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Cong, allies committed sin by killing quota bill, women will severely punish them: PM

NEW DELHI, APR 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday warned the Congress and its allies that the women of India will severely punish them for the sin after they killed a bill on women's reservation in Parliament and state assemblies. In an address to the nation, Modi apologised to the women, and said the government may have lost the vote but it will never give up its efforts to empower women. "We may not have got the necessary 66 per cent votes



for the passage of the bill yesterday, but we have got 100 per cent blessings of 'Nari Shakti', Modi said in an address to the nation, a day after a bill to implement 33 per cent women's reservation in legislatures in 2029 was defeated in the Lok Sabha. He said the opposition parties have "mercilessly crushed" the dream of women by not allowing the bill to pass in Parliament despite the government's best efforts. "I seek forgiveness from all the women of the country," he

said, while asserting that his government will remove all obstacles in the way of implementing women's reservation and their empowerment. Modi, in his 30-minute speech, alleged that the "self-serving politics" of parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC and the Samajwadi Party has come at the expense of the nation's women. The prime minister said the opposition parties, which have opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Amendment in Parliament, are taking women power for granted. "Today, every citizen of India is witnessing how the march of India's women has been halted. The dreams of the country's

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LG Sinha Leads Padyatra In Rajouri, Says 63 Drug Smugglers Arrested In 5 Days Long Crackdown

We are determined to crush these challenges, dismantle the drug trade and liberate society from addiction: LG Sinha



RAJOURI, APR 18: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today joined Padyatra and addressed a public rally in Rajouri under Drug-Free J&K campaign. The Lieutenant Governor observed that border district Rajouri is sensitive and prone to cross-border drug smuggling. "But we are determined to crush these challenges, dismantle the drug trade and liberate society from addiction. From April 11, J&K Police had launched a relentless crackdown in Jammu Division. More than 45 FIRs were filed, 63 smugglers nabbed and massive drug hauls

seized between the 11th and 15th. Regular Checks are now covering schools, pharmacies, drug agencies and this drive will continue relentlessly," the Lieutenant Governor said. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that not all wars rage on borders. He said some battles brew unseen and for years, countless Jammu Kashmir families have fought addiction within their walls and many

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First Batch Of 431 Haj Pilgrims Leaves From J&K; CM Omar Sees Them Off At Airport



SRINAGAR, APR 18: The first batch of 431 Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir left for Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah saw them off at the airport here, officials said. The pil-

grims, including 230 males and 201 females, left in three flights, they said. Officials said all required arrangements for transportation, baggage handling and documentation have been put in place

at the Haj House in Bemina here to ensure a smooth departure process. Hundreds of family members of pilgrims gathered outside the Haj House to bid them farewell. A total of 4,764 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir will embark on the pilgrimage this year. The chief minister saw off the first batch of Haj-2026 pilgrims at Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport, here, his office said in a post on X. "He extended his best wishes to the pilgrims for a safe and spiritually

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4 Terror Suspects Held; IED Seized Planned Attack Using Toy Car

NEW DELHI, APR 18: Delhi Police has arrested four "radicalised" men from Maharashtra, Odisha and Bihar who allegedly planned terror activities, carried out reconnaissance to target locations to set them and attempted to recruit others through encrypted online platforms, officials said on Saturday. An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and related material were seized during the operation, police said. Two of the accused were in the process of assembling a remote-controlled toy car fitted with an IED to target

CM Omar Abdullah reviews progress of work on LD Hospital Extension Block, stresses timely completion

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inspected the ongoing construction of the Extension Block at Government Lala Lal Ded Hospital and conducted a comprehensive review of the project's progress, execution strategy and infrastructure development. The upcoming facility, being developed at the premium maternity care hospital, is designed as a dedicated centre for Infertility and Gynaecological Oncology and will significantly strengthen specialised maternal and neonatal



healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir. During the visit, the Chief Minister assessed the pace and quality of construction, reviewed augmentation of critical facilities and

emphasised adherence to timelines. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure expeditious completion of the project while maintaining the highest

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BRIEF NEWS

Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast Near LoC In Poonch; Rusted Shell Defused

MENDHAR, JAMMU, Apr 18: An army soldier was injured in a landmine explosion, while a rusted shell was safely defused in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The explosion occurred during an area domination patrol by an army column in the Balakot area, leaving an Agniveer injured, they said. The soldier was shifted to a hospital and his condition is stated to be "stable", officials said. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the

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Cabinet Clears 2% DA/DR Hike For Central Government Employees, Pensioners

NEW DELHI, Apr 18: The government on Saturday increased Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 2 per cent, benefiting about 50.46 lakh central government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners. The combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs 6,791.24 crore per annum, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while briefing about decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The approval to release an additional instalment of DA to central

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Don't Fear AI; It's Only Aid Not Substitute: CJJ Surya Kant

BENGALURU, APR 18: Cautioning that the adoption of technology in the judiciary must be accompanied by a clear and conscious understanding of its inherent limitations, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday urged judicial officers not to be "afraid" of AI. Asserting that technology must remain an aid, not a substitute, he said the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the judicial process must be guided by a principle of balance—leveraging its benefits to enhance efficiency while steadfastly preserving the human intellect,

experience, and constitutional conscience that lie at the heart of justice. The chief justice was speaking at the 22nd biennial state-level conference of judicial officers, themed "Reimagining the Judiciary in the Era of Artificial Intelligence", organised by the Karnataka State Judicial Officers Association. "I would also like to add that you should not be afraid of AI. What do you do when a case involving very complicated facts and complex questions of law is placed before you? You apply

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J&K Launches QR Code-Based Identification System For All Tourism Stakeholders

PAHALGAM, APR 18: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have introduced a unique QR code-based identification system for all tourism service providers for the safety of tourists in Pahalgam, which was rocked by a deadly attack last year orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists. The system enables easy identification and verification of genuine and registered service providers, including pony-ride operators, hawkers, business establishments, as well as outside vendors, officials said. The initiative is seen as a major step by the authorities to restore the confidence of those visiting the popular tourist resort in Anantnag district that was shaken by the brutal terror attack on April 22 last year. The attack in the Baisaran meadow left 25 tourists and a

local pony-ride operator dead. "Each service provider has been properly vetted by police, registered by the authorities and has been provided a unique QR code that contains personal information and other details about that person," an official said. When tourists scan the code with their mobile phones, they can check complete information about the person concerned, the officials said. The initiative acts as a proper and registered identification system that would curb fraud and ensure that no unauthorised individuals are working or claiming to be associated with tourism, they said. "The system helps identify tourism providers and ensure that visitors are dealing with an authorised service provider. Before trusting an indi

(Contd on Pg 2)

Comprehensive Training In VIP Security In Doda

JAMMU, APR 18: Police personnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district underwent specialised training in VIP security to enhance their professional capabilities and preparedness in handling sensitive security assignments, officials said. A felicitation ceremony was organised at the district police lines in Doda on Saturday to mark the successful completion of a two-day training programme on VIP security. "The training was conducted as per modules devised by the Security Headquarters, J&K, with the objective of strengthening the skills and readiness

of personnel deployed for VIP security duties," they said. During the programme, participants received comprehensive training on key aspects of VIP security, including threat assessment, advanced security liaison, convoy management, access control, emergency response, and standard operating procedures to ensure foolproof security arrangements, they added. The session witnessed participation from gazetted officers, supervisory officers, SHOs, in-charge police posts, police security officers, and other

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Separatist Shabir Shah Arrested In Terror Related Case, Sent To 10-Day NIA Remand



JAMMU, APR 18: Separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday in the 1996 case involving a terrorist attack on policemen during a militant's funeral, and was produced before the Patiala House Court in Delhi which allowed a three-day transit remand. The separatist leader, who was recently released on bail after nearly seven years of imprisonment in other cases, was produced before the special NIA

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LG Saxena Chairs High-Level Meeting To Review Preparedness For Holy Exposition Of Sacred Buddha Relics In Ladakh

LEH, APR 18: The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of Tathagata Buddha in Ladakh. In the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor directed all departments to expedite preparations, ensure the cleanliness of venues and surrounding areas, remove debris, and intensify drives to manage stray animals. He also reviewed infrastructure readiness, including sanitation, power supply, and availability of toilets and drinking water. The Lieutenant Governor also directed the incorporation of suggestions from stakeholders, including the



provision of shuttle services for elderly devotees, decorative lighting and lighting of prayer flags, and beautification of key routes, to enhance the overall experience. Reiterating the importance of coordination and commitment, the Lieutenant Governor called upon all stakeholders to work collectively to ensure the suc-

cessful conduct of this spiritually significant and globally important event. Since assuming office, the Lieutenant Governor has been personally monitoring the preparations through a series of meetings with venerable Rinpoches, religious leaders, government officials, stakeholders, and other concerned departments to ensure the successful and

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Property Of Drug Peddler Emolished

JAMMU, APR 18: The local administration has demolished the residential property of a drug peddler in Jammu amid heavy security arrangements as part of its ongoing crackdown on narcotics, officials said on Saturday. A large contingent of officials and police, armed with heavy-duty bulldozers, demolished the property owned by Shamsdin alias Pappi in Belicharana for his involvement in drug peddling, they said. The authorities demolished Shamsdin's house, removed grass huts and seized some two-wheelers, they added. The action was part of the 100-day 'Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan' launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11 to curb drug trafficking and dismantle the financial

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FROM PAGE ONE

Cong allies...

women have been mercilessly crushed, and despite our utmost efforts, we could not succeed," he said. Modi said India's women saw how parties like Congress, TMC and DMK celebrated their selfish politics against the country's women power. "They have been unmasked," he claimed. "The Congress and its allies have committed foeticide of the honest effort in front of the entire country in the House. Parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC and the SP are guilty of this foeticide. They are criminals against the country's Constitution, criminal against the country's women power. The Congress hates the issue of women's reservation itself," he alleged. The Prime Minister said the Congress has often fuelled divisive narratives in the country and has spread the claim that delimitation would harm certain states. However, he said, the government made it clear from the very beginning that no state's share would be reduced and that the seats would increase proportionately. "Even then, Congress, along with the DMK, TMC and the SP, refused to accept this," he said. Modi said the Congress has always spread falsehoods about necessary reforms and delayed every such decision while it ruled. "Every single challenge our country faces today is due to the negative approach of the Congress party over the years. Women of our country will give a befitting reply to Congress and its allies," he said. The Prime Minister said a key reason behind the opposition to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam is the fear among dynasty-driven parties that if women are truly empowered, their leadership structures could be challenged. He said they do not want women outside their own families to rise and lead. Modi said the DMK had the opportunity to enable more people from Tamil Nadu to become Members of Parliament and strengthen the state's voice, but it let the opportunity slip. He said the TMC too had the chance to empower more people from West Bengal and elevate their representation, but it also failed to seize it. "The Nari Shakti Vandan Amendment is the need of the hour. It was an effort to ensure balanced empowerment across all regions, including north, south, east and west. It aimed to strengthen the voice of every state in Parliament, whether big or small, by increasing representation proportionately. But this sincere effort was crushed by Congress and its allies," he said. The Prime Minister said the opposition parties are forgetting that the women of the 21st century are keeping an eye on every event in the country, they are sensing the intentions of the opposition and are fully aware of the truth as well. Therefore, he said, the "sin" that the opposition has committed by opposing women's reservation will surely earn them punishment. "A woman who forgives, she never forgets her insult. Therefore, the bitterness of the behaviour of Congress and its allies in Parliament will always remain in the heart of every woman. Those parties that opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam in Parliament are taking women power for granted," he said. Modi said the "family-based" parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC, and the SP were "clapping gleefully" and were thumping their desks after snatching away women's rights. "What they did was not just a thump on the table; it was a blow to the dignity of women, to her self-respect," he said. The Prime Minister said the Congress has lost its base in most parts of the country and is surviving by riding on the support of regional parties, yet it does not want these regional forces to grow stronger. "By opposing this amendment, the Congress has attempted to push the women's rights into a state of uncertainty through political manoeuvring," he said, adding, "I want to tell all parties who oppose this bill in clear terms that they are taking women's power for granted." Modi said this amendment, pending for 40 years, was about giving them that right starting from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. "The bill was a grand 'yajna' to provide new opportunities to the women of 21st-century India, to give them the power to remove the obstacles in her path. It was a sacred festival performed with pure intent and honesty to grant rights to the country's 50 per cent—that is, half the population," he said. The Prime Minister said by opposing this bill, the Congress has shown itself to be an "anti-reform party". This is the same Congress that opposed Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, and digital payments as well as the Goods and Services Tax, he said. "The Congress opposed reservation for economically weaker sections, the abrogation of Article 370, and the abolition of Triple Talaq. It continues to oppose the Uniform Civil Code," he said. Modi said this is not just a fight over one law, but a larger battle against the Congress's "anti-reform mindset, driven by negativity." "I have no doubt that the daughters of this country will give a strong answer to this thinking. I saw Parliament at half the population in their rightful share, and I would credit the opposition for it. Yet those who view women through a regressive lens remained stuck in their position and refused to move beyond it," he said. The Prime Minister said he knows that the "mothers, sisters, daughters of the country are grieving today." "I too am grieving with you. But our effort will not stop, our effort will not falter, our inner strength is invincible. More opportunities will come our way. We must fulfil this resolve for the dreams of half of the population, for the future of the country," he said.

LG Sinha...

have lost loved ones to it. "On April 11, from the allowed grounds of Jam's MA Stadium, we sounded the clarion call to total war by launching a resolute 100-day crusade against drug addiction. I believe addiction is no mere personal failing but it's a gaping wound in our society's fabric. Our terrorist neighbour deploys it as an insidious weapon, nurturing terror through drug smuggling and eroding our nation's strength from within. We shall prevail in this battle by uniting as one and every citizen rising with unyielding resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that cases registered before 11 April had witnessed a 3 times increase in last 7 days. "In 100 days, we must completely break the back of drug networks. When the power of society and the might of the administration come together, neither smugglers nor criminals will be spared," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted that prevention anchors Drug-Free J&K campaign and he considers that prevention is stronger than any cure in such cases. "We must reach our children before drugs do, igniting awareness and self-respect in every school, college, playground and community hub," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also called upon J&K Police and other enforcement agencies to ensure exemplary punishment for drug smugglers. "Make sure no culprit escapes. We should unless exemplary

crackdowns on traffickers poisoning our youth. Those ruining generations won't slip away," the Lieutenant Governor said further adding that administration has crafted an SOP to obliterate drug smugglers networks and ensuring swift justice. The Lieutenant Governor said that from detection and counseling to detox, rehab, and aftercare, our pledge is total rehabilitation. He asked the officials to audit weekly activities including list of rehabbed lives, list of arrested smugglers while ensuring that fake centers are shuttered.

"We will restore people's dignity, reconnect them to our shared society, and unleash their potential to build Rajouri's brighter future. This mission demands more than government efforts. I call upon every social organization and NGOs to join us in this noble endeavor," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug pledge and also launched Rajouri Premier League and Rajouri Football Club under the Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. Artists through Musical opera spread awareness on the devastating impacts of substance abuse.

First Batch...

fulfilling journey and requested them to pray for peace, progress, and prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir," the CM's office said. It said the chief minister also directed officials to ensure smooth facilitation and adaptation arrangements for all pilgrims, focusing on seamless coordination, passenger convenience, and timely assistance at every stage of the journey.

4Terror...

part of their propaganda to radicalise others," a senior police officer said. He said the accused were active on closed and encrypted social media groups where content related to jihad, extremist ideology and weapons was shared. These platforms were allegedly used to identify, indoctrinate and recruit new members.

"One of the accused allegedly shared an edited image of the Red Fort with a black flag to radicalise followers and signal symbolic targets," the officer said.

The probe revealed that one of the accused had visited Delhi in December 2025 and conducted reconnaissance of key locations, including the Red Fort and India Gate. Investigators said the module had also discussed potential strikes on high-value targets such as the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Parliament House and certain military installations.

Security agencies believe the group intended to target crowded public places and symbolic landmarks to maximise panic and psychological impact. "All four accused — Mosaib Ahmad, Mohammad Hamid, Mohammad Sohail and Sheikh Inran — belong to modest socio-economic backgrounds. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway to identify their associates, handlers and the broader network," the officer said.

Mosaib had previously worked in Gulf countries as an auto electrician and was allegedly using his technical skills to design a remote-controlled car fitted with an IED.

"Preliminary findings suggest the use of a small remote-controlled device points to a plan to execute a stealth attack in crowded areas," the officer said. Investigators said the accused had begun collecting materials, conducting reconnaissance and coordinating their activities through encrypted communication platforms before they were intercepted. Mosaib Ahmad, originally hailed from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and studied up to class 10th. He worked in various capacities, including as a welder, auto mechanic and as an auto electrician, in India and in countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Presently, he was working at a private automotive workshop in Thane.

He was part of multiple online groups where discussions related to "Lashkar of Mahdi and jihad" were held. He assisted co-accused Mohammad Hamid by "opening the circuit of a remote-controlled toy car for IED making and sharing its image within a closed group".

Mohammad Hamid is a resident of Mumbai. He is pursuing class 12th through correspondence. Around January 2026, he joined a closed group in which other active members included Mosaib Ahmad.

In the group, discussions were held on jihad and Ghazwa-e-Hind. He shared pictures of ball bearings, nails, a remote-controlled toy car, and various materials for the preparation of an IED in a closed group, the officials alleged. He handed them over to co-accused Mosaib Ahmad, who, being a mechanic by profession, was tasked with assembling the IED, according to security agencies. Sheikh Inran was born in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in a lower-class household. He studied up to the 10th standard and thereafter, worked as a security guard and delivery boy.

In 2024, he began listening to lectures/talks of Tareeq Jameel, Israr Ahmed, Zakir Naik, and gradually developed radical beliefs. He came across his associates Mohammad Hamid, Mosaib Ahmad, through social media and created a closed group where discussions centred on jihad, khilafat and Ghazwa-e-Hind. He discussed targeting "Ram Mandir, Parliament and military installations," they alleged.

He visited Delhi in December 2025 for a recce of the Red Fort and India Gate. He promised members that he would arrange arms training and physical training, including horse riding, in Odisha and asked them to contribute funds for the same.

Mohammad Sohail is a resident of Katihar, Bihar. He is a plumber by profession. He studied up to Class 10th.

"He was influenced by the speeches of Israr Ahmed. He created multiple social media accounts and exhorted youth in the name of jihad. In March 2026, he enlisted followers of his channel to collect weapons and explosives for Ghazwa-e-Hind. He shared his bank account QR code to collect money in the name of jihad," the officer alleged.

Multiple mobile phones and digital devices have been seized and are being analysed to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy and any possible links to other modules, police added.

CM Omar...

standards of quality. He was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Principal and Dean Government Medical College Srinagar Dr. (Prof) Ifat Hassan, Administrator GMC Srinagar Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Medical Superintendent I.D. Hospital, and senior officers from PWD (R&B) & J&KERA Kashmir, among others. The Chief Minister was briefed on the project, which is being executed under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) by the PWD (R&B) Department at an estimated cost

of ₹118.22 crore. The facility is being constructed as a G+5-attic structure with a total built-up area of about 11,640 square metres and will house around 117 specialised beds (65 adults and 52 infants) for advanced care. Officials informed that the centre will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure including modular operation theatres, ICU, HDU, NICU, Labour, Delivery and Recovery (LDR) suites, IVF laboratories and advanced fetal intervention facilities, in line with modern hospital standards followed at national and international levels.

Highlighting the project's structural resilience, it was given pat on the back for the advanced developed using advanced base isolation technology with 43 friction pendulum isolators, ensuring high seismic safety in Zone-V. The design and engineering components have been vetted by premier technical institutions to ensure quality and safety.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Minister was informed that the foundation works and ground floor structural frame-work are fully in place. Installation of base isolators is at an advanced stage, while pre-engineered building (PEB) structural works are underway across multiple zones. Procurement of major medical equipment, as well as mechanical and electrical systems, has also been initiated.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments, particularly the Health Department, to ensure uninterrupted fund flow, timely approvals and clearances, and smooth operationalisation of the facility upon completion.

Emphasising the importance of the project, he said that the new facility will mark a major milestone in upgrading health-care infrastructure and providing specialised, accessible and high-quality care to women and newborns across Jammu and Kashmir.

Don't Fear...

more thought, spend more time, exercise greater patience, and feel a sense of satisfaction when you decide such a case," Justice Kant said. "The same will happen with AI tools when we begin to use them carefully and consciously, ensuring that the judge within you remains independent and is not influenced by these technical tools," he added.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Supreme Court Justices B V Nagarathna and Aravind Kumar, and Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, Vibhu Bakhu, among others, were present.

Stating that the emergence of AI presents both significant opportunities and serious challenges for the judiciary, the CJI said that, on one hand, AI has the potential to enhance efficiency in meaningful ways—by assisting in legal research, streamlining case management, organising large volumes of data, and reducing administrative burdens that often consume valuable judicial time.

"With structured and targeted training, judicial officers can effectively harness these tools to improve productivity and ensure that greater time and attention are devoted to the core function of adjudication," he said.

However, he added, the adoption of such technology must be accompanied by a clear and conscious understanding of its inherent limitations. "AI operates on patterns, algorithms, and existing datasets; it does not possess judgment in the human sense, nor can it engage with the ethical, societal, and moral dimensions that frequently underpin judicial decision-making," Justice Kant said.

"The process of judging is not merely analytical—it is also reflective, contextual, and guided by constitutional values. An over-reliance on AI tools risks reducing this nuanced exercise to a mechanical output, thereby diluting the depth, independence, and integrity of judicial reasoning," he said.

Expressing concern about inaccuracies generated by such systems, he said there have been recent instances of fabricated precedents, incorrect citations, and entirely fictitious legal propositions being passed by AI platforms. "These so-called 'hallucinations' are not minor technical lapses; they strike at the very foundation of the judicial process, which rests on accuracy, authenticity, and trust. If left unchecked, they have the potential to mislead, distort legal arguments, compromise the quality of adjudication, and erode public confidence," he said.

Justice Kant further warned of the growing risk of AI tools being misused to generate misleading pleadings, frivolous claims, or superficially convincing yet substantively flawed submissions.

"Such practices not only burden the judicial system but also divert attention from genuine disputes that require urgent resolution. In an already strained system, this adds a layer of complexity that must be addressed seriously," he said.

Highlighting the role of judicial officers in this evolving landscape, the CJI said, "Technology must be approached with discernment, not deference." Any material generated through AI must be subjected to scrutiny and independent verification, he said, adding, "The responsibility to ensure accuracy, authenticity, and fairness cannot be delegated to a machine. It remains an essential and non-negotiable component of judicial duty." He emphasised that while navigating this evolving landscape, it is necessary to reaffirm a foundational principle—that justice is, and must remain, a human endeavour. "It is shaped by reasoning, guided by values, and enriched by experience, and no technological advancement can replicate the intuitive understanding and moral judgment at the core of judicial decision-making," he said.

The CJI said the future of the judiciary will be shaped by its ability to adapt without losing its core identity. This requires continuous learning, reflection, and a commitment to excellence, he added.

"We stand at a moment of transition, where the choices we make will define the trajectory of the judiciary for years to come. While our tools and methods may evolve, our fundamental responsibility remains unchanged—to deliver justice that is fair, accessible, and humane," he said.

"As custodians of this responsibility, we must ensure that technology serves to enhance, and not replace, the human element of justice," he added, noting that trust in the judiciary is sustained not by words but by the consistent discharge of duty in courtrooms across the country. Highlighting that there are moments in the life of an institution when introspection becomes indispensable, the CJI said the time to pause and introspect has arrived for the Indian judiciary.

A time comes when it must pause—not out of hesitation, but out of responsibility," he added.

J&K Launches...

the tourists, can scan the QR code and check the details about that person. "This will help them verify the credentials of the service provider, thereby building their trust

and also improving the security environment," an official said.

The QR codes contain the service provider's name, parentage, detailed address, mobile number, Aadhaar number, registration number, operational route, and whether he or she is police-verified, the officials said. The tourism stakeholders have welcomed the initiative, calling it a good step for the authenticity of the service providers and the safety of tourists. They said the initiative will help in gaining the trust of the visitors.

"The overall security has been strengthened after last year's attack. As far as service providers are concerned, we have been given QR codes after document verification; our Aadhaar numbers are linked as well," Ghulam Hassan, a service provider, said.

"All our details, addresses, etc., are there, which are linked to the local police station. Security forces check our QR codes periodically to ensure only genuine, registered, and properly verified service providers are operating," Hassan said. Another service provider, who did not wish to be named, said all service providers working in Pahalgam, including pony-ride operators, photographers, vendors, and others, have been issued a unique QR code containing their personal information after proper verification.

"Tourists will feel safer as they will have complete information about the service provider. This is a good initiative that will strengthen the security and safety of tourists," he said. According to the officials, vendors from outside J-K, who come here to earn their livelihood, have also been properly verified and vetted by police to ensure that no security lapses occur.

Comprehensive...

personnel of the district, reflecting a collective focus on professional upgradation. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Kartik Shrotriya (IPS), who presided over the felicitation ceremony, lauded the dedication and discipline of the trainees.

He also distributed appreciation certificates and mementoes to the guest faculty for their contribution.

Speaking on the occasion, the SSP emphasised the importance of continuous training and capacity building to effectively tackle evolving security challenges and ensure the safety of protected persons.

Senior officers reiterated that such specialised programmes are vital for maintaining high standards of professionalism, accountability, and efficiency within the force.

Police, they said, remain committed to strengthening operational efficiency through regular training initiatives and capacity enhancement programmes.

Separatist...

on Saturday in Srinagar, where the agency sought his custodial interrogation, the officials said.

After hearing the submissions, the officials said, the court sent him to a 10-day NIA remand, allowing investigators to question him in the 1996 case.

Shah, 72, was granted bail by the Supreme Court in a terror-funding case on March 12 and by a Delhi court in a money laundering case on March 28.

LG Saxena...

celebrated on May 1 at Jivetsal, followed by public exposition of the relics from May 2 to May 9. The relics will then be taken to Zanskar on May 11 and 12, and subsequently displayed at the Dhama Centre in Choglamsar on May 13 and 14, before returning to Delhi on May 15.

In addition to the main exposition, a series of parallel events will be organised across Ladakh. These include exhibitions of Buddhist artefacts and scriptures at the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies and Leh Palace, meditation and yoga sessions, medical health camps, and interfaith dialogues at the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre.

Major conferences and seminars on themes such as International Conference on Himalayan Buddhism, Peace in Times of Conflict, and the Past, Present and Future of Buddhism in Ladakh will also be held.

Highlighting the broader vision, Saxena stated that the event presents a unique opportunity to position Ladakh as a global hub for spiritual tourism and wellness. He stressed the importance of robust security arrangements, adequate public amenities, drinking water facilities, and the installation of CCTV cameras to ensure the safety and comfort of devotees.

Property Of...

networks of those involved in it, the officials said.

"Shamsdin, locally known as Pappi, is currently lodged in jail. He was involved in drug-related activities, and the property he built over time was funded using the proceeds of crime. We have demolished the property," the local tahsildar told reporters.

Shamsdin hailed from the border area in RS Pura and had built the property in Belcharama, he added.

According to officials, properties of more than 150 drug peddlers have either been seized or demolished in the Jammu region in the past year.

On Monday, LG Sinha directed the police to prepare a list of top drug peddlers as every police station and take action to dismantle their networks within 30 days.

He also warned that the administration will launch a stringent crackdown on traffickers and syndicates, including revocation of passport, driving licence, Aadhaar card and arms licence.

Soldier...

forward areas are dotted with landmines, which sometimes get washed away by rain, resulting in such types of accidents. In a separate operation, a rusted mortar shell was noticed at the Sagra border village in the Balnoi area and was subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion by army experts without causing any damage.

Cabinet...

government employees and DR to pensioners with effect from January 1, 2026, represents an increase of 2 per cent over the existing rate of 58 per cent of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for the price rise.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.



Director Agriculture Conducts Intensive Poonch Tour, Reviews Schemes and Farmer Welfare Initiatives

Poonch, 18 April 2026: Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta, conducted a comprehensive two-day tour of District Poonch to assess the on-ground implementation of various agricultural initiatives and to interact directly with farmers and stakeholders. He was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Sh. Sanjay Anand and Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Poonch, Sh. Yograj Singh Salathia, along with other senior officers and field functionaries of the Agriculture Department. During the visit, the Director inspected the Kisan Khidmat Bhar (KKG) at Panchayat Bhand Dhurian, where he interacted with Krishi Udhmi Sh. Afzal Naieem Khan. He reviewed the ongoing activities at the centre and took stock of the operational challenges being



faced. SDAO Mendhar, Sh. Sanjeev Gupta, along with AEO, JAEs and AEAs of the concerned zone, were also present during the inspection and briefed the Director on the functioning of the KKG. Subsequently, Director Agriculture held detailed interactions with local farmers to evaluate the outreach and effectiveness of various agriculture schemes. He enquired whether the intended benefits were reaching the

farming community and attentively listened to their concerns, particularly those related to field-level constraints and productivity. Continuing his tour, Sh. Anil Gupta visited Zone Chandak in District Poonch, where he inspected the fields of a progressive farmer, Sh. Ishraq Ahmad. The farmer has successfully adopted the bower system for the cultivation of bitter melon and bottle gourd, demonstrating an innovative

and efficient approach to vegetable production. The Director also inspected M/s Sumet Seed and Fertilizer Store at Chandak, Poonch, where he reviewed the availability and distribution of fertilizers. He interacted with local farmers present at the outlet to obtain firsthand feedback regarding the supply and accessibility of essential inputs. Stressing the importance of uninterrupted availability, the Director directed the CAO

to ensure that there is no disruption in fertilizer supply to farmers. He further warned that strict action must be taken against any dealer found indulging in malpractices. Later, Director Agriculture visited the Mini Soil Testing Laboratory at Chandak established under HADP (Project No. 19). He conducted a detailed inspection of the facility and reviewed its functioning and service delivery. Addressing the farmers, Sh. Anil Gupta highlighted the critical role of soil testing in sustainable agriculture and said, "Scientific soil analysis is the foundation of balanced nutrient management. Strengthening soil testing infrastructure will empower farmers to make informed decisions, optimize input use, and enhance soil health, thereby ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability."

Counter insurgency/counter terrorism refresher course for police personnel successfully concludes at Tiger Division

Jammu, 18 Apr 2026. A Joint Counter Insurgency / Counter Terrorism Refresher Course for J&K Police Personnel, conducted under the aegis of Tiger Division, successfully concluded today. The course, held from 07 to 18 April 2026, was jointly conceptualised by senior leadership of the Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police with the aim of enhancing operational synergy, coordination and standardisation of procedures in the dynamic security environment of Jammu & Kashmir. A total of 108 police personnel underwent intensive training conducted by Miran Sahib Brigade. The training focused on strengthening junior leadership capabilities, which are critical for effective execution of small team operations in counter-ter-



rorism scenarios. During the course, participants were trained in a wide spectrum of operational aspects, including Small Team Operations and Patrolling, Quick Reaction Team and Mobile Vehicle Check Post drills, Ambush and Counter-Ambush techniques, Cordon and Search Operations, Room Intervention procedures. In addition, specialised training was imparted in

weapon handling and firing, modern equipment usage, drone identification and counter-drone measures, first aid and casualty evacuation and intelligence collection and sharing. The training methodology incorporated rehearsals and tactical exercises, enabling participants to gain hands-on operational proficiency as well as familiarisation with hi-tech equipment including various types.

APS Ratnuchak organized a vibrant orientation programme

Jammu, 18 Apr 2026. Army Public School Ratnuchak organised a vibrant Orientation Programme for Classes I to XII at the Khetarpal Auditorium, bringing together students, parents, and faculty in a shared vision of holistic excellence. The initiative was designed to align the aspirations of learners and their families with the school's commitment to academic achievement and overall development. The programme began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge. The Guest of Honour delivered an inspiring address through his session titled "Failure to Flight, Preparing to Rise" where he shared his personal journey of perseverance and success, encouraging students to strive for excellence in their chosen paths. He also congratulated the school community on its outstanding Class X CBSE Board results and commended the institution for its exemplary infrastructure and robust sports



facilities, including archery, skating, shooting, and fencing. The keynote address by Mr Mukesh Mahay, Assistant Professor at Lovely Professional University, on the theme "Acceptance to Achievement," left a lasting impact.

BJP's Women Reservation cover to push delimitation exposed & defused: Tony

Law passed in 2023, No quota in 2024 polls: Tony dares BJP to implement on 543 seats

SUCHETGARH, April 18: Senior Congress leader and former DDC Suchetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony today issued a strongly worded statement asserting that the BJP-led Central Government's "hidden agenda" to alter India's electoral framework under the guise of women's reservation has been exposed and decisively defeated in Parliament.

Citing Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Tony said that the Women's Reservation Bill had already been passed unanimously in 2023 with full support of Congress



and other opposition parties. He alleged that the recent move by the government was not about empowering women, but about "hiding delimitation behind the women's bill"

to the legislation in 2023 despite raising concerns over its linkage with delimitation and census. "Congress had clearly warned the government not to link women's reservation with delimitation. Ignoring those concerns, the government has now exposed the BJP's real intentions," he said, while chairing a meeting at Suchetgarh.

Tony further stated that the manner and timing of the notification made it evident that the government was more interested in creating confusion than ensuring implementation. He noted that the united

opposition, led by Congress, stood firm and successfully resisted what he described as an attempt to weaken the democratic and federal structure of the country. Referring to Rahul Gandhi's remarks, he said the opposition's intervention "ensured that democracy was protected and the Constitution safeguarded. He alleged that linking delimitation with women's reservation would have reduced the representation of southern states like Tamil Nadu, as well as northeastern and smaller states, thereby disturbing the federal balance.

Pressed wrong button again: Bali Bhagat slams Congress for derailing Women's Reservation Dadi ruled India, mother led Congress—Rahul still stalled Women's Reservation: Bali Bhagat

Jammu, April 18: In a scathing attack following the dramatic developments in Parliament, senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat on Saturday accused the Congress party of "decades-long betrayal" of women's empowerment, saying the party has no moral right to speak on the Women's Reservation Bill. Reacting to the failure of the latest constitutional amendment in the Lok Sabha, Bhagat said the truth has finally come out before the nation. "When the moment came to walk the talk, Congress once again chose politics over women's empowerment. This is not new—this is their 30-year history," he said. The bill, which aimed to push forward 33% reservation for women



in Parliament, failed to secure the required two-thirds majority, with opposition parties—including Congress—voting against it citing delimitation concerns. Bhagat lashed out at the Congress leadership, stating that their stand exposes a pattern of obstruction. "From the 1996 Bill to the 2010

version that lapsed in Lok Sabha, and now again in 2026—Congress has consistently ensured that the Women's Reservation Bill never saw the light of day," he said, referring to how earlier versions of the bill repeatedly failed due to lack of consensus and political will. "Taking a direct dig at the party's legacy, Bhagat said, "It is ironic that a party which claims to stand for women had a woman Prime Minister in Indira Gandhi and has been led for years by Sonia Gandhi, yet failed to ensure reservation for women in Parliament." He further accused Congress of hypocrisy, pointing out that even during its decade-long UPA rule, the party failed to pass the bill in the Lok Sabha. "They hid behind coalition com-

pulsions then, and today they hide behind technical excuses like delimitation. The truth is simple—they never wanted this reform," he asserted. Referring to recent statements by opposition leaders, Bhagat said Congress is now trying to "mislead the nation" by supporting women's reservation in principle but blocking it in practice. Notably, Congress leaders argued they backed women's quotas but opposed linking it to constituency redrawing, calling the move unconstitutional. Bhagat also highlighted that Parliament had already passed the landmark women's quota law in 2023 after nearly three decades of debate, calling it a "historic step finally delivered after years of Congress inaction."

Congress' anti-women stand exposed: Rekha Mahajan targets Opposition after Bill collapse

JAMMU, Apr 18: BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan strongly criticized Opposition parties after the Constitution Amendment Bill on women's reservation failed to pass in the Lok Sabha. In a sharp statement, Mahajan termed the opposition's stand as "anti-women and regressive," accusing them of deliberately blocking a historic reform aimed at ensuring greater political representation for women. She said the bill reflected the commitment of the BJP-led government toward empowering women and strengthening inclusive democracy. Mahajan emphasized that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, women's empowerment has been a top priority, with several landmark initiatives introduced to uplift women socially, economically, and politically. "The failure of the bill exposes the opposition's double standards. They speak about women's rights but fail to support concrete measures when it matters most," she said. She further urged the people to take note of the opposition's stance,



stating that such actions hinder progress toward gender equality in governance. Reaffirming BJP's commitment, Rekha Mahajan said the party will continue to advocate for women's rightful participation in decision-making processes at all levels. The BJP leader called for renewed efforts to build consensus and ensure that women receive their due representation in the country's democratic institutions.

MLA Arvind brings big relief to Ward 39 with new lane & drain works

"Public Welfare and Civic Improvement my Core Focus": Gupta

Jammu, April 18: In a continued push towards strengthening urban infrastructure, Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta today inaugurated lane and drain development works in Ward No. 39 of the Jammu West Assembly Constituency, with an estimated project cost of Rs 45 lakh. The works have been taken up to address long-standing civic concerns in the locality, particularly issues related to damaged lanes, poor drainage, and waterlogging. The upgraded infrastructure is expected to significantly improve sanitation, ensure smooth movement within the area,



and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. Speaking at the event, Arvind Gupta reiterated his commitment to holistic development and responsive governance. He stated that the project reflects the government's focus on strengthening basic infrastructure at the grassroots level. "This facility will provide convenience and dignity to the local resi-

dents. We are continuously working to upgrade civic amenities and ensure that every locality in Jammu West witnesses visible development," he said. "Infrastructure development at the ward level is the foundation of a modern and progressive city. Projects like these directly impact the daily lives of people by ensuring

BJP Made a Mockery of Women with Reservation Bill: Rattan Lal Gupta Says BJP Reduced Women's Bill to a Political Gimmick;

Jammu, 18 April: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta launched a scathing attack on the BJP, accusing it of playing a "crucial political charade" with the women of India by mishandling the Women's Reservation Bill. Addressing a gathering at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan in Jammu, chaired by District President Jammu Urban, Chandar Mohan Sharma, Gupta said the BJP government "reduced a historic opportunity for women's empowerment into a hollow spectacle of political posturing." He argued that the ruling party introduced the bill despite being fully



aware that it lacked the crucial two-thirds majority required for its passage. "This was not legislative intent; it was legislative theatrics," Gupta remarked, adding that the government failed to build consensus or take the opposition into confidence. "When you bring a consti-

tutional amendment without groundwork or dialogue, you are not empowering women; you are merely exploiting their aspirations for political optics." He further described the move as "a headline-hunting exercise rather than a genuine reform effort," asserting that such actions

undermine both parliamentary credibility and public trust. Calling upon women across the country to remain vigilant, Mahajan urged them to unite and resist what he termed as "tokenism masquerading as empowerment." He emphasized the need for sustained, inclusive policies rather than "one-off symbolic gestures designed for applause, not impact." Highlighting the stance of the Omar-led government, Gupta said it remains committed to substantive empowerment of women through meaningful participation in development across all sectors. Referring to the 131st Constitutional Amendment

Bill, Gupta reiterated that the BJP knowingly pushed forward legislation without the numerical strength to secure its passage. "Introducing a bill destined to fail is not governance, 'tokenism masquerading as empowerment,'" he quipped, noting that the bill's defeat in the Lok Sabha exposed the government's lack of seriousness. On this occasion Prabha Salathia former President Women Wing Congress and District President Women wing, Congress along with women supporters joined National Conference. The names are Kalish Jamwal, Sunita Jamwal, Sheetal Manhas, Narinder Kour, Kulbir Kour.

SSP SAMBA LEADS MASSIVE ANTI-DRUG RALLY AT BARI BRAHMANA ORGANIZED UNDER NASHA MukT ABHIYAN



Samba: April 18, 2026: Samba Police today organized a massive anti-drug awareness rally at Bari Brahmanna to make the public especially youth aware about the disastrous effects of the drugs and encourage them to stay away from

narcotics. The rally was led by SSP Samba Sh. Anuj Kumar, IPS accompanied by Addl. SP Samba, SDPO Bari Brahmanna and SHO PS Bari Brahmanna. It saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of

people, respectable persons, youth and police personnel. Students from several Govt. and private schools including Humanity Public School, Bharti Public School, Star Secondary School of Intellectuals, Govt. Girls

Middle School, Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School also actively participated in the rally to spread awareness against drug abuse.

The rally began at SIDCO Chowk Bari Brahmanna, passed through Main Bazar, Railway Station Chowk, Bishnah Road and concluded back at SIDCO Chowk. Participants raised anti-drug slogans and carried banners and posters highlighting the dangers of substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Samba Sh. Anuj Kumar, IPS reaffirmed the commitment of Samba Police to eradicate the drug menace by taking strict legal action against drug traffickers and suppliers. He emphasized that the rally was part of the ongoing Nasha MukT Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, which aims to promote a drug-free society and encourage public involvement in combating drug abuse. He further added that Samba Police is conducting large-scale awareness programs across the district to educate the general public-particularly the youth-about the serious consequences of drug addiction.

Indian Army engages through an awareness session with students at Mendhar



Poonch: 18 Apr 2026.

The Indian Army conducted a series of impactful awareness sessions at Senior Higher Secondary School, Mendhar, engaging 60 students and 5 teachers. The focus of the sessions was on the New Education Policy, Cyber Hygiene and the importance of distinguishing Safe and Unsafe Touch, aiming to build awareness

on critical issues that are relevant to the younger generation. The initiative was designed to empower students with essential knowledge on the evolving education system and how to navigate the digital world safely. The session on Cyber Hygiene provided insights into online security, while the discussion on Safe/Unsafe Touch emphasized personal safety

and well-being. This educational effort helped strengthen the civil-military connect and fostered a sense of responsibility among the youth. The initiative not only promoted a safer, smarter and more aware generation but also reinforced the Indian Army's commitment to empowering the future leaders of our society.

Indian Army launches Medical aid camp at remote areas

Ramban: 18 Apr 2026. The Indian Army successfully launched a medical aid camp in the remotest areas of Tehsil Khari, located in Ramban district, near the Pir Panjal ranges. This humanitarian initiative aimed at providing essential medical supplies and services to the underserved local villagers. The camp offered a range of services, including emergency healthcare, preventive treatments and vital medications for common ailments. In addition to offering medical support, the Indian Army also assured the local population of their safety and security, emphasizing the importance of a peaceful



and stable environment for progress. By directly engaging with the community, the initiative not only delivered crucial support in a time of need but also strengthened the civil-military relations in the region.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's continued commitment to improving the welfare of the people, ensuring their well-being and fostering cooperation between the armed forces and local communities.

Series of Activities Organised under 100 Days Campaign of Nasha MukT Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan

Ramban, April 17, 2026:

Govt. Degree College Ramban successfully organised a series of activities, including a debate and quiz competition, as part of the ongoing "100 Days Campaign" under the Nasha MukT Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. The programme was conducted under the esteemed leadership of the Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, and was coordinated by the College Well-Being and Anti-Substance Cell. In his address, the Principal lauded the sincere efforts of the organising team and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students. He encouraged them to act as



responsible citizens and contribute meaningfully towards the realisation of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Neshika Bhutyal of Semester-II secured the 1st position, while Mohini Thakur and Aditi Thakur secured the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

In the quiz competition, four teams from Semester-II, Semester-VI, and Semester-VIII participated. The team from Semester-II secured the 1st position,

followed by teams from Semester-VI and Semester-VIII, which secured the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. More than 80 students participated enthusiastically in both events, expressing their views on the pressing issue of substance abuse and emphasising the need for a drug-free society. The activities served as an effective platform to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of drug addiction among the youth. The programme concluded with a pledge on Nasha MukT Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, reaffirming the commitment of all participants towards building a drug-free society.

WORLD LIVER DAY 2026: BUILDING A STRONG LIVER THROUGH SOLID HABITS



DR. HARBANS SINGH

April 19, 2026 - Every year, World Liver Day is observed to raise awareness about liver health and the prevention of liver-related diseases. This year's theme, "Solid Habits, Strong Liver", sends a clear message: the strength of your liver depends on the everyday choices you make. The liver, the body's largest internal organ, plays a vital role in digestion, detoxification, and metabolism. Yet, liver diseases are on the rise globally due to unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, excessive alcohol consumption, and late diagnosis. The 2026 campaign focuses on four key habits:

Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Staying physically active to maintain a healthy weight and improve blood circulation. Reducing alcohol intake to prevent liver damage and related complications. Scheduling regular liver screenings for early detection of problems.

Health is not built in a day-it is the sum of countless small decisions made over a lifetime. This truth lies at the heart of World Liver Day 2026, whose theme "Solid Habits, Strong Liver" calls on people everywhere to nurture their liver through consistent, mindful living. Maintaining a healthy liver involves a balanced diet, regular exercise, limiting alcohol, avoiding toxins, and practicing preventive healthcare. Diet and Nutrition Eating a balanced, nutrient-rich diet is crucial

for liver health. Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, and healthy fats like olive oil and fatty fish, while limiting saturated fats, refined carbohydrates, and added sugars to prevent fatty liver disease. Incorporate liver-friendly foods such as leafy greens, garlic, turmeric, beets, cruciferous vegetables, citrus fruits, and green tea, which contain antioxidants and compounds that support liver detoxification and reduce inflammation. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water to help the liver flush out toxins.

Exercise and Weight Management Regular physical activity helps maintain a healthy weight, reduces liver fat, and improves overall liver function. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, such as brisk walking, cycling, or swimming. Maintaining a healthy weight is particularly important to prevent nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which is linked to obesity and metabolic dysfunction.

Alcohol and Toxin Avoidance Limit alcohol consumption, as excessive intake can damage liver cells and lead to cirrhosis. Men should generally limit to two drinks per day and women to one drink per day. Avoid exposure to toxins from cleaning products, insecticides, and chemicals, and always use protective measures like masks and ventilation when handling them. Avoid smoking and be cautious with over-the-counter medications and supplements that may harm the liver.

Preventive Healthcare Vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B can protect against viral liver infections. Practice safe sex and avoid sharing needles to reduce the risk of Hepatitis B and C. Wash hands thoroughly to prevent Hepatitis A transmission. Regular medical check-ups can help monitor liver function and detect early signs of liver disease.

Lifestyle and Stress Management Adequate sleep, stress management, and avoiding chronic overwork support liver health. Consistent healthy habits, rather than short-term detox diets, are key to maintaining liver function over time.

In Ayurveda, prevention of hepatic disorders focuses on pacifying aggravated Pitta, clearing "ama" (toxins), and strengthening the liver's detoxification functions (Yakrit). Several single herbs and small herb combinations are used in a preventive, prophylactic mode rather than

only in established disease.

Key hepatoprotective herbs
1. **Bhumyamalaki (Phyllanthus amarus)**: Considered one of the most important hepatoprotective herbs in Ayurveda programmes for liver health. It shows antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral activity; helps protect hepatocytes, improve bile flow, and support regeneration of hepatic tissue; useful in early-stage hepatic stress and viral hepatitis; prone profiles.
2. **Katuki (Picrorhizakarota)**: Strongly bitter, Pitta-pacifying, and hepatoprotective; used in classical texts for jaundice (K?mal) and Yakrit?vik?ra. Clinical-scale studies report membrane-stabilizing, antioxidant, and anti-fibrotic effects, making it useful in preventing progression of steatohepatitis and chemical-induced hepatic injury.

3. **Kalmegha (Andrographis paniculata)**: Intensely bitter, U?avirya, with marked anti-inflammatory and choleric (bile-enhancing) action. Rich in andrographolides that modulate oxidative stress and inflammatory cytokines; used in Ayurvedic liver/support protocols to prevent toxin-mediated hepatic insult.
4. **Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia)**: Referred to as "Yak?Pushikara" (liver/nourishing) for its immune-modulating and detoxifying properties. Improves phase?I and phase?II hepatic detoxification enzymes and reduces oxidative liver damage, making it suitable for long-term preventive use in metabolic and toxin-exposed individuals.

5. **Haridra (Curcuma longa)**: Widespread culinary spice with strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant curcuminoids. Enhances bile secretion, reduces hepatic fat?peroxidation, and supports healthy Pitta metabolism; often used as a daily dietary adjunct rather than a high-dose drug.

6. **Neem (Azadirachta indica)**: Described as "Sarva?Rogani?hri?"; strongly detoxifying and blood-purifying. Helps clear endogenous toxins and xenobiotics, thereby reducing hepatic oxidative load and supporting prophylaxis in metabolic syndrome-type profiles.

7. **Amalaki (Phyllanthus emblica)**: Amalaki and its key phytochemicals (gallic acid, ellagic acid, quercetin, corilagin, tannins) exhibit strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity, reducing oxidative stress and preventing lipid peroxidation in hepatocytes. Experimental studies show that Amalaki significantly pro-

tects against chemically-induced liver injury with normalisation of liver/enzyme markers such as SGOT and SGPT, indicating preserved hepatocyte integrity. Regular intake (as fresh fruit, powder, juice, or Churna) is considered useful for prophylaxis of drug-induced, alcohol-related, or toxin-mediated hepatic injury, especially in combination with other hepatoprotective herbs.

8. **Chirata (Swertia chirayata)**: is an intensely bitter Ayurvedic herb with well-documented hepatoprotective activity, used both in preventive and therapeutic liver/support regimens. It is rich in xanthenes (amarogentin, swertiapanin, etc.), flavonoids, and bitter principles. Chirata acts mainly by reducing oxidative stress, enhancing endogenous antioxidant enzymes (SOD, GSH), and decreasing lipid peroxidation in hepatocytes. In Ayurvedic practice, it is used to detoxify the liver, stimulate bile secretion, and lower elevated liver/enzyme levels, making it relevant in early-stage hepatitis, fatty liver-type profiles, and jaundice-prone conditions. Panchakarma in Preventive Hepatology: Panchakarma in preventive hepatology is used as a periodic, structured detoxification strategy to reduce hepatic "toxic load" (Ama, vitiated Pitta), enhance biliary flow, and strengthen Agni-dhatu metabolism before overt liver disease appears. It is particularly relevant in individuals at risk (e.g., metabolic/syndrome profile, alcohol exposure, long-term drug use, or

chronic indigestion).

Primary preventive action: Regular seasonal Panchakarma (especially in seasonal transitions) is described in classical and modern Ayurvedic overviews as a "Yakrit?shodhana and rejuvenation" measure that decreases endogenous toxin accumulation, oxidative stress, and low-grade hepatic inflammation.

Targeted detox: Specialised Panchakarma-based liver?detox protocols are used to improve bile secretion, reduce fatty infiltration, and enhance energy and mental clarity, with some centres explicitly marketing them as "preventive liver detox" rather than only curative. By combining these strategies-health diet, exercise, moderation in alcohol, toxin avoidance, vaccinations, lifestyle management, and use of hepatoprotective herbs and Panchakarma-you can significantly support your liver's health and overall well-being. World Liver Day 2026 highlights the silent yet escalating burden of liver disease, underscoring the urgent need for early detection and proactive screening. Guided by the global campaign theme "Solid Habits, Strong Liver", the focus is on building awareness, encouraging preventive measures, and promoting holistic management, including Ayurveda, to safeguard one of the body's most vital organs.

INDIAN ARMY HOSTS "CHAI PE CHARCHA" WITH SARPANCH, PANCH AND ESM IN MATHIANIGALA

Rajouri: 18 Apr 2026.

The Indian Army organized a Sampark Activity titled "Chai Pe Charcha" at Mathianigala, bringing together 16 local beneficiaries, including 03 Sarpanch, 06 Panch and 07 Ex-Servicemen.

The informal gathering aimed to foster stronger civil-military relations and build mutual trust and cooperation between the Army and the local community.

During the event, participants discussed various pressing local issues, including security concerns, community welfare, development initiatives and youth engagement. Ex-servicemen shared their invaluable

experiences and reaffirmed their unwavering support for the Indian Army. Representatives from the Indian Army highlighted the importance of citizen involvement in ensuring peace, maintaining vigilance and promoting communal harmony in the region. The event concluded on a positive note, with participants enjoying tea and engaging in informal conversations, reinforcing the goodwill, cooperation and strong bond between the Indian Army and the local population. This initiative reflects the Army's commitment to strengthening ties with the community and promoting a harmonious and secure environment.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for key development projects in Kulgam, reiterates Government's commitment to inclusive, accelerated growth Also inaugurates 100-bedded Girls' Hostel, Ayush Dispensary

KULGAM, APRIL 18: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today laid foundation stones for several key developmental projects in Kulgam district and also dedicated vital infrastructure to the public. MLA, Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; Mission Director ICDS, Director AYUSH, ADC Kulgam, senior officers of district administration, other sectoral officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion. In line with the Government's sustained push for inclusive and equitable development across Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said that this initiative reflects the Government's approach towards grassroots-focused development strategy. Afterwards, the Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction and upgradation of the Chiripora-Trengabal road under the Public Works (R&B) department at an approximate cost



of Rs. 2 crores. Addressing the locals after foundation laying ceremony, the Minister said that this project is expected to significantly improve accessibility, reduce travel time and open new avenues for economic growth and service delivery in these areas. Highlighting various achievements of Omar Abdullah led Government, Sakeena Itoo maintained that the Government is committed to equitable development of

Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on rural and peripheral areas. She outlined that the Government has accelerated rollout of rural road connectivity projects, expansion of educational infrastructure, strengthening healthcare facilities, and enhanced social security coverage to ensure that development benefits reach every section of society. She further underscored that special focus is being laid on bridging developmental gaps in remote and under-served areas. Later, the Minister also inaugurated a 100-bedded Girls' Hostel (KGBV - Type IV) at Kulgam, aimed at promoting access to education for girls from far-flung and disadvantaged areas. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the hostel represents a significant step towards empowering girl students by reducing their commute and encouraging higher enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education.

DC Anantnag chairs CLU Meeting; Directs streamlining Land Use Conversion Cases

ANANTNAG, APRIL 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC), (Chairman District Level CLU Committee), Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting on Change of Land Use (CLU), with the concerned officers at the DC office. The meeting was convened to deliberate upon and dispose of various cases involving the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes under Section 133-A of the J&K Land Revenue Act, Svt. 1996. ADC, SEs Hydraulics, PWD & PDD KPDCM, GM DIC, ACR, SDMS Bijbehara/ Dooru/ Pahalgam, DFOs, CAO, Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, DFOCC and other officials attended the meeting. During the pro-



ceedings, the DC reviewed applications in accordance with the J&K Agricultural Land (Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Regulations, 2022. He emphasized the importance of adhering to these regulations to ensure balanced and sustainable development while safeguarding agriculture sector. He further called for adherence to the legal mechanism and procedural guidelines for disposing of the CLU applications. Taking strong notice of the procedural gaps observed during the review, the DC asked the concerned departments to take immediate corrective measures and streamline the process as envisaged by the relevant regulations. He enjoined upon the officers to focus on resolving the issues and discrepancies so that appropriate action is taken in a time bound manner as per laid down criteria.

Robotic surgery offers 95-99 percent success rate in knee and hip replacement: Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh

Park Hospital, Mohali perform over 100 robotic joint resurfacing surgeries of patients from Srinagar

Srinagar, April 18: To create awareness on osteoarthritis and recent advances in robotic knee resurfacing surgery, a team of doctors from Park Hospital, Mohali addressed a press conference here on Saturday. Park Hospitals is North India's 2nd largest super specialty hospital network with 17 hospitals, 900 ICU beds, 15 cath labs, 45 modular OTs and over 1200 doctors. Talking to media, Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh director-ortho and robotic joint replacement surgery said that they have a state-of-art Robotic Arthroplasty Centre of Excellence at Mohali and we have successfully performed over 100 robotic joint resurfacing surgeries of the patients from Srinagar. We are empaneled under Ayushman scheme and patients with golden card can now avail cashless treatment for joint



replacement at Park Hospital Mohali, he said. Dr Bhanu further said, "The number of knee replacement surgery is increasing day by day in India. If

we look at the statistics, every year more than 2.5 million people undergo this procedure in India. Total knee replacement involves placing metal implants in the knee area to recreate the joint surface." With the recent advancement, robotic knee replacement surgery is now being performed in 12-15 minutes. There is no requirement of blood transfusion, no sutures, no drains and the surgery is performed from small cuts (3.5 to 4 inches), informed Dr Anil Kapoor consultant-ortho. The patient is made to walk 4 hours after the surgery and can climb stairs from the next d. The full recovery happens within 7 -10 days, said Dr Kapoor. Ashish Chhabra, Group CEO, North, PARK Hospitals said that PARK Hospital Mohali is now empaneled with ECHS, CGHS, ESI, Ayushman, Haryana and HP governments and all major TPA, corporates and at kind of robotic joint resurfacing surgeries and sports injury surgeries are routinely done at Park.

District Admin Bandipora organises Awareness Programmes under Nasha Mukti Abhiyan

BANDIPORA, APRIL 18: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora organised a series of drug awareness programmes across educational institutions in the district, aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects

of substance abuse. The programmes featured screening of awareness films, short videos and documentaries in PM SHRI HSS Shadipora, GHS Hajin, HSS PTL Gurez, HSS Nowgam, HS Jurniyal, HS Ketsson, HS Odina, HSS Chuntimulla, HSS Hajin, HS Aachora.

Table with columns: Corridor, Corridor Details, Tender Details, Item Description, S. No., Q. No., Item-111, Item-112. Includes details for Northern Railway corridors and tender specifications.

100 Days Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyaan: Grand district level awareness programme held at GDC Shopian; Multi sectoral approach emphasized to combat drug abuse

SHOPIAN, APRIL 18: As part of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir campaign, a grand district level awareness programme on drug abuse was conducted today at Government Degree College Shopian. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, attended the event as Chief Guest. The ADC in his address, emphasized the critical role of parents, teachers, and society in protecting youth from drug addiction. He called for a coordinated and proactive approach at the grassroots level, focus-



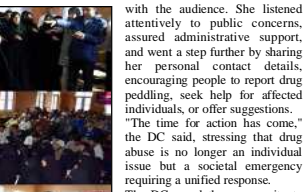
ing on awareness, guidance, and early intervention. The programme was attended by Principal GDC Shopian, Prof Tariq Ahmad Mir, civil society members, representatives of traders associations, vendors, di-

vers, ASHA workers, students, and officials from various departments. CEO, Municipal Council Shopian, Suhail Ahmad, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the broader social importance of the campaign. He stated that the fight against drug abuse must evolve beyond a government initiative into a people's movement, requiring collective ownership and sustained public participation. He emphasized that meaningful success can only be achieved when all sections of society work together in a coordinated manner. Dr. Ishrat Jabeen, Clinical Physiologist, spoke on the concept of substance abuse, outlining its causes and adverse health implications. She emphasized the need for awareness, early identification, and preventive interventions to reduce the

Bandipora launches 'Dosti Discussion Series' across schools to combat Drug Abuse

DC Administrates Anti-Drug Pledge, Engages students and Residents in Wide-Ranging Interaction

BANDIPORA, APRIL 18: In a significant community outreach under the 100-Day Mission Mode campaign of the Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora on Saturday took the fight against drug abuse to the grassroots by organising a "Dosti Discussion" at Higher Secondary School Anagam, focusing on the transformative role of peer groups in preventing substance abuse among youth. Saturday's session at HSS Anagam marks the beginning of a district-wide series. The District Administration has planned "Dosti Discussions" across every High and Higher Secondary School in Bandipora during the 100-day campaign, ensuring that no school



and no student is left out of the conversation. The session witnessed active participation from students, parents, and local residents, setting a tone that was less of administrative instruction and more of collective dialogue. Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib administered the anti-drug pledge and engaged in an open and candid interaction with the audience. She listened attentively to public concerns, assured administrative support, and went a step further by sharing her personal contact details, encouraging people to report drug peddling, seek help for affected individuals, or offer suggestions. "The time for action has come," the DC said, stressing that drug abuse is no longer an individual issue but a societal emergency requiring a unified response. The DC urged the community to display anti-drug messages prominently at mosques, schools, and other public spaces, and called upon families, educational institutions, religious bodies, and youth organisations to actively contribute to the campaign.

1st batch of Haj Pilgrims leave from Haj House Srinagar DC Srinagar, SSP extend greetings to Pilgrims, wish them safe and secure journey of sacred Haj

SRINAGAR, APRIL 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sandeep Chakraborty on Saturday morning visited Haj House, Binnia where 1st batch of Haj Pilgrims left in Buses for Srinagar International Airport. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM, West, Irfan Bahadur, Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee, Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, SP, West Intiyaz, CMO Srinagar & other senior Officers of Civil and Police, besides, members of Haj Committee and other concerned were present on the occasion to see off the Haj Pilgrims. Interacting with the Pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar congratulated them and extended his best wishes for a safe and smooth journey. The DC along with SSP welcomed the pilgrims along with the senior officers of various line departments and wished for their safe and seamless journey and also wished for their well being throughout.



North in News

EDITORIAL

World Liver Day
Changing diets, sedentary lifestyles are a great concern

World Liver Day is observed every year on 19 April to raise global awareness about liver health. The rising burden of liver diseases, and the importance of early prevention, detection, and treatment. The day serves as a reminder that the liver is one of the most vital yet underappreciated organs in the human body, performing more than 500 essential functions including detoxifying harmful substances, metabolizing drugs and alcohol, producing bile for digestion of fats, storing vitamins and minerals, regulating blood clotting, maintaining blood sugar levels, and supporting immunity. Despite this central role in survival, liver diseases remain silent for years because the organ does not show symptoms until significant damage has occurred. With the World Health Organization estimating that more than 2 million deaths occur annually due to liver related causes, including viral hepatitis, alcohol associated liver disease, non alcoholic fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer, and in India the situation is equally concerning because changing diets, sedentary lifestyles, rising obesity, increased alcohol consumption, and undiagnosed hepatitis B and C infections have made liver disease a major public health challenge. Alcohol remains a major risk factor and World Liver Day campaigns consistently stress that there is no safe limit for liver health, because alcohol is metabolized into acetaldehyde which directly injures liver cells, and regular or binge drinking can cause fatty liver, alcoholic hepatitis, and cirrhosis, and the risk increases when alcohol is combined with obesity, diabetes, or viral hepatitis. Obesity and diabetes are driving a global epidemic of fatty liver disease. Schools and workplaces can contribute by offering healthy canteen options, standing desks, and daily physical activity breaks, and parents should limit screen time and sugary snacks for children because pediatric fatty liver disease is rising and can affect growth and learning. In Jammu and Kashmir the message of World Liver Day is especially relevant because dietary patterns are shifting toward refined oils and packaged foods, winter inactivity reduces exercise, and awareness of hepatitis B vaccination remains incomplete among adults, so the UT health department can use the day to organize screening camps at district hospitals, conduct awareness sessions in colleges, and train ASHA and Anganwadi workers to counsel households on diet, alcohol, and testing, while schools can hold poster competitions and quiz programs to instill liver friendly habits early. Religious leaders can amplify messages about avoiding intoxicants and practicing hygiene, because community voices improve acceptance. In a region like J&K where youth are the majority, adopting these habits now will prevent a wave of liver disease tomorrow, making World Liver Day a catalyst for personal pledges and community change that keeps families healthy and productive for years to come.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Nari Shakti at the Heart of New India's MSME Revolution

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood before Parliament and championed the Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam in September 2023, reserving one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures for women, he articulated a conviction that India cannot rise unless its women rise with it. That same intent is visible every single day in the work done by Government in MSME sector.

The MSME sector is often called the backbone of India's economy. But if we look closely, at its heart stands the quiet force of women entrepreneurs. And today, that quiet force is finally receiving national recognition, institutional support, and policy momentum it has always deserved.

The Numbers Tell the Story

The scale of women's participation in India's MSME ecosystem is constantly expanding. As of early 2026, over 3.11 crore women-led enterprises stand registered on the Udyam Registration Portal and the Udyam Assist Platform. In fact, as per Udyam and Udyam Assist registrations, women-owned enterprises account for approximately 40% of all registered MSMEs in the country and play a significant role in employment generation. One of the most consequential reforms for women entrepreneurs has been the simplification of registration through the Udyam Registration Portal. Fully online, paperless, and based on self-declaration, it removed the bureaucratic gate keeping that disproportionately disadvantaged woman. The Udyam Assist Platform, launched in January 2023, went further in reaching women in the informal economy who lacked PAN or GSTN, and brought them within the embrace of Priority Sector Lending and government scheme benefits.

This is the direct result of a government that chose to place women at the centre of its economic agenda as drivers of

growth. Nari Shakti as Economic Force

Prime Minister Modi has consistently emphasized that empowering women is not a social obligation but is a national strategy. In his own words, when women are empowered, families are empowered, and when families are empowered, the nation grows from strength to strength.

The Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam is the most visible expression of this philosophy in the political sphere. But in the economic sphere especially in the MSME sector, the government's commitment to women has been translated into a comprehensive, multi-pronged policy framework that touches credit, skill, market access, recognition, and dignity.

A Policy Architecture Built for Women

The Ministry of MSME has systematically woven women's empowerment into every major programme and scheme it runs.

Together, they support entrepreneurs through eight key intervention categories on the supply side: access to technology, access to credit and finance, promoting digitalization, infrastructure support, formalization and inclusion, access to market, and industry-grade skilling.

Over 3.2 lakh women-owned enterprises have been supported under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) over the past five years. As of recent data, 39% of all PMEGP beneficiaries are women which are a testament to both the scheme's design and women's hunger to build.

The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSSE) offers women borrowers enhanced guarantee cover of up to 90%, making banks more willing to extend credit without collateral demands.

Further, the Public Procurement Policy was amended to mandate that

Central Ministries, Departments, and Public Sector Enterprises procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women-owned micro and small enterprises. This creates a guaranteed, predictable market for women entrepreneurs thereby converting government spending into women's business growth. It is encouraging to note that in financial year 2025-26, 3.5% of the total procurement by Central Ministries / Departments / Central Public Sector Enterprises was from women MSMEs.

Under the ZED (Zero Defect Zero Effect) Certification scheme, women-owned MSMEs receive 100% subsidy on certification costs. These details matter and they show the efforts of a Ministry that has thought carefully about where women face barriers and has placed targeted support at precisely those pressure points.

The Mahila CoS Jyana offers exclusive skill development and financial support to women artisans in the coir sector. Special focus is being given to handhold women for marketing preparedness through MSME-TEAM (Trade Enablement and Marketing) under which 50% of its 5 lakh beneficiary have been targeted to be women. The Yashasvini Campaign runs dedicated nationwide awareness drives to inform women about MSME schemes and registration benefits. Under the special MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0 organised for women entrepreneurs alone, over 18,888 ideas were received which clearly shows an overflow of creative and entrepreneurial energy waiting for an outlet.

Additionally, the ministry has a dedicated Women Entrepreneurship Cell (WEC), which serves as the nodal point for advancing women's entrepreneurship by coordinating across schemes, monitoring and assessing outcomes for women, and engaging with ecosystem stakeholders.

All such initiatives have focused on gender targeting and convergence and reflect a

trajectory from women's inclusion as a subsidy provision within individual schemes toward a more deliberate, cross-cutting architecture for gender-responsive entrepreneurship support.

Skill, Confidence, Community

Beyond credit and markets, the government has recognized that entrepreneurship is also a matter of skill and confidence. In the North-East, where women have traditionally been the economic backbone of their communities, targeted Entrepreneurship Development Programmes have ensured women form the majority of trained participants.

Self-Help Groups have been integrated with MSME support ecosystems, creating communities of women entrepreneurs who support each other, building not just businesses but networks of mutual strength.

This is a government in forward motion. Each budget, each scheme, each portal simplification is a brick in an edifice that Prime Minister Modi began constructing with a simple but radical premise that India's women are a potential to be unleashed.

The Spirit of Nari Shakti in Every Enterprise

The Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam told the world that India's women belong in its Parliament. The MSME policies of this Government are telling the world that India's women belong in its marketplaces, its factories, its export chains, its innovation hubs, and its boardrooms.

These are two expressions of the same truth that Prime Minister Modi has made the cornerstone of his vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047. A developed India is an India where more than 3 crore women entrepreneurs (and still counting) are the very engine of development.

We are not there yet. But under this Government's watch, and with this Prime Minister's commitment, we are unmistakably on our way.

GCC divisions

RAJA MUNEEB

The collapse of the Islamabad talks between the United States and Iran has abruptly ended what many had hoped would serve as a pathway to de-escalation. Instead of easing tensions the failure of these negotiations has pushed the situation into a phase that is now marked by heightened uncertainty and strategic unease. What was once framed as a potential diplomatic breakthrough has now given way to growing concerns about the possibility of a direct confrontation intensifying further. This breakdown is already beginning to reverberate across the Muslim world placing governments under increasing pressure as they assess the risks of a broader conflict.

More importantly, the failure of these talks signals a weakening of diplomatic safeguards that previously acted as a buffer against open conflict. As these guardrails erode, the likelihood of instability spreading across political, economic, and ideological divides becomes far more pronounced. In that sense, the collapse of the Islamabad negotiations is not only redrawing the military frontlines but it is also quietly dismantling the long-held assumptions about unity among the Gulf countries on one hand while on the other

it is exposing the fragile and transactional nature of Pakistan's relationships with some of its closest Gulf allies. What once appeared as a cohesive geopolitical bloc anchored in shared religious identity and economic interdependence is now revealing the deep fissures within competing national interests and a recalibration of alliances that is shaped less by ideology and more by hard edged strategic realism. At the heart of this unraveling lies the evolving crisis landscape stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Levant. The intensification of the regional tensions that is driven by proxy conflicts, maritime insecurity, and the recalibration of U.S. engagement in the region has forced members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to respond not as a unified bloc, but as individual states pursuing divergent security doctrines.

While the GCC was originally conceived as a collective security framework in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution, the present crisis has underscored how far that vision has drifted from reality. The divergence begins with differing threat perceptions. For countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the regional instability presents both a security challenge and an opportunity to

assert individual strategic autonomy. Riyadh, still recalibrating after years of costly entanglement in Yemen, has adopted a more cautious and diplomatically layered approach by engaging in back-channel dialogue with Iran to de-escalate tensions. Abu Dhabi, by contrast, has pursued a far more assertive and economically driven foreign policy that is embedded in expanding its influence through ports, logistics corridors, and strategic investments across the conflict prone regions. This divergence has been even more visible when contrasted with the positions of smaller GCC states such as Qatar and Oman. Qatar continues to leverage its diplomatic channels with a range of actors - this includes harbouring and actively engaging with the leadership of Islamist groups like Hamas and Iran thereby positioning itself as a mediator rather than a participant. Oman, historically neutral, has maintained its role as a quiet interlocutor, carefully avoiding alignment with any aggressive regional posture. The result is a GCC that is no longer a unified strategic entity but a loose collection of states navigating the same storm with fundamentally different compasses. It is within this fractured geopolitical environment that Pakistan's vulner-

abilities have come sharply into focus. For decades, Pakistan has relied heavily on financial assistance from the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, to stabilize its chronically fragile economy. These relationships were often framed in terms of Islamic solidarity and strategic partnership, reinforced by Pakistan's historical role in providing military support and security cooperation to the Gulf monarchies. However, the current crisis has exposed how conditional and transactional these ties have become. UAE's reported demand for the immediate return of a \$2 billion loan serves as a stark illustration of this shift. While financial flows from Gulf states to Pakistan have often been extended under flexible terms in the past, the immediacy of this demand signals a departure from that pattern. It reflects not only the UAE's own fiscal recalibrations amid the global economic uncertainty but also a broader reassessment of risk associated with Pakistan's visible tilt towards Saudi Arabia and its sympathetic tone towards Iran thereby defining its geopolitical positioning. Abu Dhabi's decision cannot be viewed merely through the lens of economic recalibration as it is equally rooted in the growing strategic.



Truth has a peculiar nature, no matter how much you try to suppress it, one day it will inevitably rise: Sadguru Shri Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj



JAMMU APR 18: On April 18th, marking the 77th Incarnation Day of Sahib Bandgi's Sadguru (True Master), Shri Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj, Sahib Ji graced the devotees—who had travelled from far and wide to seek his darshan (holy sight)—with the nectar of his discourse at Ranji, Jammu. He stated that this Jivama (individual soul) is being subjected to immense plunder. It has no inherent dealings or connections with anyone or anything; yet, the soul is being looted. Sahib Ji highlighted this reality in various ways. The common man understood the teachings of Kabir Sahib; indeed, if you look into the couplets of Rahim, you will find reflections of Sahib's philosophy.



However, Kabir Sahib was subjected to a "blackout"—his teachings were suppressed. Truth has a peculiar nature: no matter how much you try to suppress it, one day it will inevitably rise. If you commit a sin, one day it will surely come to light. Within this soul, there is no lust, nor is there anger. It is akin to an addict who has become habituated to intoxication; for the sake of that high, he is willing to do anything. In this same manner, the soul has become corrupted through its association with the mind and the intellect. The very fabric of the human body has been woven with great cunning and complexity. Even after death, the soul does not forget worldly attachments; even after passing away, it

(Paramatma) No one has ever provided an explanation or description of the realm from which the soul has descended—save for Kabir Sahib alone. Everyone else spoke only of the "Three Worlds" (Trilok); they spoke only of the Lord of these Three Worlds. All the sages and seers referred to the Supreme Being as Triloki Nath—the Master of the Three Worlds. Kabir Sahib, however, spoke of a "Fourth Realm." In that realm, there is no lust; there is no anger; there is no attachment (Moh); and there is no greed. All these vices were created by Niranjan (the Cosmic Power governing the material universe). These forces have made everyone dance to their tune. You read in the scriptures that a certain sage was overcome by anger, or that another fell under the sway of attachment. These forces can be brought under control only through the name of the True Guru.

Pawan Khajuria expresses serious concern over the deteriorating condition of Udhampur city

Jammu, Apr 18: Senior leader Pawan Khajuria, on Saturday, addressed a press conference at his office in Sailan Talab, expressing deep concern over the poor condition of the city. On this occasion, local residents and social activists also voiced their strong resentment regarding the city's basic issues. Pawan Khajuria said that Udhampur city has been struggling with a severe crisis of basic amenities for nearly 20 years, yet no concrete and permanent solution has been found so far. He said that the biggest issue is the drinking water crisis, which has remained unchanged for years. During summers, the situation becomes even worse, forcing people to depend repeatedly on water tankers to meet their needs. In many areas, water supply remains disrupted for weeks, severely affecting daily life. He also expressed concern over the dilapidated condition of roads, stating that neither proper construction nor timely maintenance has been carried out in the past two decades. Potholes at various places have made the roads dangerous, leading to frequent accidents. School children and the elderly, in particular, face great difficulties. Highlighting the sewerage problem, Pawan Khajuria said that incomplete and mismanaged sewerage work has further worsened the situation in the city. Many areas are facing issues of filth, foul smell, and waterlogging, increasing the risk of diseases. During rains, sewer water enters homes and markets, making life even more miserable for the residents. Expressing the sentiments of the people, he said, "Whenever we go among the people, we have to face their anger. People say they have repeatedly trusted their representatives, but their issues were never given priority. Big promises are made during elections, but after winning, the public is forgotten." He further said that the number of wards has been increased from 12 to 21, but there has been no improvement in facilities. The number of sanitation workers is also insufficient, due to which many wards still remain unclean. Pawan Khajuria demanded immediate and concrete action from the

administration and warned that if the issues are not resolved soon, people will be forced to take to the streets in protest, for which the administration will be responsible. Senior leaders Rakesh Gupta, Rajkumar Bucha, Sanjay Verma, Advocate Rikki, Rajkumar Khokhar, Gagan Sharma, Rohit Sarma, Sunny Kalsotra,

Ankush Sharma, Naresh Kumar, and Racheal Singh, along with several other prominent individuals, were also present on the occasion.

Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore

M/s Vothesta Construction
Prop. Fayaz Ahmed Zargar
R/o K.P Road Nal Basti
Anantnag, Kashmir

Ph. No. 7006930251, 7051714824

- No: EE/PMGSY/M/2025-26/221-25** Dated: 17.04.2026
Subject: - 1 Show Cause Notice Construction of road from L033-Tull to Phagoli, Package No JK14-563, Regular PMGSY (Batch-I, 2017-18) Stage-I, Block Mahore, District Reasi (Length=18.00Kms).
2 Show Cause Notice Construction of road from L033-Tull to Phagoli, Package No JK14-545, Regular PMGSY (Batch-I, 2018-19) Stage-I, Block Mahore, District Reasi (Length=18.00Kms).
3 Show Cause Notice for non-execution of 40 mtr span through-type Steel Truss Girder Bridge at Km 10th RD 175-225 on Tull-Phagoli road, Package No. JK14-564, Regular PMGSY (Batch-I, 2017-18), Block Mahore, District Reasi.

Whereas, the contract for the aforementioned works was awarded to you by the Chief Engineer, PMGSY, JKRRDA Jammu.

Whereas, despite repeated telephonic directions issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer concerned as well as by the undersigned to commence the work on the subject road and bridge, you failed to do so and continued to give false assurances on each occasion.

Whereas, you were directed vide this office letter No. EE/PMGSY/M/2023-24/2288-93 dated 21.11.2023 to resume the work in full swing by deploying the required manpower and machinery; however, you failed to comply.

Whereas, again vide this office letter No. EE/PMGSY/M/2024-25/790-95 dated 10.07.2024, you were granted a final opportunity to expedite the work by engaging additional manpower and machinery, with clear instructions that failure to do so would lead to termination of the contract. Despite this, you failed to accelerate the progress of work.

Whereas, further vide this office letter No. EE/PMGSY/M/2024-25/1190-92 dated 14.08.2024, you were issued a final notice to resume pavement work so that the project could be completed within the stipulated time; however, no work was initiated.

Whereas, again vide this office letter No. EE/PMGSY/M/2024-25/2061-2064 dated 16.11.2024, you were directed to start the work within seven (07) days, failing which the contract would be terminated along with forfeiture of CDR and other security deposits, besides imposition of penalties. The notice was also published in the leading daily newspaper "The Himalayan Mail" on 19.11.2024. Despite this, you failed to resume the work.

Whereas, vide this office letter No. EE/PMGSY/M/2024-25/2875-79 dated 03.02.2025; you were issued another final notice to resume the pending works within three (03) days. However, you misled this office regarding completion of work and subsequently stopped responding.

Whereas, vide reminder notices dated 24.06.2025, 27.06.2025, 11.08.2025, and 13.08.2025, you were repeatedly directed to resume the work within stipulated time frames; however, you failed to comply.

Whereas, vide Final Notice No. EE/PMGSY/M/2025-26/2715-19 dated 26.09.2025; you were directed to start the work within seven (07) days, failing which termination proceedings would be initiated. The notice was also published in leading newspapers "Excelsior", "Udaan" and "Complete News" on 08.10.2025. Although the work was briefly initiated, it was abandoned again after about 20 days.

Whereas, further directions were issued vide Chief Engineer letter No. CE/PMGSY/30410-12 dated 13.03.2025 and this office reminder No. EE/PMGSY/M/2024-25/3348-51 dated 13.03.2025 to immediately resume work on the bridge; however, no action was taken.

Whereas, you were called upon to show cause vide letters dated 21.01.2026 and 10.02.2026; however, you neither attended the office nor submitted any reply and continued to give false assurances.

Whereas, you submitted a reply to the show cause notice on 11.02.2026 stating that the obstruction at Km 11th RD 600 due to a residential house had been removed through your personal negotiations. This claim is found to be incorrect and misleading. The said obstruction was removed through the concerted efforts of this department in coordination with the local administration

and the general public to facilitate smooth execution of work. Thereafter, you executed only a limited stretch of GSB work, obtained payment for the same, and again abandoned the work, which has now remained suspended for more than three (03) months.

Now, therefore, you are hereby once again called upon to show cause within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this notice as to why action under Clause 52.2 (a), (c), (e), (f) & (j) of SBD shall not be taken against you in accordance with the contract conditions, including backlisting and imposition of liquidated damages under Clause 44.1 & 53.1 of SBD.

In case you fail to submit a satisfactory reply within the stipulated period and fail to resume the work immediately, it shall be presumed that you have no justification to offer, and appropriate action including termination of contract and backlisting shall be initiated against you without any further notice. **This matter may be treated as Most Urgent.**

Yours faithfully

Sd/-
(Er. Anil Malhotra)
Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division
Mahore

DIP/J-788/26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAMSOO

ZAKIR HUSSAIN NAIK S/O MOHD HUSSAIN NAIK R/O NEEL ZARADI Tehsil RAMSOO District Ramban (Applicant) UT OF Jammu & Kashmir through Block Development officer Ramsoo (Non-ApPLICANT) IN THE MATTER OF An Application seeking registration of Date of death of the applicant's children u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969 May it please your Honor The applicant humbly submits as under:- That the applicant due to some unavoidable circumstances could not record the date of death of his/her children with the non-applicant within the stipulated period of time provided under the Act. The applicant is badly in need of the same. That the applicant is filling the instant application for recording the date of death of his/her children in the register maintained by the non-applicant. That no prejudice will be caused to any person in case the direction with regard to the registration of date of death of the applicant's children is issued to the non-applicant. That the particulars of the applicant's children are given below. 5. that this application is supported by an affidavit duly sworn in by the applicant Name OF Birth Sex Present Address Place of Birth Nationality OIZO H AIB ZAKIR NAIK ZAKIR HUSSAIN NAIK NILJAMEELA BEGUM 01-05-2022 M NEEL ZARADI NEEL ZARADI 7777702AADYA KAWSAR DODDOD004-03-2024 F DODDOD01t is, therefore, respectfully prayed that non-applicant may kindly be directed to furnish the report and register the date of birth of above-mentioned Name/s. u/s (13) of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969 and issue the same in favor of the applicant.

In the court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class (Tehsildar) Hiranagar

Bharti Sharma W/o Pawan Kumar R/o Village Ghata, Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua.

V/S

(Applicant)

UT of J&K through Block Development officer Hiranagar.

(Non-ApPLICANT)

Notice to Public at Large

Whereas, above titled application has been filed by the applicant for seeking direction to the non-applicant for registration of birth/death particulars and issuance of birth/death certificate of applicant's son namely Vishal Sharma R/o Tehsil Hiranagar, District Kathua who was born on 01.03.2009 at home.

| Name of the applicant | Name of father of the applicant | Name of Mother of the applicant | D.O.B./D.O.D. | Place of Birth/Death |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Vishal Sharma | Pawan Kumar | Bharti Sharma | 01.03.2009 | At Home |

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case anyone has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the issuance of the birth/death particulars of the Vishal Sharma S/o Pawan Kumar by the non-applicant, then he/she/they file the same before this office in person or through counsel within seven (07) days from the date of publication if the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken up on next working day.

Given under my hand and seal of this office today on 04-04-2026

NO:- Teh/Hgr/JC/2025-26/

Dated:- 04-04-2026

Sd/-
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
(Tehsildar) Hiranagar

NOTICE

I AJAZ AHMED KHAN S/O BASHIR AHMED KHAN R/O PERNOTE TEHSIL & DISTRICT RAMBAN That my son namely SAKIB AJAZ has Aadhar card holder bearing Aadhar card No. 2938-3461-9981 issued by Government of India. That my above said son's name, his father name and date of birth has been wrongly written in his above said Aadhar card as MOHD SAQIB S/O AJAZ AHMED date of birth 07-01-2008 instead of SAKIB AJAZ S/O AJAZ AHMED KHAN date of birth 14-02-2012 as per birth record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I PANKAJ KUMAR S/O KIRPA R/O JHATGALLI TEHSIL RAJGARHI DIST. RAMBAN, has applied for the registration of "DEE" class contractor card in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD R&B Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days.

NOTICE

I, Davinder Kumar s/o Om Prakash r/o Kalu Chak, Jammu has applying for the correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Balinder Kumar instead of correct name Davinder Kumar in my Son's (Name- Bishah) School records studying in 7th class in Middle School Kun Daroorian, Katra. Objection if any may be conveyed to the Principal Middle School Kun Daroorian Katra Dist-Reasi.

NOTICE

I, Davinder Kumar s/o Om Prakash r/o Kalu Chak, Jammu has applying for the correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Dalinder Kumar instead of correct name Davinder Kumar in my Daughter's (Name- Shruti) School records studying in 8th class in Middle School Kun Daroorian, Katra. Objection if any may be conveyed to the Principal Middle School Kun Daroorian Katra Dist-Reasi.

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

The public is hereby notified that my RC document of scooter No. JK02BP9133 has been lost on date 16.03.2026. If anyone finds the document, please return to: RAM BABU SHARMA Quater No. 90/B East Railway colony Jammu Pin 180012 Near Railway station Jammataw Contact:- 7719700329

NOTICE

I, Mohd. Ishaq S/o Rafoog Bhatti and Nagis Khan R/o Marchola, Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir do hereby declare that my father's name and my address is wrongly written as Rahim and Sunjan Jammu respectively my birth record of hospital. Now, I am applying for the corrections of the same in my birth record. Objection if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice.

IPL 2026: CSK need MS Dhoni more than ever ahead of SRH clash, says Aditya Tare

New Delhi, Apr 18: Coming off a strong performance against the unbeaten Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad have climbed the IPL 2026 points table, setting up an intriguing contest against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday.

Ahead of the clash, former Mumbai cricketer Aditya Tare underlined the importance of MS Dhoni in CSK's setup, especially in pressure situations involving a relatively young squad.



"Chennai Super Kings need MS Dhoni more than ever. If he is fit, he has to play against Sunrisers Hyderabad in any capacity. I would personally want him to keep wickets for the full 20 overs because he is excellent behind the stumps," Tare said.

He emphasised that Dhoni's experience could be crucial for young players like Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer, who are still finding their feet at the highest level.

"There is a lot of youth in CSK's line-up. The two debutants need the guidance of someone as experienced as Mahi bhai. His presence helps players handle pressure better. He has always supported Ruturaj Gaikwad and the bowlers by constantly guiding them on the field. That gives CSK an extra edge," he added. "Gill's composure

also reflected on Gujarat Titans' successful chase against Kolkata Knight Riders, lauding skipper Shubman Gill for his calm and calculated innings.

"GT chased down 180 with control. Even though it went to the last over, Gill had already done the damage. He looked in complete command, his shot selection was excellent, and he rotated strike really well," Tare noted.

He added that Gill's control through the middle overs proved decisive and left KKR without answers.

"His ability to manage the middle phase stood out. Gujarat's win reflected how dominant his innings was," he said.

No Need To Ask Australia, Ajinkya Rahane Reveals Why Cameron Green Didn't Bowl Against GT

New Delhi, Apr 18: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane was quick to blame Cricket Australia for Cameron Green's lack of bowling duties during the opening matches of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. However, just two games after Green finally began to bowl, the all-rounder was again without from the attack during Friday's match against the Gujarat Titans, leaving the cricketer world scratching its head once more.

When Rahane was questioned about the management's reluctance to utilise their Rs 25.20 crore signing as a bowler, he could no longer point the finger at the national board.

It was another demoralising result for Rahane as KKR slumped to their fifth defeat in six matches. Despite the loss, the veteran batter chose to focus on



the positives, specifically Cameron Green's return to form. The all-rounder produced a solid knock following a lean run, though it wasn't enough to prevent the defeat. KKR are yet to find a winning formula and are currently languishing at the bottom of the table with just one point, earned from a rain-abandoned game against Punjab Kings.

"It's never easy to come out and talk immediately after losing a game, but I'd like to focus on the positives. The way we started, losing three wickets early, was tough," Rahane said after the five-wicket loss.

With Green finally finding his rhythm, scoring 79 off 55 balls after a string of underwhelming totals, KKR managed to put the Gujarat Titans under pressure during the middle overs.

"Cameron Green's innings was outstanding. He was under pressure, but the way he counter-attacked and took on their bowlers was amazing to see. At 147-4, reaching a total of around 180 was a difficult task for us as a batting unit," Rahane added.

Hardik Pandya's Captaincy Receives Brutal Verdict After Mumbai Indians' Loss: "Looking Worried"

New Delhi, Apr 18: Former Indian cricket team all-rounder Irfan Pathan delivered a brutal verdict on Hardik Pandya's captaincy following Mumbai Indians' loss against Punjab Kings in their IPL 2026 match on Friday.

Quinton De Kock slammed a brilliant century for MI but a dismal show from the bowlers meant that Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer were able to guide PBKS to victory. It was MI's fourth loss in five matches this season and they are currently struggling at 9th in the IPL points table. It was a poor outing for Hardik as well after he scored just 14 runs and did not take a single wicket. Pathan said that Hardik's recent performances have been quite concerning before pointing out that he needs to manage situations in a better manner.

"It is also about managing things in a better manner. Hardik's batting average since 2024 is in the early 20s. We expect better from him. He needs to do better in



the powerplay in bowling too. Things became easier in this match as Allah Ghazanfar picked up wickets. But he is looking very worried when there is pressure," Pathan said on his YouTube channel. Pathan also took aim at the MI bowlers for their disappointing performances and pointed out that they need to play a 'proper wicket-taker'. While the likes of Shardul Thakur and Deepak Chahar have struggled massively to keep runs in check.

Neeraj Chopra, Sumit Antil file complaint over harassment allegations against coach Naval Singh

New Delhi, Apr 18: Two-time Paralympic medalist Sumit Antil has alleged mental harassment and abusive behaviour by javelin coach Naval Singh, with the matter now formally raised with the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

According to a report by The Bridge, Antil, along with several top athletes, submitted a written complaint to SAI on April 10, accusing Singh of repeated verbal abuse and misconduct. The complaint was reportedly filed after the issue was also brought to the attention of officials from SAI and the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

Antil alleged that the coach's behaviour had crossed acceptable limits, prompting him to take fir-



mal action.

"I have always been a clean athlete, and I don't want to be part of any controversy. I tried to explain to him multiple times, but this is not the first time. It has gone beyond my patience level," Antil was quoted as saying.

He further claimed that Singh would send abusive messages, particularly in the lead-up to competitions. "He gets drunk and sends random recordings abusing us and dragging our families into it. He tends to behave this way when competitions approach," Antil added.

The report stated that emails sent by the athletes to SAI included audio recordings in which Singh is allegedly heard verbally abusing leading names, including Neeraj Chopra, Navdeep Singh, and Pakistani Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem. Antil said he initially approached SAI Deputy Director Anuraj and TOPS CEO Nash Johal regarding the issue. While SAI officials reportedly attempted to mediate between the parties, Antil declined a compromise, insisting on stricter action.

Harmanpreet Kaur's 47 guides India to 157/7 after late collapse vs South Africa

New Delhi, Apr 18: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's composed unbeaten 47 anchored India Women to 157/7, but a dramatic late-order collapse allowed South Africa Women to claw back in the opening T20 at Kingsmead Stadium on Friday.

Put in to bat on a dry surface, India made a strong start through Shafali Verma's explosive 34 off 20 balls, setting the tone early with aggressive strokeplay. However, South Africa responded quickly, pulling things back through disciplined bowling from Ayabonga Khaka and support from Tumi Sekhukhune and Nonkululeko Mlaba.

Shafali dominated the powerplay with fearless intent, but her stay ended in the fifth over, trig-



gering the first setback. Smriti Mandhana (13) followed soon after, leaving India at 48/2 at the end of six overs.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues then rebuilt the innings with a fluent 71-run partnership, combining caution with timely aggression. Rodrigues, who made 36 off 29 balls, looked in fine touch with elegant strokeplay, while Harmanpreet steadily

shifted gears, including a 15-run burst off Nadine de Klerk.

Just when India looked set for a strong finish, Rodrigues' dismissal in the 15th over sparked a collapse. South Africa tightened their grip with clever variations in pace, as Richa Ghosh, Arundhati Reddy, and debutant Kashvee Gautam fell cheaply.

A chaotic penultimate over run-out further dented India's momentum, with four wickets falling for just 33 runs in the final five overs. Despite Harmanpreet's effort to accelerate late on, India fell short of a 170-plus total, finishing at 157/7. Ayabonga Khaka was the standout bowler for South Africa, finishing with excellent figures of 3/16, while Tumi Sekhukhune supported well with 2/7.

Moeen Ali, An Icon With CSK, Finally Reveals Why He Quit IPL For PSL

New Delhi, Apr 18: The schedule clash between the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Pakistan Super League (PSL) leaves overseas cricketers with one T20 tournament to choose from. More often than not, overseas cricketers who fail to attract interest from India go on to play in Pakistan. There are a few exceptions, though, with certain players opting to register for the PSL, giving their Indian counterpart a miss. Such was the case with former England all-rounder Moeen Ali.

The 38-year-old, who played for the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) last



year, registered his name for PSL but gave the IPL a miss. While there has been a lot of speculation around Moeen's reasons, he has finally broken silence and explained why the PSL took precedence for him over the IPL.

"There are a few rea-

Smriti Mandhana Surpasses Rohit Sharma For Historic Record In Indian Cricket

New Delhi, Apr 18: Indian women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana scripted history by becoming India's highest run-scorer in T20 Internationals during the first India vs South Africa Women's match of the five-match T20I series at Durban on Friday. Mandhana surpassed the 2024 T20 World Cup-winning captain Rohit Sharma's record for the most T20I runs by an Indian batter. Smriti Mandhana has now scored 4,244 runs in 155 innings (161 matches) at an average of 30.31 and a strike rate of 124.38, including one century and 33 fifties, making her one of India's most prolific and consistent batters in the format.

Coming into the match



against South Africa Women, Smriti Mandhana was level with Rohit Sharma on 4,231 T20I runs. She added 13 runs off 14 balls in the game, taking her total to 4,244.

Overall, Mandhana is now the second-highest run-scorer in women's T20 Internationals. The all-time record in women's T20Is is held by Suzie Bates, who has accumulated 4,717

Shreyas Iyer's Boundary Rope Spectacular Draws Epic 200-Word Post From "Grandfather of Fielding" Jonty Rhodes

New Delhi, Apr 18: Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer's stunning catch to dismiss Hardik Pandya during the IPL 2026 clash against Mumbai Indians not only played a key role in PBKS' comfortable victory but also earned high praise from South Africa great Jonty Rhodes. Widely regarded as one of the finest fielders in cricket history, Rhodes was left thoroughly impressed by Iyer's exceptional awareness and athleticism, which provided Punjab with a crucial breakthrough. As a result of Iyer's brilliance in the field, Mumbai Indians were restricted to 195/6 in their 20 overs. Punjab Kings then chased down the target in emphatic fashion, reaching it in just 16.3 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Rhodes shared a heartfelt reflection on how fielding standards have evolved since his playing



days. Often referred to as the "father of fielding," the former South Africa star humorously admitted that watching modern-day athletes like Iyer made him feel more like the "grandfather of fielding."

"Watching @ShreyasIyer15 perform that acrobatic fielding to

Rhodes wrote.

Rhodes also recalled how the emphasis on boundary riding and "airborne saves" gained prominence during his time working with Mumbai Indians, where players like Kieron Pollard and Glenn Maxwell redefined fielding near the ropes. "I spent 99% of my career fielding in the inner circle, and when I started working as a fielding coach, there was no focus on the modern-day 'hotspots' on the boundaries," he wrote.

"It was only when I started working with @mipallan and saw Kieron Pollard, and then Glenn Maxwell, performing these incredible 'airborne saves' on the boundaries that we started focusing not only on taking catches off balls that were already beyond the rope, but also on saving the ball from going for a six and forcing the batters to run just one or two," he added.



Women's quota Bill fails, blame war begins: Opposition flags 'guise' of delimitation push

New Delhi, Apr 18: Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday pushed back against the ruling NDA's charge that Opposition parties blocked women's empowerment, insisting the INDIA bloc has consistently backed one-third reservation for women.



His remarks come a day after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, failed to clear the Lok Sabha, sharpening a political confrontation between the government and the Opposition over the manner in which the proposed quota was being implemented.

Charge questions linking of reservation with delimitation
Speaking to ANI on Parliament premises, Kharge said the Opposition's objection was not to women's reservation but to the way it had been tied to a future delimitation exercise.

"We are not anti-women, and we have been working for one-third women's reservation for a long time. We unanimously supported the 2023 amendment and passed it. However, under the guise of that, they introduced another amendment, inserting a delimitation clause into it, thus consolidating the women's reservation and delimitation bills," he said.

He argued that combining multiple legislations could allow the government to alter key provisions later with a simple majority. "By bringing these three bills together, they wanted to gain power so that any further delimitation law could be passed and changed in the House with a simple majority... You should do it within the 543 members. After the next census or

caste census is complete, you can complete it in the next election... Your intention is to change the structure of the Constitution and take executive power into your own hands..." he added.

Bill falls short despite marathon debate controversy follows the government's failure to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha for the Constitution Amendment Bill, which was linked to implementing women's reservation through delimitation.

In the voting held after a day-long debate, 298 members backed the Bill while 230 opposed it, leading to its defeat. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla confirmed that the legislation did not pass as it fell short of the constitutional threshold. Govt drops linked bills, war of words intensifies as the government had introduced three interlinked legislations, including the Delimitation Bill.

Noida unrest 'premeditated'? ATS scans social media accounts with suspected Pakistan links

New Delhi, Apr 18: What began as a workers' protest in Noida but soon turned violent, with arson and vandalism, is now under deeper scrutiny, with the Anti-Terrorist Squad stepping in after early signs pointed to a possible foreign hand, including suspected links to Pakistan. The development follows initial enquiries that flagged unusual digital activity linked to the unrest, prompting agencies to widen the probe and examine whether the violence was part of a larger, pre-planned attempt to disrupt public order through coordinated messaging.

Violence during protest puts spotlight on planning behind unrest

According to reports, a large number of workers had gathered to press their



demands, but the protest soon escalated into chaos. Several areas reported incidents of vehicles being set on fire, damage to public property, and widespread vandalism. Police and administrative officials faced considerable difficulty in containing the situation as tensions escalated rapidly on the ground.

ATS examines social media accounts for foreign links As per news agency IANS, investigators now suspect that the violence may not have been entirely spontaneous. Investigators are now examining whether the unrest was deliberately triggered, with social media suspected to have played a role in stoking tensions.

Annamalai to campaign today across key Tamil Nadu constituencies ahead of April 23 polls



New Delhi, Apr 18: Senior BJP leader and former Tamil Nadu state president of the election, with the Annamalai will campaign on Saturday across several key constituencies in the state, intensifying the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) outreach ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for

April 23. Tamil Nadu is set to witness a four-cornered contest this election, with the DMK-led alliance, the AIADMK-led NDA, Naam Tamilar Katchi, and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam all in the fray.

With just days left for polling, political parties have ramped up their cam-

paign efforts, deploying top leaders and key functionaries across constituencies in a bid to consolidate voter support.

As part of this push, Annamalai will campaign in Dharmapuri district and surrounding regions, covering constituencies such as Dharmapuri, Pennagaram, Palacode, Pappireddipatti, Harur, and Thallai. His visit is aimed at mobilising support for NDA candidates in what is being seen as a crucial electoral battleground. In a post on X, Annamalai confirmed his campaign schedule, stating that he would directly engage with voters in Dharmapuri and Thallai Assembly constituencies on April 18.

Nashik TCS row triggers full-scale probe with fact-finding panel on ground and ATS launching parallel crackdown

New Delhi, Apr 18: A four-member fact-finding committee has launched its inquiry into the controversial Nashik TCS case, even as parallel investigations by law enforcement and oversight bodies intensify scrutiny over allegations of forced religious conversion and sexual harassment. The development comes against a backdrop of protests, arrests, and growing pressure on authorities and the company to establish the truth. The fact-finding body comprises four members, including a retired judge, a former IAS officer, an advocate, and a coordinator from the National Commission for Women (NCW). The panel has been tasked with independently assessing the allegations and submitting a detailed report. Advocate Monika Arora, part of the committee, confirmed on Saturday that the



panel has begun interacting with stakeholders linked to the case. She said the team will first gather inputs from all sides before arriving at any conclusions. "We are here to examine the incident and will speak to all concerned parties. It would be premature to comment until we complete discussions and

verify facts," she said, adding that the panel's findings will form the basis of its recommendations. ATS tightens noose, probes accused

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has taken custody of two accused, Safi Shaikh and Raza Memon, and is

currently interrogating them in connection with the alleged forced conversion angle. Investigators are examining possible links and the broader network behind the claims.

A total of nine cases so far, one at Deolali Camp police station and eight at Mumbai Naka police station, as the investigation continues to expand across multiple fronts.

NHRC seeks detailed reports

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken cognisance of the allegations and issued notices to multiple authorities, including Maharashtra Police, the Labour Commissioner, and TCS officials. The commission has sought detailed reports on FIRs, internal compliance systems, and POSH mechanisms, along with records of complaints from the past three years.

'Opposition celebrating after crushing women's rights': Kiren Rijiju lashes out at Congress over 'anti-women mindset'

New Delhi, Apr 18: High-stakes political showdown over women's representation ended in deadlock in the Lok Sabha yesterday, with the Women's Reservation Bill failing to secure the required two-thirds majority. The setback triggered sharp reactions from the government, with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju accusing the Congress and opposition parties of derailing a crucial reform and "crushing" the rights of women. Addressing a press conference soon after the House was adjourned sine die, Rijiju said the bill's failure marked a "huge loss" for women across the country. He alleged that opposition parties not only blocked the legislation but were also "celebrating women's defeat," which he said reflected an anti-women mindset. The proposed law, widely known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, sought to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and



state assemblies for women, a long-pending demand aimed at improving gender representation in legislatures. Rijiju acknowledged that while the government commanded a simple majority, it could not muster the two-thirds support required to pass a constitutional amendment. "We had the numbers, but not the special majority needed. That is why the bill could not be passed," he said.

"Opposition would have to face the wrath of the women of India" Rijiju warned that the opposition would have to face the anger of the women of India, warning that the bill's failure would carry long-term political consequences. He said, "The Congress party and the opposition will have to face the anger of the women of India. I had said it yesterday itself - this black mark has been stamped on the Congress

and its allies, and they will not be able to wash it off for the rest of their lives..."

Taking aim at Rahul Gandhi, Rijiju questioned remarks attributed to him on the bill's constitutional validity, saying it was difficult to understand how granting rights to women could be termed undemocratic. He said, "If Rahul Gandhi says that giving reservation to women is unconstitutional and undemocratic, then someone should make Rahul Gandhi understand how it can be undemocratic to give rights to women. I can't reply on what kind of thinking he has."

Earlier today, Rijiju shared a video of protests from Sikkim, pointing to public backing for the Women's Reservation Bill after it failed to pass in the Lok Sabha. The Minister used the footage to criticize the Opposition, accusing it of ignoring widespread support for the measure. In a post on social media,

No party has been serious about real interests of SCs, STs, OBCs, Muslims: Mayawati on women's reservation

New Delhi, Apr 18: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday launched a sharp attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of opposing the SIR process "without any reason" and asserting that it would distinguish between Indian citizens and illegal entrants. The remarks come amid an intensifying political face-off over citizenship and voter-related processes, even as tensions remain high following the failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to pass in the Lok Sabha and the sharp exchanges it triggered between the ruling BJP and the Opposition.

Sarma accuses Mamata Banerjee over SIR opposition

Addressing reporters in



Kalimpong, Sarma said, "Mamata Banerjee is opposing SIR without any reason. Names of Indian people will be added to SIR, and names of Bangladeshi Muslims will be removed..."

His comments are likely to further sharpen the political divide between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress, with the issue expected to play out in upcoming electoral contests and parliamentary debates.

'Anger among women': Assam CM targets Rahul Gandhi, Congress

Also took aim at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders in Parliament under the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill. "The way Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders insulted women yesterday, there is anger among women in this."

Pune airport resumes operations after IAF aircraft snag shuts runway overnight



New Delhi, Apr 18: Flight operations at Pune Airport were back on track Saturday morning, hours after a late-night scare brought everything to a standstill. An Indian Air Force aircraft developed a technical snag while landing but no injuries or damage to civil property were reported. Runway cleared after overnight

repair work. Clearance and repair operations were carried out on priority through the night, with authorities working to restore normal operations at the earliest. Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol confirmed that the work was completed on a war footing.

"The runway at Pune Airport was temporarily unavailable following an incident involving an IAF aircraft. Runway repair work has since been completed on a war footing, with safety maintained as the top priority throughout. Departure operations will resume from 07:30 AM, and arrival operations will commence from 08:00 AM. Air traffic in Pune is expected to gradually return to normal over the course of the day," Mohol said in a post on X.

New Delhi, Apr 18: Tamil Nadu has recorded its highest-ever electricity demand, touching 20,974 MW, as soaring summer temperatures triggered a sharp surge in power consumption across the State. Daily energy usage also hit a new all-time high of 460 million units (MU), highlighting sustained pressure on the grid amid intensifying heat conditions. The latest peak demand has surpassed the previous record of 20,830 MW registered in 2024. Likewise, the new consumption figure exceeds the earlier high of 454,320 MU, underscoring the scale of the current spike in electricity usage.

The surge coincides with rising temperatures across Tamil Nadu, with several regions reporting levels above normal by 2-3 degrees Celsius.

Karur Paramathi recorded a maximum temperature of 41.2 degree Celsius, while interior districts such as Erode and Madurai have seen temperatures hovering

Heatwave pushes TN power demand to record 20,974 MW; consumption peaks at 460 million units

around 40 degree Celsius, pointing to widespread heat stress. Officials said the impact of the prolonged heatwave is clearly visible in the State's demand pattern. Peak load crossed the 20,000 MW mark on multiple occasions over a short span, indicating sustained high consumption rather



than isolated spikes. Solar power generation has helped meet part of the daytime demand, with peak output ranging between 5,401 MW and 8,011 MW. However, elevated temperatures extending into the evening hours have kept overall demand

high, limiting the moderating impact of solar energy. A comparison with last year highlights the sharp rise in demand. Previously, peaks demand had crossed the 20,000 MW mark only once during the same period, with significantly lower average levels.

In contrast, the current trend shows repeated breaches of that threshold within a short timeframe. Energy consumption has also risen markedly. While last year's peak daily usage was lower, the current period has seen consumption frequently crossing the 400 MU mark and remaining above 420 MU on several days, with multiple instances nearing or exceeding 430 MU even before the peak summer phase. With hot and humid conditions expected to persist, officials anticipate continued pressure on the grid, driven largely by increased use of cooling appliances and sustained high temperatures across the State.



Ola Electric announces Ola Sona weekend with benefits worth up to Rs 50,000 for Akshaya Tritiya

New Delhi, Apr 18: NEW DELHI, Apr 18: Ola Electric on Saturday announced Ola Sona Weekend to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, offering customers benefits worth up to Rs 50,000 across its electric vehicle portfolio.



As part of the celebration of one of India's most auspicious festivals, customers will also stand a chance to win the Ola Sona, a limited-edition scooter with real 24-karat gold-plated elements, the company said in a statement.

Additionally, it is offering its Gen 3 S1 X (2kWh) and Roadster X (2.5 kWh) at just Rs 49,999, along with benefits of up to Rs 50,000 across the portfolio, only valid on April 18 and 19 this year, it added.

As part of the Ola Sona weekend, the company

said it is offering Roadster X+ 9.1 kWh with a discount of Rs 50,000, and customers can now purchase the electric bike at Rs 1,39,999 only during a limited-time purchase window on April 18 and 19 from 6 pm - 9 pm, along with a free extended warranty for 8 years.

Customers can also avail discounts of up to Rs 40,000 on all products across the portfolio, it added. Offers worth Rs

10,000 on EMIs on Bank Of Baroda, Scapia Federal, Yes Bank, IDFC, HSBC and HDFC credit cards are also being offered.

Moreover, the company said customers can avail an 8-year extended warranty across all products.

"Akshaya Tritiya is a celebration of prosperity and new beginnings, and Ola Sona Weekend captures that spirit with an

offering that is both aspirational and disruptive," an Ola Electric spokesperson said.

From benefits worth up to Rs 50,000, to the chance to own the limited-edition Ola Sona, the offers reflect the company's commitment to redefine electric mobility through innovation, premium experiences, and unmatched customer value, the spokesperson added.

"The strong demand momentum we are witnessing is a clear reflection of customer confidence in our technology, scale, and vertically integrated EV platform."

The limited-edition Ola S1 Pro Sona comes with real 24-karat gold-plated elements, representing the pinnacle of innovation by combining luxury with functionality, the compa-

ny said. Ola Sona also comes with the immersive "Sona Mood", which offers a premium riding experience through a gold-themed interface on the Ola app and a customised MoveOS dashboard, it added.

The dashboard enables riders to personalise ride modes and settings, creating a more bespoke and elevated journey, the company said.

Ola Electric also announced the extension of the purchase window for its 4680 Bharat Cell-powered Roadster X+ 9.1 kWh. The significant price reduction for the electric motorcycle is enabled by rapid economies of scale at its Gigafactory and deep vertical integration of its indigenously developed 4680 Bharat Cell, it said.

ICICI Bank Q4 net profit up 9 pc at Rs 14,755 cr, provisions decline sharply



MUMBAI, Apr 18: ICICI Bank's consolidated net profit increased by 9.28 per cent to Rs 14,755 crore in the March quarter, according to an exchange filing on Saturday. It had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 13,502 crore in the year-ago period.

On a standalone basis, the second-largest private sector lender's net profit rose 8.5 per cent to Rs 13,702 crore compared to Rs

12,630 crore in the year-ago period. For the recently ended fiscal year 2025-26, its post-tax profit increased 6.2 per cent to Rs 50,147 crore from Rs 47,227 crore in FY25.

In the reporting quarter, the bank posted an 8.4 per cent increase in the core net-interest income to Rs 22,979 crore, while the non-interest income, excluding treasury, rose 5.6 per cent to Rs 7,415

crore. The operating expenses grew 12 per cent to Rs 12,089 crore for the reporting quarter. From an asset quality perspective, the gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 1.40 per cent from 1.53 per cent in December and 1.67 per cent in a year ago.

Its provisions fell to Rs 96.16 crore in the March quarter from Rs 89.1 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 2,556 crore in the December quarter.

Markets rally amid easing West Asia tensions

New Delhi, Apr 18:

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied nearly 1 per cent on Friday, driven by optimism surrounding easing geopolitical tensions and fresh foreign fund inflows. Renewed hopes of a diplomatic resolution between the US and Iran, along with a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, have materially improved global risk appetite, a market analyst said. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 504.86 points, or 0.65 per cent, to settle at 78,493.54. During the day, it surged 564.77 points, or 0.72 per cent, to 78,553.45. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 156.80 points, or 0.65 per cent, to end at 24,353.55, from the 30-Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Bharat Electronics, Tech Mahindra and Titan were among the major winners. In contrast, Sun Pharma, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and HCL Tech were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 3.07 per cent to \$96.34 per barrel. "The primary catalyst for today's strength was



the de-escalation in West Asia. Renewed hopes of a diplomatic resolution between the US and Iran, along with a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, have materially improved global risk appetite. "This has reduced concerns around a sustained spike in crude oil prices, which had earlier weighed on inflation expectations, currency stability, and overall market sentiment," Hariprasad K. Research Analyst and founder, Livelong Wealth, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225,

Pakistan keen for early approval for next IMF tranche: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD, Apr 18: Pakistan is keen for an early approval for the next tranche from the IMF as a team of the global lender will visit the country next month for consultations on the upcoming review, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said.

Aurangzeb, who is in Washington for the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings, was referring to the approval of an estimated USD 1.2 billion, including USD 1 billion under the ongoing 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and another USD 200 million under 28-month Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). A staff-level agreement (SLA) was signed last year at the completion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) second review of the economy under EFF which was agreed in 2024.

Talking to the media on Friday



after his news conference at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, Aurangzeb said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was a "very good development", which would ease pressure on global oil supplies, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Had the conflict persisted, it would have adversely affected everything "from economic

growth to inflation", he said. "We hope the situation will improve, but hope is not a strategy, and that's why we had planned for everything," he added.

Aurangzeb said while he has discussed with IMF officials the impact of the Iran conflict on the economy, "our focus is on getting an early approval for the next tranche". He said he also discussed the possible consequences of the Iran crisis with the IMF, which has established facilities to support countries affected by global economic shocks.

Earlier speaking at his news conference, the finance minister briefed Pakistani media representatives on the country's broader economic outlook, progress on reforms, and outcomes of his engagements during the World

Bank-IMF Spring Meetings.

The minister said his meetings with global stakeholders, including counterparts from China, the US and the UK, focused increasingly on expanding cooperation in trade, investment and key sectors such as information technology, minerals and energy.

On the external sector, he highlighted what he described as strong performance indicators, including a current account surplus of over USD 1 billion in March, remittance inflows of USD 3.8 billion during the same month, and record inflows of USD 261 million under the Roshan Digital Account, with expectations of further growth.

He also said the Pakistani diaspora was playing an increasingly important role in supporting external sector stability through formal financial channels.

MDBs to deepen collaboration to support nations amid heightened global uncertainty

NEW DELHI, Apr 18: Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have underscored the importance of close cooperation to support stability, safeguarding development progress, and responding to mounting pressures on their member economies amid heightened global uncertainty, including in West Asia. "MDBs are working more closely than ever to support our members and clients through a complex and evolving global environment. By combining our financial strength, knowledge, and partnerships, we are helping countries manage immediate pressures while building resilience for the future," ADB president and current Chair of the MDB Heads Group Masato Kanda said. Heads of MDBs in a meeting on Friday, on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings, noted that the impacts of current global devel-



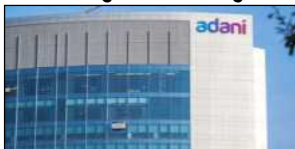
opments are already being felt through higher energy costs, supply chain disruptions, and tighter financial conditions, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a statement. The chiefs also emphasised MDBs' readiness to deploy timely and effective support to help countries and clients

manage risks, maintain macro-economic stability, and protect vulnerable populations, it added. Against this backdrop, MDB heads reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepen collaboration and deliver impact at scale, with a strong focus on private sector development, job creation,

infrastructure, and long-term sustainable growth in line with their respective mandates, strategies, and operational focuses, it said. They stressed the importance of strengthening efforts to mobilise private finance and expand financing capacity, including through originate-to-distribute/share approaches that enable MDBs to create bankable opportunities and crowd in private capital at scale. The Heads of MDBs Group includes the African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank, and the World Bank Group. The International Monetary Fund also participates in the discussions.

Adani to invest Rs 1 lakh crore to redevelop Motilal Nagar in Goregaon

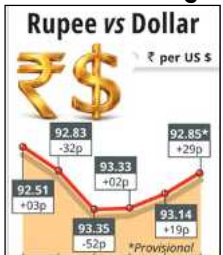
New Delhi, Apr 18: The Adani Group is expected to invest Rs 1 lakh crore to redevelop Motilal Nagar in Mumbai's Goregaon West, according to a master plan for the 143-acre project released by the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA). Adani Realty, which has emerged as the successful bidder, will execute the project under the construction and development agency model. The project, which includes both rehabilitation and free-sale segments, is likely to require an investment of up to Rs 1 lakh crore, MHADA CEO and Vice-President Sanjeev Jaiswal



said. The rehabilitation phase is anticipated to be finished within the coming few years. The Motilal Nagar Redevelopment Project is expected to generate around 28 lakh square metres of built-up area. Out of this, more than 10.5 lakh square metres must be allocated to the existing residents. As per the updated master plan, 3,702 eligible residents

will be provided complimentary rehabilitation flats with a carpet area of 1,600 square feet each, while 728 qualified commercial occupants will be allotted units of 987 square feet. Additionally, about 1,600 slum dwellers will be resettled in homes measuring 300 square feet. MHADA will also acquire a significant inventory of housing units through the project.

Rupee rises 29 paise to settle at 92.85 against US dollar



New Delhi, Apr 18: The rupee appreciated by 29 paise to settle at 92.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, buoyed by a weakening

American currency and retreating crude oil prices amid increasing hopes of easing geopolitical tensions. Renewed buying in domestic equity markets and fresh inflow of foreign funds also supported the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.93 and touched an intraday high of 92.65 against the greenback. The unit also touched the day's low of 92.98 before ending the session at 92.85 (provisional) against the American currency, up 29 paise from the previous closing level. On Thursday, the rupee gained 19 paise to settle at 93.14 against the US dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee strengthened on improved global risk sentiments.

He said global markets rallied and the US dollar weakened amid declining safe-haven demand, while crude oil prices softened overnight.

Cabinet clears Rs 12,980-crore maritime insurance pool to shield shipping from global risks

New Delhi, Apr 18: In a bid to protect India's shipping sector from rising global uncertainties, the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the creation of a domestic insurance mechanism—the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)—backed by a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore to ensure uninterrupted maritime insurance coverage. "Announcing the decision after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the initiative is designed to provide "continuous



and affordable insurance cover for Indian vessels and cargo, even in volatile maritime conditions." He added that the pool would help address growing risks stemming from geopolitical instability and disrup-

tions in global insurance markets. The BMI Pool will provide coverage across a wide spectrum of maritime risks, including Hull and Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk. It will apply to Indian-flagged or controlled vessels as well as ships transporting cargo to and from Indian ports, even when traversing high-risk or conflict-prone sea routes. Officials said the mechanism would help safeguard India's trade flows despite increasing volatility in international waters. The move comes amid ris-

ing insurance costs and concerns over the availability of coverage due to geopolitical tensions, sanctions regimes, and conflicts affecting key global shipping corridors. Currently, Indian shipping firms rely heavily on international insurers such as the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs for third-party liability coverage, including risks related to oil pollution, cargo damage, crew injury, and collisions. Any disruption or withdrawal of such cover can significantly impact trade continuity.

DC Kathua listens to public grievances at Dhar Mahanpur; assures time-bound redressal

Massive Nasha Mukht rally held; public urged to support Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

KATHUA, APRIL 18: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today conducted a public outreach programme at Dhar Mahanpur and listened to a wide range of grievances and demands projected by the local residents. Public highlighted the damaged Kholi Tali-Katham road, pending land compensation and demanded a 6 km Naili-Katham road. Residents of Dhar Korah Panchayat sought water supply renovation, veterinary and allopathic hospitals and restoration of the Zero Mofli-Sanghat road closed since flash floods. They also raised staff shortages at HSS Dhar Mahanpur and UPS Kohar and called for upgraded electric infrastructure. MLA Basohli, Darshan Singh while addressing the gathering informed that the matter of school upgradation has been taken up



with the Education Minister, addressing staff shortages flagged by locals. He assured that issues slowing the Jal Jeevan Mission including water supply concerns, will be resolved soon and added that ration card bifurcation is under consideration with the Centre Government. He announced an ambulance from

CDF and an RDD building under the apex plan, while stressing prompt redressal of road, power and other public grievances and seeking people's cooperation. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner assured that all genuine demands would be looked into and resolved in a time-bound manner.

Health Department Conducts Medical Screening and Awareness Camp at Madrasa Kahara

Doda, April 18, 2026
A Medical Health Screening Camp was conducted at Madrasa Kahara under AAM Kahara to promote health and well being among students. The camp was organized under the supervision of Block Medical Officer, Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, and under the overall guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather. During the camp, a range of essential healthcare services including general health check-ups and TB screening were provided. The initiative aimed at early detection of health issues and strengthening preventive healthcare among children. Health awareness sessions were also conducted on important public health initiatives including Nasha Mukht Bharat, Anemia Mukht Bharat, and TB Mukht



Bharat. Special emphasis was laid on handwashing practices, oral hygiene, and nutritional guidance to encourage healthy habits among students. Free medicines were distributed among the beneficiaries. In addition, Hb testing, deworming tablets, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, and ABHA ID registration were also carried out during the camp. During the camp, around 60 Madrasa students benefited from the screening and awareness activities. The camp was attended by Dr. Shamaila Orussa (CHO), Smt Kusum Kumari (FMPHW), Mrs Shazia Begum (ASHA Worker), and Mrs Bibi Jaan (ASHA Worker), who ensured smooth conduct of the camp.

District Coordination Cell reviews preparations for Census-2027 in Doda

DODA, APRIL 18: A meeting of the District Level Coordination Cell was held at the DC Office Complex Doda to review the progress of preparations for the upcoming Census-2027. The meeting was chaired by ACR Doda Ashraf Pervez and attended by officials of the Census Cell Jammu, District Informatics Officer Doda, representatives from the Information and Public Relations Department, officials of the Revenue Department and other concerned stakeholders. The meeting focused on key preparatory tasks, timelines and overall coordination required for smooth conduct of the census process. During the meeting, it was emphasized that all Charge Units must be properly created, verified and made operational on the CMMS portal within the given deadlines. The block formation process should strictly follow

population norms to ensure equal workload among enumerators. Officials were also directed to identify slum areas and complete geo-tagging for accurate mapping. Instructions were given for the formation of supervisory circles in the prescribed ratio, along with clear boundary demarcation. The meeting also reviewed the progress under the HLO Management Module, preparation of the enumerator database and timely issuance of appointment orders. Stress was laid on completing training-related activities, including selection and training of field trainers, verification of training venues and proper logistical arrangements by the first week of May 2026. Proper handling, storage and distribution of census materials during training were also highlighted to ensure accountability and efficiency.

DC, SSP Ramban interact with prominent citizens, religious leaders; call for unity, support to Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

RAMBAN, APRIL 18: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta today held an interaction with prominent citizens and religious leaders of the district to discuss issues related to communal harmony, peace and social responsibility. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Singh Charak, Additional SP Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman, Dy. SP Hqr Waqar Bhat and other officers. During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP appreciated the people of Ramban for their age-old tradition of communal harmony, unity and brotherhood, which has been a hallmark of the district.



Highlighting the importance of sustained peace, both officers urged the participants to continue fostering mutual respect and understanding among different communities. They emphasized

that collective efforts of citizens, especially religious leaders and influencers, play a crucial role in maintaining law and order and strengthening social cohesion. Seeking active support of the par-

ticipants in the ongoing "100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan", the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the significant role of communal stakeholders in making the campaign successful. He called upon the participants to actively spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage youth to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Stressing the need for a united approach, the Deputy Commissioner urged religious leaders to use their platforms to sensitize the masses against drug abuse and promote positive values among the youth. He reiterated that the administration is committed to eradicating the menace of drugs and ensuring a safe and progressive society.

BJP OBC Morcha Holds Monthly Organisational Meeting at Billawar, Reviews Strengthening of Party Structure

Jammu, Apr 18: The monthly organisational meeting of BJP OBC Morcha for Pahari Zilla Basohli-Bani-Billawar was successfully held today at PWD Guest House. By the direction of Brahmajyoti Sati the program was organised by District President Dharam Chand Malgora (Retd. HM). The meeting focused on organisational strengthening, expansion of party activities, and increasing outreach among OBC communities at the grassroots level. Prominent office bearers and party leaders who attended the meeting included Ashok Kumar Acharye, Mohan Lal Verma (Retd. ZEO), Mohesh Chander, Dev Dutt Verma, Naresh Kumar Acharye, Varinder Kumar, and Captain Tara Chand



Verma. The meeting was also graced by the presence of Gopal Krishna, Roomi Khajuria, Puran Chand, along with several senior BJP leaders. OBC community members and dedicated party workers. During the meeting, speakers stressed the importance

of unity, booth-level strengthening, and public outreach to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every deserving section of society. They also discussed future programmes and strategies to further strengthen the organisation in the district. In his message, Brahmajyoti Sati said that organisational meetings play a vital role in strengthening the party at the grassroots level and help in connecting with every section of society. He emphasized that the OBC Morcha must work with dedication and unity to ensure that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach every needy family. He further stated that under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed unprecedented development and empowerment of weaker sections, including OBC communities. He urged party workers to remain committed to public service, strengthen booth-level structures, and take the policies and achievements of the government to every household.

MVD goes tough against habitual traffic offenders suspends 43 Route Permits & 203 RCs, 66 vehicles blacklisted

KISHTWAR, APRIL 18: To initiate strict action against habitual traffic violators, the MVD Kishtwar led by the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Kishwar Tasleem Wani ordered the suspension of Registration Certificates (RCs) and Route Permits of 246 habitual offenders across the district. Out of the total 246 vehicles, 193 are non-commercial/private vehicles, including 171 two-wheelers and 22 LMV cars, while 53 are commercial vehicles. During the enforcement action, RCs of 203 vehicles have been suspended, Route Permits of 43 commercial vehicles have been suspended and 66 vehicles have been blacklisted. The action follows the receipt of a list of habitual offenders from the office of the Transport Commissioner and Traffic Police authorities. These violators have been booked more than five times for offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, in compliance with the guidelines of the

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The violations include non-wearing of helmets, non-use of seat belts, overloading, over-speeding, drunken driving, use of mobile phones while driving and other serious traffic offences committed repeatedly. As per Order No. ARTO/KTR/2026/27/235-41 dated 17-04-2026, the suspension has been imposed for a period of three months with immediate effect. During this period, the vehicles shall not be permitted to ply on roads and the concerned owners have been directed to deposit their original RCs/Route Permits in the office of the ARTO, Kishwar. The department also urged District Police and Traffic Police authorities to strictly enforce the order, including the seizure of such vehicles if found operating during the suspension period. The ARTO urged citizens and transporters to adhere to traffic rules and avoid repeated violations, failing which stringent legal action shall continue to be taken.

DC Ramban chairs DRAC, CLU meetings Approves Rent Assessment, CLU Cases



RAMBAN, APRIL 18: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired meetings of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) and the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) to review key administrative matters concerning rent assessments and land use cases

Medical Officer Chief Officer; Agriculture Officers; Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD and JPDC, along with other concerned officers. During the DRAC meeting, attended by senior officers including ACR, ACD, CMO, CAO and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD and JPDC, the Committee reviewed 14 rent assessment cases of various departments. After detailed deliberations, 12 cases were approved, covering departments such as Agriculture, Handicrafts, Handloom, Health, FCS&CA, JKPD-CL, CDPO, MC Bahmal and JKRLM. The Deputy Commissioner directed timely disbursement of rent to building owners and stressed maintaining safety and security of government assets and rented accommodations.

ADC Baderwah reviews rainy season preparedness; departments directed to submit detailed reports

BHADERWAH, APRIL 18: As directed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Krishan Lal a meeting to review the preparedness for the ensuing rainy season was held today at office chamber of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal. During the meeting, all concerned officers were directed to attend in person and present comprehensive details regarding damages that occurred during the last rainy season, action taken reports, current year plan proposals and urgent issues requiring priority redressal. The AEE Jal Shakti Department was instructed to provide detailed reports on the Monda Water



Supply Scheme, Amrut Ashapta Water Supply Scheme and Mohalla Qila reservoir. The Power Development Department (PDD) was directed to furnish complete details of

wooden electricity poles in both urban and rural areas that need replacement with iron poles, and to ensure the removal of HT lines passing over residential houses and schools. The PMGSY department was asked to submit detailed information regarding Musda Nallah and other nallahs and kuls. The Executive Engineer R&B (PWD) was directed to ensure that all damaged roads, drains and nallahs are cleared and restored to proper condition and that crash barriers are installed wherever necessary. The BMO Baderwah and Bhalla were instructed to ensure adequate availability of medicines, ambulance services in far-flung areas and uninterrupted essential health services at SDH Baderwah. The Irrigation Department and BDOs of Baderwah and Bhalla were asked to provide detailed reports on damaged nallahs and landslides.

Officers were also directed to submit details of works executed under the NREGA scheme along with updates from their respective jurisdictions. The meeting was attended by ADC Baderwah, Tehsildars of Baderwah and Bhalla, Executive Engineer R&B (PWD), BMO Baderwah, BDO Bhalla, AE R&B, HDO, JE PMGSY, LDO, TSOs, Range Officers, AEE Jal Shakti, AE PDD and other concerned officers. Officers from Bhalla zone participated in the meeting through virtual mode. The ADC emphasized the importance of proactive planning and timely execution of works to minimize damage and ensure public safety during the upcoming rainy season.

Deputy Chief Minister convenes public outreach programme in Nowshera; assures swift redress of public issues, concerns

NOWSHERA, APRIL 18: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today continued his extensive public outreach programme across Nowshera, holding a series of public interaction sessions and inspections to address the public issues and concerns and review the ongoing development works.

During the outreach programme, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Panchayat Chowki Handan, Kalsian, Langer, Panchayat Bhawani, Janghar, Laroka, Killa Darhal and Lamberi, where he interacted with the local residents and met various public delegations.

At these locations, several delegations called on the Deputy



Chief Minister, highlighting the local concerns and developmental needs. He assured them of timely and amicable resolution of their genuine issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister listened to their grievances and demands besides seeking feedback on implementation of development

and timely LPG supply while maintaining transparency and enhancing consumer satisfaction.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to grassroots engagement, the Deputy Chief Minister said that such outreach programmes are vital for strengthening the public trust and ensuring that development initiatives are aligned with the needs and aspirations of the people.

He further directed the concerned officers to remain proactive in addressing the public grievances, ensuring that all developmental works are executed efficiently and within stipulated timelines.

Senior officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the public outreach.

Satish Sharma visits Kathua; outlines roadmap for development, youth empowerment

KATHUA, APRIL 18: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited Kathua and convened an exclusive interactive session with the public at Brahma Sabha, Kathua.

While addressing on the occasion, the Minister spoke on a wide range of public issues and shared the government's vision and roadmap for holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir, with special focus on youth empowerment, infrastructure development and improved public services.

The Minister emphasized that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the governance and accelerate development across all sectors in the region.

Highlighting key initiatives, he announced that new bus services will be started connecting various religious places to facilitate the pilgrims and promote tourism. He further informed that 10 new buses will be added in every district to augment the public transport and improve connectivity.

Underscoring the government's focus on employment generation, the Minister stated that avenues are being created to provide employment opportunities to around 50,000 youth. He also highlighted that the present administration is working



in a mission mode to make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sports excellence. He added that two modern stadiums will be developed with facilities meeting the standards required for hosting IPL matches.

The Minister stressed that the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse and is waging a sustained war the dreaded menace. He called upon the youth and society at large to actively support the ongoing anti-drug campaign. Speaking on education reforms, the Minister informed that the process related to CUET for college students of Jammu and Kashmir has been eased to ensure greater convenience and accessibility for the aspiring students.

SWD Bhaderwah organises awareness & pledge programmes for drug-free society

BHADERWAH, APRIL 18: Under the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukt Campaign, on its 6th day, the Social Welfare Department Bhaderwah under the guidance of DSWO Doda and close supervision of Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Bhaderwah Shah Nawaz Ahmad organized a series of awareness-cum-pledge taking programmes against drug abuse. A series of awareness-cum-pledge taking programmes against drug abuse were successfully organized by the officials of TSWO Bhaderwah at Panchayats Chinote, Chakka, Kulchari, Gatha, Sara and Udrana of Bhaderwah Block, besides Bhartiya Vidya Mandir School and the TSWO Office Bhaderwah. During the programmes, special emphasis was laid on sensitizing youth and students about the harmful effects and serious consequences of drug abuse. Participants were encouraged to take collective pledges to stay



away from drugs and to contribute towards building a healthy, disciplined and drug-free society.

The initiative witnessed active participation from various sections of society, reaffirming the commitment towards achieving the goal of a Drug-Free Bhaderwah in line with the UT-wide campaign. "Together, let us build a strong and drug-free society for a better future."

State Election Commissioner reviews Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls in Udhampur, Jammu

Inspects special camps, interacts with BLOs, PEBOs, local residents

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 18: State Election Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu today conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur and Jammu districts to review the ongoing progress of the Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2026.

During the visit, the State Election Commissioner inspected special camps at Panchayat Ghar Tikri, Mand East and West and Panchayat Ghar Garna in Udhampur district besides Panchayat Ghar Jhajhar Kotli, BDO



offices Damsal and Nagrota in Jammu district.

The State Election Commissioner inspected the ongoing special camps and interacted with the Booth Level Officers, (BLOs), Panchayat Election Booth Officers (PEBOs) and members of the panchayats. He reviewed the status and progress of the revision exercise and sought feed-

back regarding the enrolment of newly eligible voters.

Shantmanu also assessed the submission of forms related to inclusion, deletion, correction and transposition in the Panchayat electoral rolls. He directed the concerned officials to further intensify the outreach during the revision period to identify all the eligible voters, facilitate registrations and ensure that no deserving voter is left out. Emphasizing the importance of the exercise, the State Election

Commissioner stressed the need to ensure 100 percent inclusion of all eligible voters in the Panchayat electoral rolls, thereby strengthening transparency, accuracy and inclusiveness in the electoral process. During the tour, the State Election Commissioner also visited and inspected the Special Migrant Camps at Zonal Office Relief (Migrant), Udhampur and Jagti Township Nagrota. He had feedback from the concerned authorities on the ongoing progress.

Adopt outcome driven approach: Saurabh Bhagat tells officials during Anantnag 100 day campaign review

ANANTNAG, APRIL 18: To evaluate the progress and impact of the ongoing 100 day intensive campaign under Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyaan, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, who is also the District Mentor for Anantnag, today virtually held a comprehensive meeting with the concerned officers of the district.

The meeting mainly focused on outcome-driven initiatives and was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, SP, Sunny Gupta, SDMs, ACD, CMO, College Principals, DSWO and other officials. Expressing satisfaction on progress of the district, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized that the campaign must focus on the tangible outcomes through a multi pronged and holistic approach. He called for proper identification, treatment and reha-



bilitation of the victims on scientific lines while strictly maintaining their privacy. He directed the CMO to analyze drug use pattern, specifically class and intake route of drugs, to ensure targeted interventions are made by the authorities. He further stressed the need for a robust follow-up system to prevent

relapse in recovered victims.

The Commissioner Secretary issued directions that teachers and other officials be trained as professional counselors to mentor the vulnerable students and specifically reach out to school dropouts. He further called for tough action on cannabis cultivation belts and intensified surveillance in tourist areas and hotels to break the supply chain. To create a strong deterrent, law enforcement agencies must impart wide publicity to the legal actions such as seizures, arrests and property attachments through print and social media, he remarked.

During the session, the Commissioner Secretary noted that the success stories of recovered victims and testimonials of their parents, on voluntary basis, be shared through social media and other platforms, to inspire hope and change within the community. Earlier, the Deputy

Commissioner provided a comprehensive briefing on the district's multi-pronged approach, which included district, department and Panchayat-level action plans. He highlighted the success of awareness rallies, sports activities and the active involvement of influencers and religious leaders who are using their platforms to denounce drug abuse.

The district has also prioritized the sensitization of tuition centers and the monitoring of courier services to prevent the illicit transport of substances while maintaining a close vigil on hotspots via CCTV surveillance and regular raids. Besides, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of victims through DDAC and ATF also featured in DC's briefing.

SP updated on enforcement efforts including seizures, convictions and the attachment of properties belonging to drug suppliers and peddlers.

Javed Rana inaugurates CFC, inspects sports stadium at Mankote

MENDHAR, APRIL 18: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Monday inaugurated a Community Facilitation Centre (CFC) at Mankote and inspected the under-construction Sports Stadium during a public outreach visit to the area.

The CFC, constructed by the Rural Development Department at a cost of Rs. 17 lakh, is aimed at strengthening the grassroots governance and service delivery by bringing multiple public services and community activities under one roof.

"The present administration is making all endeavours to extend necessary services to the people at their door steps and setting



up of CFCs in the remote areas is a part of these initiatives," Javed Rana said while addressing the locals after inaugurating the CFC. The Minister also inspected the ongoing construction of the Sports Stadium at Mankote, being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 58 lakh. He directed the executing agencies to ensure timely completion with strict adherence to the

set quality standards. During the visit, several delegations and individuals called on the Minister and projected various development related issues. A delegation of students from wGovernment Degree College Mendhar submitted a memorandum highlighting the concerns regarding the need for a girls' hostel and a multi-purpose hall.

Multi-Specialty Medical Camp organized at MH Bhalra Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH, APRIL 18: A Multi Specialty Medical Camp was organized by the Health Department in collaboration with the Indian Army at Military Hospital (MH) Bhalra, Bhaderwah. The camp was conducted under the supervision of BMO

Bhaderwah Dr. Versha Sharma and overall guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather.

The camp aimed to provide a wide range of healthcare services to the locals at their doorstep. Various services including



general health check-ups, eye screening, ultrasound services, orthopedic consultation, AYUSH services, NCD screening, TB screening, Hb screening and other essential health services were provided during the camp. More

than 200 patients were examined and provided with free medical consultation and treatment by a team of dedicated doctors from SDH Bhaderwah. The medical team included Dr. Sandeep Kotwal (Physician), Dr. Bishan (Orthopedic

Specialist), Dr. Priya, Dr. Deep Mala, Dr. Mamta and Dr. Saima Khateeb (MO AYUSH).

The team was assisted by paramedical staff from SDH Bhaderwah and MMU staff from the CMO Office Doda, ensuring smooth conduct of the camp. Health awareness sessions were also conducted during the camp, wherein participants were sensitized about prevention of lifestyle diseases, importance of regular health check-ups, TB awareness and maintaining healthy lifestyles.

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