assemblies means that for the first time, these voices will not be exceptional. They will be structural. Permanent. Impossible to ignore.

Nari Shakti: From Vision to Law

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has long held that India cannot realise its full potential without the full and equal participation of its women. This is not rhetoric, but a conviction that has driven policy after policy, from Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to the record inclusion of women in Jan Dhan, Ujjwala and PM Awas Yojana. He has consistently spoken about Nari Shakti not as a slogan but as the foundation of a Viksit Bharat. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is the fullest expression of that vision, bringing women's empowerment from welfare into the very structure of governance.

To My Colleagues Across Party Lines

This is a moment that belongs to all of us, not to any one party, but to Parliament as an institution. I appeal to all as a woman who has served this nation at every level of government, and I believe we all share the same desire to see India's democracy stronger and more complete. What we owe to the women of India now is urgency, in conducting the census, completing delimitation, and ensuring not a single day is lost needlessly.

I understand the concerns around implementation, rotation of reserved seats, proxy candidates, sunset clauses. These are legitimate debates but we need to ensure that this gets immediate attention. The principle is sound. The need is urgent. Let us not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the transformative.

A Nation That Chooses to Be Just

History was made in September 2023. But history is only as meaningful as what follows it. A country that chooses to be just does its silent, lasting work of living by the laws it passes. For every young girl in any community who aspires to serve her country, for the leader who has never had a platform, and for the voice that has never been given a microphone, now is the time to act.

Implement this law. Make the room bigger. India is watching.

(The author is the Union Minister of State for MSME and Labour & Employment)

The Illusion of Voice in the Digital Age

BY DEVINA GAHLOT |

We live in an age where expression has never been easier. There was a time when having a voice meant having access— to platforms, institutions or authority. In this context, social media was once imagined as the great equaliser, having seemingly dismantled this hierarchy. It promised a kind of digital democracy, where voice was no longer restricted by geography, status, or gatekeeping.

Today, that promise appears fulfilled on the surface. Everyone has a voice— or at least, the appearance of one— as millions speak, post, repost and react at the same time, in real time. Expression is constant and in abundance. Within this abundance lies a contradiction. If everyone is speaking at the same time, is anyone being heard?

There are many forces at work that determine what is amplified and what is lost in the noise. One of the most significant of these forces is attention— or the scarcity of it. In this loop of endless content, we find our attention to grow increasingly fleeting, fragmented and difficult to sustain. The pace at which we consume information leaves little room for depth. Articles become headlines, arguments become captions and conversations become



momentary exchanges— compressed to the fit the speed of the feed. Whatever fails the modern test of being immediately engaging is replaced by something newer, sharper and more stimulating. There is no more silence, only dilution.

But attention alone cannot determine what we choose to see. It is itself guided, shaped and even engineered. Algorithms curate our feeds, selecting not what is necessarily most meaningful, but what is most likely to keep us watching. People only encounter ideas that reinforce their own beliefs and slowly forget to consider other opinions. Over time, echo chambers are created, thus effectively narrowing the scope of what we engage with. Our

world becomes coherent but incomplete. We stop engaging with a shared public sphere, but instead with personalised realities designed to hold our attention. In such a system, voice cannot circulate freely. It is filtered, prioritised, and contained within invisible boundaries.

The emergence of artificial intelligence has further complicated this landscape. Content is no longer only created by individuals, it can now be generated, replicated and amplified by systems themselves. Opinions can be manufactured. The human voice no longer holds monopoly over expression. Who is speaking becomes as unclear as what is being said. The boundary between creation and automation slowly dissolves.

The value of voice itself thus becomes more uncertain.

In response to this growing instability, efforts to regulate digital spaces have become more pronounced. As platforms and governments attempt to curb misinformation and restore some coherence to public discourse, this regulation introduces its own dilemma. At what point does intervention become intrusion? In trying to protect the integrity of discourse, there is a risk of narrowing it. The same space that once claimed to expand expression now finds itself negotiating its limits.

Voice cannot exist independently without the structures and systems that shape it. In this case, the system competes, transforms, redirects and fragments. Expression may be constant but meaning is not. What has emerged is not a failure of voice but a shift in its nature. The illusion, therefore, is subtle. In the digital age, we continue to speak— but within limits we do not always see. And somewhere within that, the question remains: are we in control, or are we controlled by systems that have already decided the terms of our own voice? Can what we say remain whole once it enters the world? These are questions we have not quite learned how to ask, let alone resolve.

ADC Billawar Takes Stock of Festival Arrangements Ahead of April 20 Event



BILLAWAR, APRIL 15: Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar, Vinay Khosla (JKAS), today chaired a meeting of officers and officials at PWD Guest House to review and finalize arrangements for the forthcoming Baisakhi

Festival to be organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu at Kali Mata Mandir Ground, Billawar on April 20, 2026. During the meeting, a representative of the Tourism Department presented a detailed outline of the cultural programmes and other activities planned for the occasion, aimed at showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. The ADC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments for the smooth and successful conduct of

the festival. He directed JKPDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply and instructed the PHE Department to make adequate arrangements for safe drinking water at the venue. Other departments were also briefed regarding their roles and responsibilities to ensure efficient management of the event. CEO BBDA, Atul Gupta, and Assistant Director Tourism, Rajesh Raina, also joined the meeting virtually and shared their valuable inputs. Tehsildar Billawar, Surinder Singh (JKAS), SHO Billawar, Zaheer Manhas, along with officers and representatives from various departments, were also present at the meeting.

Doda hosts grand sports events to promote drug-free lifestyle

DODA, APRIL 15: In a remarkable display of unity and commitment towards a healthier society, over 5,000 youth actively participated in a series of sports activities organized across Doda district under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. The overwhelming participation highlights the growing awareness and determination among young people to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

The District Youth Services & Sports department conducted multiple sports events, including Cricket, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Kho-Kho competitions across the educational institutions of the district. These activities aimed to channelize the energy of youth into constructive avenues, while reinforcing the message of staying away from substance abuse. The initiative was

carried out under the esteemed guidance of the Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar H. Sheikh. The programme also witnessed the involvement and coordination of all concerned Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs).

Deputation of residents of Shagan Khari apprised officers of vacant posts

JAMMU, 15 APRIL: A deputation of residents from Shagan Khari, Banihal, District Ramban has approached Gurdev Kumar JKAS Joint Director School Education Jammu regarding the issue of vacant posts in the local educational institution. The positions of Principal, subject Lecturers, and other essential staff remain unfilled. A detailed statement of the staff require-



ment is enclosed herewith for your kind reference. Due to these vacancies, the students of the institution are facing serious academic difficulties, which is adversely affecting their education and overall development. In view of the above, I humbly request your good self to kindly look into the matter personally and take necessary steps for the early filling of these vacant posts.

IN THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH

MOHD YOUNIS S/O Mohd Shabir R/O Jhatgalli-a Tehsil Rajgarh, District Ramban.

Versus
Applicant
Through BDO Rajgarh

IN THE MATTER OF: Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register the birth particulars of the applicant's children in the Birth Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas the applicant named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non applicant to register the date of Birth particulars of his children as mentioned below in the concerned register:

S.No. Name Father's Name Mother's Name Date of Birth Sex
1 Mohd younis SHAZLA BANO Mohd shabir MOHD YOUNIS Safaena begum SHAHEENA BEGUM 13/09/2007
03/05/1985 M F Place of Birth AT HOME AT HOME 2 3
SHANAZ BANO MOHD YOUNIS SHAHEENA BEGUM
17/06/2009 F AT HOME

Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection in respect in the above mentioned application, he/she shall file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date 13-04-2026

Tehsildar executive magistrate
1st class rajgarh

IN THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH

Pervaz Ahmed S/o Imam Ud Din R/o Kumate Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban

Versus
Applicant
Through BDO Rajgarh

IN THE MATTER OF: Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register Particulars of the applicant's children in the Birth Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas the applicant named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non Applicant to register the date of birth particulars of applicant's children as mentioned, below in the concerned register:

S. Name Father Name No Mother Name Date of Birth Gender Place Pervaz 1. Azmatullah Ahmed Zareena Begum 01.03.1997 Male Parihar Pervaz 2 Shabia Akhtar Ahmed Zareena Begum 01.03.1997 Female Home Parihar

Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection in respect in the in the above mentioned application, he/she file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date 07-04-2026

Sd
Executive magistrate 1st
Class Rajgarh

DLSA Reasi hosts series of Legal Awareness events

REASI, APRIL 15: Under the visionary leadership of the Chairman District Legal Services Authority Reasi (also Principal District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khali Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Reasi Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on Right to Education was today organized at Government Middle School Garan. The programme was conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers of TLSC Katra. During the session, the students and staff were sensitized to the importance of education as a fundamental right under Article 21-A of the Constitution of India. The participants were informed about free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 to 14 years under the Right to Education Act, 2009. The PLVs highlighted key provisions of the Act, including access to quality education, prohibition of discrimination and the role.

IN THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH

Vijay Kumar S/o chuniat R/o Bibrotta Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban

Versus
Applicant
Through BDO Asser

IN THE MATTER OF: Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant seeking to correct the date of birth of the applicant children in the Birth Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas the applicant named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non applicant. To the correction of Birth as mentioned below in the concerned register.

S.No Name Father Name Mother Name Wrong date of birth (MEENAKSHI VIJAY BIDYA 08-12. Correct date of Birth 07-12-2014 Registration No Place of Birth 05/15-AT DEVI KUMAR DEVI 2014 A PPKG HOME

Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection in respect in the above mentioned application, he/she shall file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date 07-04-2026

Sd
Executive magistrate 1st
class Rajgarh

NOTICE

I Asha Kumari W/o Sh. Sham Lal, R/o Village Slot, Tehsil Siot, District Jammu (J&K). That my correct name is Asha Kumari as per my Date of Birth Certificate, however my name has been wrongly entered in my Aadhar Card as Asha Devi. That my correct Date of Birth is 28-05-1969 as per my Date of Birth Certificate, however it has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhar Card as 28-05-1978. That Asha Kumari and Asha Devi refer to one and the same person. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. 1ST, JAMMU SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 02 of 2026-2027 Dated 13-04-2026
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works -

S. No	Name of Work.	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Day to day maintenance work at District Court Complex, Jangpur Jammu for the financial year 2026-27 upto September 2026.	PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st, Jammu	15.00	600	02% of the advertised cost	08 Months	(1500 Hrs) on or after 2-04-2026	A, B, C & D Class

Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

No	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13-04-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13-04-2026 to 20-04-2026 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	16-04-2026 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	13-04-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	20-04-2026 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-04-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu. The CDR/FR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, FMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu at the time of allotment.

2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids, however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-

submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/C/1266-87 dated 07-10-2021.

6. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in in its original bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH - 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. 1st Jammu and Correctness of Information on the notarized affidavit which must be notarized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SBD with the technical documents of the bid.

9. Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

No- 11/R&B/PD-1/90-97
Dated:-13-04-2026
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Project Div. no. 1st
Jammu
DIP/J-543/26

KKR's woes deepen as Ajinkya Rahane fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over-rate

New Delhi, Apr 15: Adding to the mounting concerns for Kolkata Knight Riders, the franchise has been dealt another setback following their recent clash against Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League 2026 season.

Captain Ajinkya Rahane has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during Match No. 22 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday. The penalty comes under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which deals with minimum over-rate offences. As it was KKR's first such offence this season, Rahane received a fine without any further sanctions.

"Kolkata Knight Riders Captain Ajinkya Rahane has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match No. 22 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 against Chennai Super Kings at MA Chidambaram



Stadium, Chennai," the IPL informed in a release on Tuesday night.

"As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Rahane was fined INR 12 lakh," the release informed.

CSK dominate with all-round display

On the field, it was a comprehensive performance from Chennai. Afghan spinner Noor

Ahmad (3/21) and Anshul Kamboj (2/32) shared five wickets to restrict KKR to 160/7 in 20 overs, handing CSK a comfortable win while defending 192/5.

Despite some late resistance from Ramanand Singh (35) and Rovman Powell (31*), KKR never truly threatened the target.

KKR also shuffled their batting order, with Sunil Narine opening alongside Finn Allen. While Narine showed early aggression, Allen departed cheaply as Kamboj struck in just the second over.

Narine's dismissal during the powerplay left KKR struggling at 36/2, their lowest powerplay total since 2024. Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi tried to stabilise the innings, but regular wickets kept the chase in check.

Earlier, CSK put up a commanding 192/5 after opting to bat. Sanju Samson led the charge with a fluent 48, while youngster Ayush Mhatre provided early momentum with a quickfire 38 off 17 balls.

Dewald Brevis added crucial runs in the middle overs with a composed 41, ensuring Chennai finished strongly despite a brief slowdown. Although KKR bowlers, particularly Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, attempted to put things back, CSK's aggressive start proved decisive.

The victory marks CSK's second successive win, taking them to four points from five matches and lifting them to eighth place in the standings.

Abhishek Sharma, Axar Patel Added To NADA's RTP For Second Quarter Of 2026

New Delhi, Apr 15:

India's T20 World Cup-winning stars Abhishek Sharma and Axar Patel were noticeable additions to the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) Registered Testing Pool, which was dominated by athletics, for the second quarter of the ongoing year. Abhishek and Axar have replaced Smriti Mandhana and Shreyas Iyer in the latest list of 348 sportspersons in the RTP who will be required to share their whereabouts with the anti-doping agency and be available for testing in a specified window every day. Three failures to provide whereabouts is considered a doping violation. The other cricketing names remained unchanged with Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, K L



Rahul Arshdeep Singh and Tilak Verma among those picked.

From the women's team, which won a historic ODI World Cup last year, all-rounder Deepthi Sharma and Shafali Verma continue to be on the list alongside Renuka Singh Thakur. In all, 14 cricketers have been placed in the list by the NADA.

The athletics count, which was 118 in the previous NADA RTP, rose to 134 now and featured all

major names such as steeplechaser Avinash Sable, hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, decathlete Tejaswin Shankar and sprinter Animesh Kujur among others.

Long jumpers Shaili Singh and M Sreeshanar and discus thrower Tajinderpal Singh Toor have also been named. There are three archers as well in veteran Deepika Kumari, Rakesh Kumar Archery and celebrated para-archer Sheetal Devi.

"We Got Hurt In Powerplay": KKR Bowling Coach Tim Southee After Loss To CSK

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bowling coach Tim Southee said that the team conceded "a few too many" runs at the start against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) after their 32-run loss in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Tuesday. Despite taking two wickets in the powerplay, KKR conceded 72 runs in six overs, which helped CSK eventually post 192/5 in 20 overs. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Tim Southee said KKR were slightly off their line and length in the opening overs, which cost them early in the match. He noted that on good batting pitches in the IPL, any early inaccuracies are punished by aggressive batting. While KKR were hurt during the powerplay, he also praised the team's response, especially the spinners, who helped pull things back during the middle overs. "I think we were probably a little bit off in the first couple of overs. I think we probably just let a few too many off at the start. We were a little

bit off our line, off our lengths, and we've seen in the IPL that the wickets are good. Batters are going to come hard from the start, so if you're a little bit off, you get hurt. So yeah, I think we got hurt in that powerplay, but I think the way the guys bounced back, in particular the spinners, through the middle, and were able to, I guess, take it back a bit as well," Southee said. Asked to bat first, CSK posted 192/5 in 20 overs, powered by key contributions from Samson (48 off 32, four fours and three sixes) and Brevis (41 off 29, four fours and two sixes), while Kartik Tyagi impressed with figures of 2/35. Anukul Roy (1/21 in three overs) and Sunil Narine (1/21 in four overs) also chipped in. In reply, KKR were reduced to 29/2 but fought back through a 50-run stand between skipper Rahane (28 off 22) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (27 off 19). However, a decisive spell from Noor Ahmad triggered a collapse as KKR slumped to 90/6 and eventually .

MS Dhoni's Return To CSK Team Closer Than Expected, Report Claims Date Of Final Call

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Chennai Super Kings are slowly showing signs of resurgence in IPL 2026 with two back-to-back wins. After losing three matches in a row, Ruturaj Gaikwad and his men bounced back strongly by defeating Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders, bringing their campaign back on track. However, one thing CSK fans have been desperately missing is the presence of their former skipper and franchise icon, MS Dhoni. The 44-year-old wicketkeeper-batter missed the first two weeks of the tournament due to a calf strain and was expected to feature in the match against KKR, but he ultimately did not take the field.

As CSK gear up for their upcoming clash against Sunrisers



Hyderabad on April 18, there is some encouraging news for the fans, as Dhoni is likely to return to action. According to a report by Revpsortz, Dhoni is nearing full fitness, and a final call on his availability is expected to be taken on

Thursday. "MS Dhoni will take a call tomorrow morning on whether he will travel to Hyderabad for CSK's match against SRH on Saturday," the report stated. Talking about CSK's match against KKR, the

Yellow Army were asked to bat first and posted a competitive total of 192/5 in their 20 overs.

Sanju Samson played a fluent knock of 48 off 32 balls, which included four boundaries and three sixes, while Dewald Brevis contributed a valuable 41 off 29 balls, striking four fours and two sixes. Kartik Tyagi was the standout bowler for KKR, finishing with figures of 2/35. In reply, KKR were reduced to 29/2 early in the chase but briefly steadied the innings with a 50-run partnership between skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who scored 28 off 22 balls with two sixes, and Angkrish Raghuvanshi, who made 27 off 19 deliveries, including three fours and a six.

Lakshya Sen pens emotional tribute to 'greatest ever' Viktor Axelsen as two-time Olympic champion retires

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen penned an emotional tribute to Viktor Axelsen after the two-time Olympic champion announced his retirement, calling him one of the "greatest to ever play the game." Sharing a heartfelt message on social media, Sen reflected on their journey, from training together in Dubai to facing off in badminton's biggest stages, including the All England Open and the Olympic Games.

"Badminton is blessed to have you and it will remember you as one of the greatest to ever play the game, but what truly sets you apart isn't just the champion you are, it's the person you are," Sen wrote, alongside a photo from their semifinal clash at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The two last met in the Paris



Olympics semifinal, where Axelsen secured a 22-20, 21-14 victory en route to defending his gold medal. The Dane dominated their head-to-head record, winning eight of their nine encounters, with Sen's only victory coming at the German Open over three years ago. "To go from training with you in Dubai to stepping onto one of the biggest stages... it's been an incredible journey. Happy retirement! All the best for what's ahead," Sen added.

Viktor Axelsen calls time on his legendary career

Viktor Axelsen, widely regarded as one of the most complete men's singles players in badminton history, announced his retirement at the age of 32 due to a prolonged back injury.

A two-time Olympic gold medalist at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paris 2024, he also claimed a bronze at the Rio 2016 Olympics. His glittering resume includes world championship titles in 2017 and 2022, along with multiple European crowns. Explaining his decision, Axelsen revealed that persistent pain and recurring setbacks following surgery made it impossible to continue competing at the highest level. "My body is telling me to stop, and I have to follow the advice of my doctors," he said, adding that the risk of further surgery played a key role in his decision.

Where Is Mayank Yadav? LSG Breaks Silence On The 156.7 Kmph LSG Star

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Where is Mayank Yadav? The 156.7 kmph Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) star grabbed the spotlight after a terrific arrival in IPL 2025. However, injury shortened his campaign in the 2025 edition, and he is yet to play a match in IPL 2026. LSG Global Director of Cricket Tom Moody shed light on speedster Mayank Yadav's absence in the opening weeks of the India Premier League (IPL), stating that it was due to a lack of match readiness rather than any concerns over fitness. Mayank's journey has been far from straightforward. Injuries and long spells of



rehabilitation have kept him out for over a year. Yadav played only two matches in the IPL last season, with his final appearance coming on May 4, when he conceded 60 runs against Punjab Kings. "Mayank is ready to go. He didn't come into our think-

ing early in the tournament because he was still a little underused... not from a fitness point of view, as his fitness was good - but in terms of bowling loads and feeling comfortable at the crease," LSG Global Director of Cricket Tom Moody said.

"Retired Andre Russell Still Better Than Rs 25 Crore Cameron Green": Mohammad Kaif

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have themselves to blame for the winless start to the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign. Five games, zero wins and a solitary point - thanks to a washed-out contest - see the Knight Riders placed at the bottom of the 10-team points table in the T20 league. For former India cricketer, KKR's crux of the problem lies in the team's auction strategy, especially as their decision not to retain West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell to retire from IPL. The management then went on to buy Australia's Cameron Green in the auction for a record-breaking fee of INR 25.20 crore.

Green, however, has



barely been used as a bowler by the Knight Riders. The tall Australian has only bowled two 2-over spells this campaign, picking up one wicket. For Kaif, a retired Russell still remains a better all-rounder than Green, whose price tag has seen the franchise receive plenty of flak. "Probably the biggest mistake KKR made this

season was to make Andre Russell the coach and not use him as an all-rounder. The play of keeping him in the KKR dugout and not letting other franchises buy him at auction hasn't worked. Isn't he still a better all-rounder than the Rs 25 cr Cameron Green? The answer is obvious," Kaif wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

'I'll be able to bowl four overs': Cameron Green drops hint amid KKR's crucial phase

New Delhi, Apr 15:

Kolkata Knight Riders all-rounder Cameron Green has hinted at a bigger role with the ball as he continues to regain full fitness during the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026, even as his side looks to find consistency.

Despite a slow start to the campaign, Green remains optimistic about Kolkata Knight Riders's chances, stressing that the team environment remains positive.

"It's awesome. Obviously, on field it's not been our year so far. We know it's a long tournament, so probably need to win some games pretty desperately. But no, off field it's been awesome. I think all the support staff, the players have been great and up and about. So hopefully that holds us in good stead," the all-rounder told broadcasters. Green, who joined KKR for Rs



25.20 crore, has had a modest start with the bat, scoring 18, 2, 4 and an unbeaten 32 in four innings. Still working his way back after injury, his bowling workload has been carefully managed, with the Australian gradually easing back into rhythm.

Reflecting on the team's recent performances, he emphasised the importance of staying patient in a long tournament.

"We kind of spoke with the whole team and said we're doing a lot of things right. And obviously, IPL summer can have a really good

day and win the game for anyone. So hopefully we're just on the better side of it next time," he said.

On his own progress, Green sounded confident about his physical condition and indicated that he could take on a more prominent role with the ball.

"Body's really good. I think obviously with bowling, there's nothing like match practice. So hopefully I'm better for it, and I'll be able to bowl four overs this game, which is good."

The 25-year-old also weighed in on the evolving scoring trends in the tournament, suggesting that totals have dipped slightly compared to previous high-scoring seasons. "I wasn't part of it last year. But yeah, thinking back to two years ago, I think teams were getting 270 really consistently. So yeah, I don't know.

India, Germany agree to deepen cooperation in defence, other key areas

New Delhi, Apr 15: India and Germany have agreed to further deepen and diversify cooperation in areas of contemporary relevance, including critical and emerging technologies, defence, industrial collaboration, digital governance, renewable energy, green hydrogen, innovation, and development cooperation in third countries. The two sides also exchanged views on key regional and global developments, including the situation in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the India-Germany Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Berlin yesterday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra and State Secretary of the German Foreign Office Géza Andreas von Geyr.

The MEA said the consultations were held in a significant year for



bilateral ties, as India and Germany are commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations this year, following the celebration of 25 years of the Strategic Partnership in 2025. The Co-chairs also launched the logo commemorating the 75th anniversary of the

establishment of India-Germany diplomatic relations. The discussions provided an opportunity for both sides to take stock of the current status of bilateral relations and explore avenues for further deepening the India-Germany Strategic Partnership.

During the Consultations, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of the full spectrum of India-Germany bilateral relations, including trade and investment, defence and security, technology, green and sustainable development, mobility, and people-to-people exchanges.

The Indian diplomat also interacted with senior foreign policy experts, Members of Parliament, and senior officials from the Federal and State Governments of Germany at the Körber Foundation.

The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The visit helped advance ongoing cooperation across key priority areas and explore substantive outcomes for the next India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations scheduled later this year.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta meets cricketer Mithali Raj in Tirupati, highlights 'Nari Shakti' momentum

New Delhi, Apr 15: Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, met and held a meaningful interaction with legendary cricketer and former captain of the Indian women's team, Mithali Raj, in Tirupati today. The meeting brought together two influential figures from distinct fields, symbolising the growing convergence of leadership across governance and sports. During the interaction, the Delhi CM lauded Mithali Raj for her extraordinary contribution to Indian cricket and her role in inspiring generations of young women. Widely regarded as one of the greatest batters in women's cricket, Mithali's journey has been a testament to resilience, discipline, and excellence, setting new



benchmarks for aspiring athletes across the country. The interaction also reflected a broader national momentum towards women's empowerment. Rekha Gupta's support for the Nari Shakti Vandan initiative underscores a transformative phase where women are not only excelling in their respective domains but are increasingly stepping into leadership roles.

With April 16, 17, and 18 set to mark key parliamentary discussions on enhancing women's representation under the Women's Reservation Bill, the moment carries added significance. It signals a deepening of India's democratic fabric, where greater participation of women promises more inclusive and representative governance for the future.

Rahul Gandhi greets Himachal on Statehood Day, praises heritage and progress

New Delhi, Apr 15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday extended greetings to the people of Himachal Pradesh on the occasion of Himachal Day, lauding the state's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

"In a post on X, Gandhi said, 'Heartfelt greetings to all the people of the sacred land of Himachal Pradesh on its Foundation Day.' He added, 'Renowned for its breathtaking beauty and glorious traditions, may Himachal continue to move forward on the path of progress and prosperity.' Himachal Day, observed annually on April 15, commemorates the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a



province in 1948 after the integration of several princely states. The hill state later achieved full statehood in 1971, and the occasion is marked by official events, cultural programmes and widespread public participation. Often referred to as 'Dev Bhoomi' or the land of gods, Himachal Pradesh is known for its scenic land-

scapes, ancient temples and vibrant traditions shaped by diverse cultural influences. The day not only celebrates the state's identity but also reflects its developmental journey over the decades. "Gandhi's message comes as leaders across party lines conveyed their wishes to the people of the state.

Oral cancer wrecking families, destroying lives, especially the extremely poor in Bihar

New Delhi, Apr 15: Cancer, mostly caused by oral consumption of tobacco, continues to rise in Bihar despite a total ban on consumption and sale of liquor. While, hitherto, Bihar lacks a population-based data on the incidence of cancer in the state, earlier studies suggest that cases might increase to 135,000 annually in 2026. These figures top those from a study conducted in 2022 by Shafi, Iqbal and Khaliq, titled 'Cancer burden in India: A statistical analysis on incidence rates'. This study pegged mean annual incidence in Bihar at 110,448. Though it is only indicative and cannot be extrapolated for entire Bihar, a PBCR in the Muzaffarpur district by Tata Memorial Centre reported an incidence of 712 cases in 2018, with a 50% mortality rate



and age-adjusted mortality rates of 24.3 per 100,000 in males and 27.3 per 100,000 in females. Meanwhile, oral cancer has been wrecking not just individual lives, but breaking the back of whole families, especially at the lower

end of the social and economic ladder. Ravi Das, 40, belonging to a Dalit community from Aurangabad district was diagnosed with mouth cancer around six months ago in Jaipur. He is a daily wage labourer hailing from Berka

village in Goh, but has not been able to work anymore owing to the disease and the disfigurement of his mouth. The burden of the entire family has now fallen on his 13-year-old son Avinash Das. "I was in school, when I came to know that my father has cancer. I had to drop out of school because there is no one to take care of him. We went to some doctors in Bihar, but they said there was an expense of Rs20-30 lakh for the treatment. We are so poor that we can't even manage two square meals. I work as a labourer in the day and that is all we have. We have now started treatment at a local homoeopathy doctor." Avinash said. "I would owe my life to whoever can help my father. Otherwise, he is just going to die, and soon." Avinash added.

Kejriwal files fresh affidavit seeking Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma's recusal from hearing CBI plea against his discharge in liquor policy case

New Delhi, Apr 15: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has submitted fresh affidavit before the Delhi High Court, seeking the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from hearing Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) appeal challenging his discharge in the liquor policy scam case.

In the additional affidavit, Kejriwal has stated that Justice Sharma's children work with Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, who is representing the CBI in the matter.

Kejriwal, in the affidavit, said that the judge's son is a Group A counsel representing the Centre before the Supreme Court, while her daughter is a Group C counsel serving as a pleader for the Centre before the Delhi High Court. "I state that in the present case, the Learned Solicitor General of India,



who is appearing before this Hon'ble Court for the Central Bureau of Investigation, is opposing my recusal application, and is arguing the revision petition against the discharge order passed in my favour. I respectfully state that this gives rise to a direct and serious appearance of conflict of

interest. The very law officer and legal establishment representing the prosecuting side before this Hon'ble Court is also part of the institutional mechanism by which Central Government cases and Government work are allocated to the immediate family members of the Hon'ble Judge hearing the mat-

ter," the affidavit stated. "But in a criminal case of this nature, where the prosecuting agency is the CBI, where the Central Government's highest law officers appear against me, and where the immediate family members of the Hon'ble Judge hold multiple live Central Government panel engagements and receive Government work through the same legal establishment and law officer, the apprehension becomes direct, grave and impossible for me to ignore," Kejriwal's affidavit added.

This comes a day after Justice Sharma reserved her verdict on Kejriwal's earlier application seeking her recusal from the matter. The AAP chief had earlier argued himself in the court, saying there is a bias in his mind that he may not get justice, citing the judge's alleged association with the RSS.

Centre steps in with Z+ security for Raghav Chadha after Punjab withdraws cover amid AAP tensions

New Delhi, Apr 15: In a significant move with political overtones, the Centre has granted Z+ category security to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha after the Punjab government withdrew his security cover earlier on Wednesday.

The decision, taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), comes against the backdrop of an escalating rift within the AAP and growing speculation over Chadha's standing in the party. Sources said the enhanced protection will be provided by central paramilitary forces and will cover Chadha in both Delhi and



Punjab. The decision follows a threat perception report submitted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and a subsequent assessment by the MHA.

Officials indicated that the move was precautionary and based on security inputs, though it has also triggered political chatter given the timing—just hours after Punjab with-

drew his state-provided security.

Punjab withdrawal fuels political speculation The Punjab government's decision to pull back Chadha's security detail earlier in the day raised eyebrows, especially as it coincided with visible signs of unease between the leader and the party leadership.

From Nitish aide to power pivot: Vijay Kumar Choudhary takes oath as Bihar Deputy CM



New Delhi, Apr 15: Vijay Kumar Choudhary took oath as Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister on Wednesday, a day after Nitish Kumar stepped down as Chief Minister. Choudhary, 68, has been around Bihar politics for over four decades. He began in the 1980s, leaving a job at the State Bank of India to enter public life. His early years were with the Congress, where he rose to become an MLA and later legislature party

largely stayed away from high-decibel politics. Inside JD(U), he is seen as reliable, someone who can be trusted with both government work and party matters. He has handled a range of ministries over the years, such as Finance, Education, Water Resources, Parliamentary Affairs, among others. None of those tenures made big headlines, but they kept him relevant within the system. He is also counted among the party's key Bihar faces, something that carries weight in Bihar's social and political arithmetic. Speaker years and the test of patience

Between 2015 and 2020, he served as Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, which was not the easiest job in those years.

leader before switching to JD(U) as equations in the state changed. Since 2005, he has held on to Sarairanjan in Samastipur, election after election. Not flashy, not particularly loud, but steady. His 2025 affidavit shows assets of ₹3.2 crore, no liabilities, an annual income of ₹10.9 lakh, and no criminal cases. A steady hand, not a headline name. A postgraduate by qualification, Choudhary has

Passport row: SC stays transit bail granted to Pawan Khera, seeks response on Assam govt plea

New Delhi, Apr 15: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the order of the Telangana High Court that had granted one-week transit anticipatory bail to Congress leader Pawan Khera. The top court also issued notice to Khera on a petition filed by the Assam government challenging the relief.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar directed Khera to respond within three weeks to the Assam government's plea seeking a stay on the transit bail order. While putting the Telangana High Court's order on hold, the bench clarified that Khera remains free to seek anticipatory bail before a compe-



tent court in Assam. The court said its present order would not affect any such application filed in the state. "Issue notice. Meanwhile, the impugned order should be stayed. In case the petitioner applies for anticipatory bail before the court having jurisdiction in Assam, and while deciding such an application, the order passed today will not

have any effect. Issue notice. Returnable in three weeks," the court noted. The Assam government had moved the Supreme Court against the interim protection granted on April 10, arguing that the Telangana High Court should not have extended transit bail in the case. In its earlier order, the High Court had granted Khera protection for a week and

asked him to approach the appropriate court in Assam for further relief in accordance with law.

"Law will take its own course," says Himanta Sarma. Reacting to the development, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Telangana High Court lacked jurisdiction to grant transit bail as Khera is not a resident of the state. He added that the law would take its own course and also made remarks targeting Congress leadership over the controversy. He said, "The law will take its own course...Before speaking, Rahul Gandhi must remember that he is not god...He should disclose his passport before the matter would be pursued legally."

Case linked to allegations against CM's wife A complaint was filed by Rinkhi Bhuyan Sharma, wife of the Assam Chief Minister, over allegations made by Khera regarding passport and property disclosures. Khera had claimed that Sharma possessed multiple passports and owned undisclosed assets abroad, including properties in Dubai and links to a US-based company. The Sarma family has denied the allegations, calling the documents fabricated and alleging that they were circulated through foreign social media networks. The Chief Minister had earlier warned of strict action, asserting that the matter would be pursued legally.

Doda prepares for a major event under NMBA campaign

DODA, APRIL 15: The District Administration Doda is planning for a major awareness event under the aegis of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) expected to be attended by VVIP. In this regard, a comprehensive meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal. The meeting focused on finalizing arrangements and ensuring the smooth conduct of the event.

The DC also reviewed the detailed action plan prepared for the VVIP visit, with emphasis on coordinated efforts among all departments. Threadbare discussions were held on key arrangements, including stage decoration, seating arrangements, green rooms, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply with generator



backup and overall venue management. The Police and Traffic Departments were asked to ensure fool-proof security arrangements, traffic regulation and smooth movement during the event. Special focus was laid on awareness and public outreach activities, including organizing a padyatra and nukkad natak to promote the message of

a drug-free society. The Cultural Department and Chief Education Officer were directed to finalize cultural items, including recitation of the national song and national anthem, with active participation from school students. The District Information Officer was tasked with media coordination, installation of LED displays,

publicity, banners, flex posters and public address systems. The Social Welfare Department was directed to arrange caps and shirts depicting the Nasha Mukta campaign, while all departments were instructed to appoint nodal officers for effective coordination. The PWD was tasked with managing stage setup and infrastruc-

ture, while the PHE and PDD Departments were tasked to ensure adequate water and power supply. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to deploy fire tenders and the Health Department was asked to ensure the availability of ambulances and medical support. The meeting was attended by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur; ACR Ashraf Pervez; District Programme Officer ICDS Akhtar Hussain Qazi; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas ACD Din Mohd Afaqi SE PWD; ACP; CEO BDA Sanjeev Verma; CEO, district officers, DYSP Headquarters, DYSP Traffic and representatives from the Health Department, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned departments.

Arrangements for JKSSB Examination finalized at Kathua

KATHUA, APRIL 15: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and finalize arrangements for the written examination being conducted by the JKSSB for the selection of Junior Assistants. The examination is scheduled to be held on April 19-2026 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Threadbare discussions were held on the arrangements to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the examination. It was informed that 10 examination centres have been established across the district for the conduct of the examination. The meeting reviewed arrangements related to power supply, drinking water facilities,



seating arrangements, security deployment and videography at all examination centres. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all concerned departments for ensuring smooth, transparent and hassle-free conduct of the examination. He also

briefed the officers regarding their role and responsibilities for effective implementation of the arrangements. ADC Vishvajet Singh, Under Secretary JKSSB Pankaj Kumar besides designated Centre Superintendents and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Army, GMC Doda organise Blood Donation Camp

DODA, APRIL 15: In a commendable humanitarian initiative, the Indian Army (10 RR), in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, organized a voluntary blood donation camp here at Associated Hospital (AH). The camp reflected a strong commitment towards community service and the noble cause of saving lives.

The event was graced by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather, along with the Incharge Blood Bank GMC, officers from the Indian Army and the Blood Bank staff. Around 14 pints of blood were donated by Indian Army jawans, showcasing



their spirit of selfless service and dedication to humanity. The initiative significantly contributed to enhancing blood reserves, ensuring timely availability for patients, especially in emergency situations. The CMO appreciated the noble gesture of the Army

personnel and lauded the efforts of all stakeholders involved in organizing the camp. The programme concluded with heartfelt gratitude extended to all donors and organizers for their invaluable contribution to this life-saving cause.

SDH Baderwah gets Dialysis Unit, Digital X-Ray Facility

BHADERWAH, APRIL 15: In a major boost to healthcare services, a Dialysis Unit and a Digital X-ray machine was inaugurated today at Sub District Hospital Baderwah.

The new facilities were dedicated to the public by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather, BMO Baderwah Dr. Versha Sharma and other officers and officials.

Two dialysis machines have been installed in the newly established unit, which will cater to two



patients at a time, significantly improving access to dialysis services for patients suffering from kidney-related ailments in the

subdivision. After the inauguration, two patients were provided dialysis services, marking the formal operationalization of the unit and bringing relief to patients who earlier had to travel long distances for treatment. The Director Health Services Jammu also inaugurated a newly installed Digital X-Ray Machine (DR-600) in the Hospital, providing faster and more accurate imaging facilities for patients. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar termed the establishment of the Dialysis Unit and installation of the Digital X-Ray Machine as significant steps towards strengthening specialized healthcare services at SDH Baderwah. He emphasized

that the Health Department is committed to enhance healthcare infrastructure and ensure quality medical services at the grassroots level. He further appreciated the efforts of the district health administration for making these facilities operational. The CMO expressed gratitude to DHS Jammu for his continuous support and guidance in strengthening healthcare facilities in District Doda. "The dialysis unit and digital X-ray facility will greatly benefit patients and reduce the financial and physical burden of traveling to distant hospitals," he noted.

Neglect of Education Exposed: Charak assures action on Khari School Crisis

JAMMU : A delegation of residents from the Khari area of District Ramban met BJP Vice President Rajeev Charak and apprised him of the severe shortage of staff in government schools functioning in Block Khari. The delegation highlighted that the post of Principal has been lying vacant for a long time, and out of 17 sanctioned posts of lecturers across various subjects, only 3 are currently filled. In addition, several posts of masters and other essential staff have also remained vacant for an extended period, severely affecting students' educa-



tion. They stated that due to the lack of adequate teaching staff, students are not receiving quality education, which is adversely impacting their future. The delegation further informed that multiple representations had previously

been submitted to the concerned authorities, but no concrete action has been taken so far, prompting them to bring the matter directly to his attention. Charak to take the matter seriously and intervene personally to ensure that all

vacant posts in the schools are filled at the earliest. BJP Vice President Mr. Rajeev Charak listened to the concerns attentively and contacted the concerned authorities over the phone to discuss the situation of Government Higher Secondary School, Khari, and other schools in the area. He also advised the delegation to meet the relevant authorities to ensure justice and quality education for the students. Charak stated that Jammu & Kashmir is currently under the National Conference-led government, and even the MLA from the Khari-Banihal

constituency belongs to the same party. Despite the Education Department being under their control, it is unfortunate that people still have to travel long distances to get their issues addressed. He alleged that the government and public representatives are limited to making assurances and have failed to take concrete action on public issues. He further stated that any government or representative that deprives students of basic facilities like education and plays with their future has no moral right to remain in power and should resign immediately. Charak added.

Thousands throng Devika Baisakhi Mela on day 2

Scintillating cultural performances mesmerize audience at Holy Ghat

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 15: A vibrant cultural celebration marked the second day of the historic Devika Baisakhi Mela being held on the sacred banks of the Devika rivulet in Udhampur town. A mega cultural programme, organised by Department of Information and Public Relations District Centre, enthralled the audience with scintillating performances showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. S Students of KC Gurukul Public school presented a theme based Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. A large number of people from all walks of life gathered to witness the cultural bonanza. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances performed by local artists and enthusiastic students. The performances received thunderous applause and were highly appreciated by one and all. Thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district



thronged the Devika Ghat to take a holy dip in the sacred river, continuing the age-old spiritual tradition associated with the Baisakhi festival. Adding to the festive spirit, temporary stalls offering sweets, toys and accessories witnessed heavy footfall, making the mela a lively and joyful experience for visitors of all ages.

DLSA Udhampur convenes Under Trial Review Committee meeting



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur held an Under Trial Review Committee (UTC) meeting today at the Conference Hall, DLSA Udhampur.

The meeting aimed to review cases of under-trial prisoners and speed up the release of eligible individuals who have been waiting for trial for a long time.

The meeting was chaired by Principal District & Sessions Judge /Chairman DLSA Kalpana Revu and attended by Sumati Sharma, Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA; Prem Singh Additional Deputy

Commissioner Udhampur; Sandeep Bhat Additional Superintendent of Police Udhampur; Mohammad Irfan Khan Superintendent District Jail and Pawan Gupta Chief LADC.

The committee reviewed cases in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), with a focus on prisoners lacking adequate legal representation or those who have undergone prolonged detention without trial.

MLA Ramnagar Inaugurated Blacktopping of Barta-Chanunta-Bhugtrian Road

RAMNAGAR : Under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, aimed at connecting every village and transforming them into self-reliant and developed units, and under the able guidance of MoS, PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh, a significant milestone in rural infrastructure development was achieved today in Ramnagar.

The MLA Ramnagar, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, formally inaugurated the blacktopping work of Barta-Chanunta-Bhugtrian road in the gracious presence of local representatives, and a large gathering of enthusiastic residents. This long-pending demand of the public is finally being addressed, as the road had remained in a severely dilapidated condition for years. Potholes, uneven surfaces, and poor maintenance had made daily commuting extremely challenging, particularly for school-going children, elderly residents, and employees who depend on this route for their livelihood. During adverse weather conditions, the situation would worsen, often disrupting essential connectivity and posing safety risks.



The commencement of blacktopping work is expected to bring substantial relief to the people by ensuring smoother, safer, and faster transportation. It will not only improve daily commuting but also facilitate better access to education, healthcare, and markets, thereby contributing to the overall socio-economic upliftment of the region. Importantly, this vital road

stretch serves as a key link connecting several prominent villages of the Ramnagar constituency, including Chanunta, Panigram, Ghord, Chowk, Badhole as well as Ramnagar town and other adjoining areas. By strengthening rural connectivity network, the project will play a crucial role in enhancing rural mobility, boosting local trade, and integrating these villages

more effectively with the main town. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bhardwaj reiterated his commitment to holistic development and assured the public that more such infrastructure projects are in the pipeline to further strengthen connectivity across the constituency. He emphasized that development at the grassroots level remains a top priority and that every effort is being made to ensure that no village is left behind. On this occasion, the local residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Bhardwaj for taking up this much-needed initiative. They acknowledged his continuous efforts towards addressing public grievances and improving basic infrastructure in the region.

India stands as a rare treasure trove of pluralism with diverse languages, cuisines, customs, and art forms: LG Sinha



JAMMU, APRIL 15: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan today celebrated the Foundation Day of Himachal Pradesh, at Jammu.

The cultural evening, celebrating the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, was attended by students, senior officials, and the people of Himachal Pradesh living in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, who were the special invitees on the occasion. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj

Sinha extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh. "Cultural confluence on Himachal Divas build the bedrock of a strong nation. When citizens and artists from varied states interweave traditions, they weave invisible threads that bind civilization together," the Lieutenant Governor said. Paying tribute to the iconic personalities of Himachal Pradesh, the Lieutenant Governor said that the

state's history brims with richness and spirituality and rituals anchor Himachal Pradesh's sacred earth, cradle of sages' austerities, abounds in ancient heritage and temples. Pilgrims worldwide revere its every stone as infused with divine energy. The state's history, indigenous culture, arts, and architecture stand pristine and many across millennia.

Centuries of traditions have gifted Himachal Pradesh unparalleled folk arts, dances, and songs," he said. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that India stands as a rare treasure trove of pluralism with diverse languages, cuisines, customs, and art forms. He urged the people to embrace and share this vibrant mosaic, sustained by endless community celebrations. "The 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative aptly recognizes cultural exchange as a dynamic catalyst for prosperity. When local festivities transcend borders, they captivate citizens and spawn livelihoods. Interstate collaboration equips small communities with platforms and resources to scale their events, amplifying both reach and pride. A village's art, admired nationwide, yields not just income but enduring honor," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also released the activity calendar of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

CM rededicates renovated War Memorial, attends 78th Raising Day of JAK LI Regimental Centre

Pays homage to fallen soldiers; honours legacy of JAK LI Regiment

SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today rededicated the renovated War Memorial and attended the 78th Raising Day celebrations of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) Regimental Centre at Srinagar.

The programme was held at the Regimental Centre, where the Chief Minister, as Chief Guest, unveiled the renovated War Memorial and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to pay homage to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

The function was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including former J&K Chief Minister Feroz Abdullah, Colonel Lt. Gen. Manish Erry, Chief of Staff 15 Corps



Maj Gen Saurabh Sharma, GOC 31 Sub Area Maj Gen Abhijit Mitra, Commandant JAK LI Regimental Centre Srinagar Brig. Ved Beniwal and Officers of the Regiment.

The Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment, one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army, has a rich legacy of valour and sacrifice. Originating from the J&K Militia raised during the

1947 conflict, the Regiment has played a pivotal role in major military operations, including the wars of 1965 and 1971. Operation Meghdoot in Siachen, and Operation Vijay during the Kargil conflict. The Regimental Centre has also been recognised for its outstanding training standards and its contribution to shaping a new generation of disciplined and committed soldiers.

NFSA integration of Migrant ration cards reviewed

JAMMU, APRIL 15: Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K Dr Arvind Karwani today chaired a meeting to review the progress of integration of ration cards of Kashmiri and Jammu migrants in the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database.

The arrangements put in place for distribution of free ration to Relief Category Ration Card Holders as per the Special Relief Ration Scheme notified vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05-03-2026 were also assessed. The meeting also reviewed the extension of benefits of social sector schemes to migrant beneficiaries. Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Director FCS&CA, Zonal Officers/Camp Commandants of the Relief Organization, con-

cerned Tehsildars and officials from different line departments attended the meeting. With the digitization and integration of their Ration cards with the NFSA database, the migrant beneficiaries can avail benefits of the social sector schemes like old age pension, scholarships and marriage assistance. After the launching of the new PDS portal by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, the process of integration of about 50,000 migrant families into the national database has been initiated. The migrants were also facing difficulties in availing benefits under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, which has also been addressed after transition into the NFSA database. It was enjoined upon all the officers to ensure time bound completion of the

exercise of integration and other preparations to ensure uninterrupted ration supply to all migrant ration card holders. Pertinently, the existing scale of ration to the migrants registered under the Relief Category (irrespective of categorization of ration card and norms/procedures for inclusion, Deletion, Bifurcation, Conversion, Correction of Ration Cards) shall continue under the new Scheme. Directions were also issued for door to door campaign and time bound corrections of the typographical errors in the ration cards. Dr Karwani impressed upon the officers to organize outreach camps on regular intervals to facilitate the public. The senior officers of the Relief Organization were asked to monitor the progress on a daily basis in the Zones/Camps.

CS reviews process for establishment of KVs/JNVs across districts of J&K

JAMMU, APRIL 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the availability of land and infrastructure for Central Government educational institutions, including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), that are either non-functional or presently operating from temporary premises across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Deputy Commissioners representing Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (JNV) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS); Director School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; Regional Officer, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan,



Jammu, besides other senior officers. Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners from the districts participated through video conferencing. During the review, the Chief Secretary sought detailed district-wise inputs regarding the current infrastructural status of these schools. He specifically enquired about the identification and availability of suitable land for

construction of permanent school buildings and the arrangements made for their temporary functioning till such infrastructure is developed. Emphasizing timely action, the Chief Secretary directed the Revenue Department to expedite the transfer of identified land parcels to the School Education Department for further leasing to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to facilitate early execution of

works. He stressed prioritization of districts where no KV or JNV presently exists and called for immediate commencement of academic activities in locations where temporary accommodation has already been identified. Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, chaired the meeting of the current status of each JNV and KV, highlighting specific requirements of land and infrastructure.

He informed that out of 51 Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned for districts of J&K, 37 are already functional, while 14 are in the process of establishment. Of these, three schools including two at Ramban and Gool in district Ramban, and one at Ramkot in Kathudistrict are expected to become functional shortly. Moreover, he informed that 21 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned for the Union Territory, out of which 20 are already functional from their own buildings. He added that the JNV for Srinagar district is proposed to be made functional in a building identified by the district administration, while permanent infrastructure will subsequently be developed at a suitable site to be identified for the institution.

Run for Health, Walk for Change: Srinagar's Youth Unites for Nasha Mukt J&K



SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: It wasn't just about running or walking. It was about reclaiming lives. A powerful wave of unity and determination swept through the heart of Srinagar as the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K, under the direct and compassionate supervision of the department's Director General Anuradha Gupta, organized a heartfelt Mega Unity March and a spirited Mini Marathon. The event was held in close collaboration with the District Administration Srinagar, as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan.

into a true people's movement. The march concluded at Sher-i-Kashmir Park, where the air was filled not just with exhaustion, but with pride. Winners of the mini marathon were honored with medals, but every participant left with something greater: a renewed sense of purpose. This initiative is a vital part of the "100 Days Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan" launched by the J&K Administration. Before the actual start of the marathon, every attendee took a solemn anti-drug pledge: a promise to themselves, their families, and their society. Speaking to the gathering, DYSSO Srinagar didn't just deliver a speech; he shared a heartfelt appeal. He spoke of the urgent need to pull the younger generation away from the grip of substance abuse, and urged every student to become a torchbearer of change in their neighborhoods and schools.

Satish Sharma reviews petroleum supply chain, stresses equitable distribution; vows zero tolerance for hoarding

JAMMU, APRIL 15: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the supply and distribution of petroleum products, with emphasis on operations managed by the Indian Oil Corporation. During the meeting held at Narwal office of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the Minister had a comprehensive review of the current availability of petroleum products, supply chain logistics and distribution mechanisms across various districts. He emphasized the need for maintaining uninterrupted supply and directed the officials to ensure close coordination with the oil companies for adequate stock level and timely replenishment. Highlighting the importance of balanced distribution, Satish Sharma called for rationalisation of petroleum allocation

to ensure equitable availability across all regions. He stressed that no area should face scarcity, and that supply must be aligned with actual demand patterns to avoid shortages or regional imbalances. The Minister also made it clear that there will be zero tolerance for hoarding, cautioning that strict action will be taken against any malpractice that disrupts fair supply. The Minister instructed the officials to establish a robust monitoring system and maintain regular oversight to address any emerging challenges promptly. Reiterating the government's commitment, he said that ensuring seamless availability of essential commodities remains a top priority to safeguard public convenience. Following the meeting, the Minister visited the plant site where he inspected the blending process and reviewed on-ground operations.

Cancer awareness programme organised at GDC Marh under NMBA



JAMMU, APRIL 15: A one-day Cancer Awareness Programme was organized at Government Degree College Marh in collaboration with Diva International Foundation under the 100 Day Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. The formal welcome address was presented by Nodal Officer NCORD Malti Rajput. The keynote speakers included Dr. Abdul Aziz Chowdhury (MBBS, MD), Senior Physician, Hematologist & Oncologist, who delivered an insightful address on cancer prevention, early diagnosis and the established correlation between substance abuse-particular-

ly tobacco and alcohol and the incidence of various cancers. Dr. Surbhi Kudyar (MBBS, MS, MCh), Breast Oncologist and Consultant Surgical Oncologist, spoke on breast cancer awareness, the importance of timely screening and the need to adopt a healthy and substance-free lifestyle. Students, along with NSS, NCC and Bharat Scouts and Guides, participated enthusiastically and actively contributed to awareness activities on cancer prevention and the ill effects of substance abuse. As part of the programme, all participants also took a pledge for a

Nasha Mukt Bharat, committing themselves to stay away from drugs and to promote a drug-free society. The initiative was undertaken by the NCORD team under the guidance of Principal of the college Prof. Ramneek Kaur. The programme underscored the significance of early detection, preventive healthcare and collective responsibility towards building a healthy and drug-free society. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Balwinder Saini, acknowledging the contributions of all stakeholders involved in the successful conduct of the event.

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