

North in News

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

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

VOL. NO. 14 | ISSUE NO. 103

JAMMU, THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026

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

Eveready Sets Up Rs 200 Cr Plant In Samba; LG Highlights Jobs, Growth Push

JAMMU, APR 22: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated Eveready Industries India Limited's new industrial unit in Samba. The plant established with an investment of Rs. 200 crore, will create local jobs, boost ancillary units, suppliers, and service providers, promote skill development, generate opportunities for women, and make a significant contribution to the economic development of Jammu Kashmir. "Inauguration of Eveready's plant, along with the changed atmosphere in the Union Territory, reflects the sus-

Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates Industrial Unit of Eveready Industries India Limited in Samba



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurating the Eveready Industries India Limited plant in Samba.

His vision has turned the dream of a prosperous Jammu Kashmir into reality," the Lieutenant Governor observed that across the territory, the Government is committed to ensuring that the economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. He highlighted the role of the private sector in job creation and economic development. The plant is expected to create thousands of jobs and boost the local economy. The LG also mentioned the government's efforts to improve infrastructure and provide incentives to investors. He concluded by saying that the inauguration of this plant is a significant step towards the economic development of the state.

Samba, Kathua, Jammu and many parts of Kashmir, the industrial revolution we are witnessing today is a living symbol of new era for Jammu Kashmir. He said in the past 5 years, the scale of industrial development has moved beyond mere economic figures and become the most powerful medium of transformation across the Territory. "Establishing this esteemed company's plant is a landmark moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir. It signals readiness to embrace opportunity, serve the nation and serve the people to the best

'Nagrikdevo Bhava' Must Be At Heart Of Every Decision: PM To Over 1 Crore Civil Servants



NEW DELHI, APR 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written letters to over a crore civil servants telling them that the principle of 'Nagrikdevo Bhava' (citizen is god) must be at the heart of every decision and the government must serve the people to the best

of its abilities. The Prime Minister also conveyed to the civil servants that governance must be grounded in compassion and that those who bear the responsibility of public service must themselves be the finest examples of lifelong learning. The letters, written on April 20, a day ahead of Civil Services Day, were issued in 12 languages — Hindi, English, Marathi, Odia, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Punjabi, Assamese, Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil — ensuring wider reach across Ministries, Departments, States and Union Territories. Modi said the 21st century is a time of great challenges as well as opportunities and trends are changing every day, new technologies are emerging and new innovations are constantly happening. He said both the citizens and the world have

Online Gaming Rules Notified Govt Says Determination Registration Not Mandatory For Most Games



NEW DELHI, APR 22: The government on Wednesday notified long-awaited rules to operationalise the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, paving the way for the sector's digital

first regulator, 'online gaming authority', and setting out a 'regulation-light' framework that would not require mandatory registration or prior determination/classification for most online social games. The rules come into effect from May 1, 2026. Notably, the norms introduce a new concept of 'user safety features' as an enabling provision — technical, procedural, operational, behavioural or system-related safeguards appropriate to the risk profile of the game. These include age-verification and age-gating, time restrictions, parental controls, user reporting tools, counselling support, and fair-play and integrity monitoring. Service

Preventing Pahalgam-Like Terror Attack Top Priority Of Govt: CM Omar

UDHAMPUR, APR 22: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday asserted that preventing a repeat of the Pahalgam-like tragedy remains a top priority. He stressed that even if Pakistan attempts such actions, we will not allow them to succeed. Marking the first anniversary of the terror attack in Pahalgam that left 25 tourists and a local pony rider operator dead on this day last year, Abdullah emphasised joint action by

the elected government, the Centre, and law enforcement agencies to ensure lasting security in the region. He said the day continues to weigh heavily on the

Strait Of Hormuz Disruptions Not Distant Events, Have Direct Implications For India: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, APR 22: In the backdrop of the ongoing West Asian conflict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implications for India's security and economic stability. Addressing the German Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security on day one of his three-day visit to the country, he also asserted that the world today is faced with new security threats, and the technological transformation has made the situa-



tion highly complex and intricately connected. A new approach with the willingness to adapt to the changing environment is the need of the hour, the minister said on Tuesday. Singh also made a strong

BRIEF NEWS

Attack On CRPF Installation: NIA Seizes Two Houses Of Accused

SRINAGAR, APR 22: The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday seized two houses in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir belonging to one of the accused persons involved in an attack on a CRPF installation. A team of agency personnel seized a two-storey house and a single-storey house belonging to Fayaz Ahmad Magray at Lethpora in Pulwama district, officials said here. Magray is accused in the 2017 'fidayeen' attack on a CRPF training centre at Lethpora in which five CRPF personnel were killed. Three terrorists were also eliminated in the encounter that took place after the attack. The NIA seizure was carried out on the basis of an order

Property Attached In Drug Trafficking Case

SRINAGAR, APR 22: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Wednesday attached a property allegedly acquired through proceeds of drug trafficking, officials said. The property, a double-storey house valued at Rs 31.65 lakh, belongs to Mohammad Yousof Bhat, a resident of Vishroo Payeen Kella in south Kashmir, a police spokesperson said. He said the property was identified as having been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal trade of drugs and narcotics. The attachment was conducted in connection with an FIR registered at Kella police station, the spokesperson said.

Historic first: Special Amul milk freight train reaches J&K from Gujarat

JAMMU, APR 22: The Jammu division of Indian Railways has successfully facilitated the arrival of the first-ever special milk freight train from Gujarat, marking a significant milestone in ensuring seamless availability of dairy products in Jammu and Kashmir. Describing the development as a "historic achievement," railway authorities said the initiative would significantly strengthen food security and ensure the uninterrupted availability of nutritious dairy products across the region. It also highlights Indian Railways' commitment to enhancing supply chains to remote areas. The special freight train, comprising 20 BCN wagons loaded with dairy products from Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), originated from Linch Goods Shed in Ahmedabad Division on April 20 and reached Bari Brahmana and Ananang goods sheds in Jammu Division. Officials said 10

BJP Delegation Meets EC, Seeks Stringent Action Against Kharge For 'Terrorist' Remark Targeting PM

NEW DELHI, APR 22: A BJP delegation comprising three Union ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman, approached the Election Commission on Wednesday, demanding "strictest action" against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his "terrorist" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sitharaman said, "Today, we appeared before the full commission to bring to its notice that no less a person than the president of the Congress and the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha has spoken in such condemnable words. Kharge chose to call the prime minister a 'terrorist' while addressing a press conference in Tamil Nadu, an election-bound state, the finance minister said, terming the Congress chief's remark "outrageous".

"Kashmir Has Remained Resilient In Pursuit Of Peace And Eradication Of Terrorism": Azad

JAMMU, APR 22: Veteran political leader and DPA party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday remembered the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack on its first anniversary, paying tributes to those killed and expressing hope for a peaceful future free from terrorism. In a post on X, Azad said, "One year after the heinous terror attack in #Pahalgam, we remember with deep sorrow the 25 innocent tourists and the brave local resident who were killed in this brutal act of violence." He said the attack not only



targeted civilians but also "snuck at the very soul of Kashmir and all that it stands for." Azad further stated, "Yet, Kashmir has remained resilient and united in its pursuit of peace, justice and the complete eradication of terrorism. As

No shortage of Fuel, LPG or Fertilizers: Officers to CS

JAMMU, APRIL 22: As part of a periodic review a high-level meeting was today convened by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to take stock of the availability and distribution of essential commodities across the districts of J&K in the aftermath of the recent West Asia crisis that had initially given rise to the apprehensions of impacting the supply chains.

Directs for ensuring fair distribution and price monitoring of essentials across districts



The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Secretary, IT and Transport Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IG Traffic; and other concerned officials. The Chief Secretary further stressed the need for continuous monitoring of the situation to ensure ease and convenience for the public. He directed Deputy Commissioners to saturate the e-KYC of all active beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System within the next two weeks, ensuring transparency and

efficiency in service delivery. The Chief Secretary also underscored the need to implement an Aadhaar-enabled distribution system for fertilizers to ensure transparency and fair allocation. Reviewing the supply position, it was informed that both Kashmir and Jammu divisions currently have adequate stocks of petroleum products and LPG. The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar while apportioning about Jammu Division, revealed that the diesel availability stands at about 11 days and petrol around 4 days, with additional supplies in transit improving the overall position. LPG stocks in Jammu are sufficient for 8-10 days, while kerosene reserves

Weather To Remain Mostly Dry Till April-End; Brief Rain Spells Expected On Apr 24-25, 29-30: MeT

SRINAGAR, APR 22: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir will largely witness dry weather conditions till the end of April, with only brief spells of rain and thunder-showers expected on select dates. Director 'MeT' Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that no major weather activity is likely till month-end except short rain spells around April 24-25 and April 29-30. He said that on April 22-23, weather will remain generally dry with a possibility of light rain at a few places towards late afternoon. For April 24-25, the MeT has forecast partly to generally cloudy conditions with one or two brief spells of light

COMPACT

Eveready...

light the way to the future. It also reflects strong confidence in the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said. Addressing a gathering after inauguration ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor shared significant figures to highlight industrial transformation of Jammu Kashmir after New Industrial Policy was launched in 2021. He said in financial year 2025-26 alone, Jammu Kashmir attracted investment of Rs. 5,824 crore—more than 13 times the average investment recorded before 2021. In FY 2022-23 investment was Rs. 2,153 crore, in FY 2023-24 Rs. 3,389 crore, and in FY 2024-25 Rs. 4,145 crore. In addition, half the preliminary work has already been completed on 312 units worth Rs. 7,864 crore, with production expected to begin in FY 2026-27. Jammu Kashmir has also seen, for the first time, the establishment of several units with investments exceeding Rs. 500 crore, including Chirpal Polyfilms (Rs. 1,215 crore), Kandhari Beverages (Rs. 830 crore), and Aegris (Rs. 666 crore). Three more units are expected to start production in FY 2026-27.

"The number of startups has risen from just 69 in 2020 to 1,305 in FY 2025-26—a growth of over 1,800%. Combined with all industrial units and PMEGIP-supported units, millions of young people have gained better employment opportunities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to all the civilians who were martyred in the Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22nd April last year. He said we have not forgotten those who had dared to cast a covetous eye on our mothers' and sisters' Sindoors.

"Also recall the brave soldiers of Operation Sindoors, who had avenged every single tear, today, the inauguration of this new industrial unit in Jammu Kashmir is a clear and powerful declaration that India will neither halt nor pause, but will march forward on the path of development with renewed vigour and self-confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said through today's inauguration, we have also sent a message to the world that while our neighbouring country continues to run factories of terrorism, India is building factories of progress and success.

"Today we have told the world that while our neighbour's factories churn out terrorists, India's factories are engaged in nation-building. We are also conveying that the economic potential, industrial energy and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir are advancing with a new sense of pride," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Mohit Burman, Non-Executive Director, Eveready Industries India Limited said that the state-of-the-art greenfield facility will generate around 500 direct and indirect employment opportunities at full scale in the region. He said the company also aims to contribute to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.

Eveready's new manufacturing plant boasts a robust annual peak production capacity of approximately 360 million alkaline batteries with an annual installed capacity of 456 million. It also conveys that the economic potential, industrial energy and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir are advancing with a new sense of pride," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Arjun Lamba, Non-Executive Director, Eveready Industries India Limited; Anirban Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer; Bihak Agarwala, Executive Director and CFO; Sandeep Banerjee, Chief Human Resource Officer; Arun Sahay, Head Operations and other members of Eveready Industries India Limited were present.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner, Industries and Commerce Department; Ms Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner, Samba; Arun Kumar Mathias, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu; senior officials and representatives of trade and industrial organisations also attended the inaugural ceremony.

'Nagrikdevo'...

great expectations from the country. "It is important that the government's services and work culture are tuned to make the maximum out of this historic era. Making learning a lifelong habit through the use of platforms such as the IGOT Karmayogi platform is important in this regard. You are choosing to be better so that Bharat can be better," he said.

Addressing the civil servants as 'Karmayogi', the Prime Minister said he has written the letter to them at a very special time, as in many parts of India, it is a festive season.

"He said the atmosphere is filled with the enthusiasm of Rongali Bihu, Vishu, Puthandu, Poila Boishakh, Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti and Baisakhi.

Modi said these festivals are about hope, renewal and new beginnings. "At such a time, you have become a part of a festival of learning and growing—the 'Sadhana Saptah'. I congratulate you for being a part of this unique effort that brings together civil servants across the length and breadth of India," he said.

The Prime Minister said he would like to express his deepest appreciation for the civil servants' passion for service, which enabled them to be a part of this effort. He said it reflected an unwavering faith, remarkable spirit and unparalleled dedication to strengthening the journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat'.

"I have always believed that such platforms are essential for personal growth and for enhancing our professional capacities," he said.

Modi said discovering something new is among the finest things in life, and one has to keep that spirit of enquiry alive.

"It is with this principle that we launched Mission Karmayogi. Yes, on one hand, it was about training and learning new things.

"But, at the same time, it was a reaffirmation that a government must serve the citizens to the best of its abilities, that governance must be grounded in compassion and that those who bear the responsibility of public service must themselves be the finest examples of lifelong learning," he said.

Govt Says...

providers are required to disclose their 'user safety features' and internal grievance mechanisms at the time of application for determination or registration. The new rules stipulate a determination limits test, to classify whether an online game constitutes an online money game which parent Act explicitly bans—such a test is triggered in three situations; in case the authority itself initiates a suo motu review, where the provider has an e-sport offering, or notably, where Government specifies a category of social games basis "nature, volume or value of financial transactions or authorisation of funds" needed to participate in it. The factors for determination take into account

aspects such as whether the online game involves payment of fees or a deposit of money at any stage of participation. Expectation of monetary winnings, the structure of the revenue model, and the manner in which rewards or in-game assets are redeemed or monetised outside the game would be other touchstones. Such determination (classification) will be completed within 90 days of a complete application or of notice issued in a suo motu proceeding... We wanted to, as far as possible, keep this entire thing as regulation-light as possible. Most games, which are not money games, should be able to operate with no obligation to necessarily either be determined or registered. So that entire process is optional." IT Secretary S Krishnan told reporters. He added: "We are not obligating anybody to apply to determine whether it is an online money game, or online social game, or e-sport. Registration is required only when the Government so notices, taking into consideration risk to users (including children), scale of participation, financial transactions, country of origin or the head office of the online game service provider offering the game, and "such other factors as the Authority deems necessary in public interest or to protect the interests of users". E-sports, however, will require mandatory registration as specified in the parent Act. And real money games are already explicitly banned under the provisions. On successful determination and registration, the online gaming authority will issue a 'digital Certificate of Registration' with a unique registration number, valid for a period of up to 10 years. "Registered service providers are required to prominently display the details of determination or registration on the interface through which the game is offered, designate a point of contact, comply with data retention directions, and observe directions issued in relation to facilitation of payment, an official release, etc. Every online game service provider offering an online social game or e-sport must establish and maintain a functional grievance redressal mechanism. A user dissatisfied with the provider's resolution (or in case of non-redressal) can approach the Online Gaming Authority of India within 30 days, which will aim to dispose of the appeal within a further 30 days. A second appeal lies before the Appellate Authority that is, the Secretary, MeitY, who shall dispose of appeals, as far as possible, within 30 days. The rules aim to provide a clear, transparent and time-bound mechanism to determine whether an online game is an online money game (and therefore prohibited) or a permissible online social game or e-sport, and create a statutory registration regime for e-sports and such categories of online social games as may be notified. The Online Gaming Authority of India is constituted as an attached office of MeitY. This multi-sectoral body will be chaired by the Additional Secretary, MeitY (ex officio), with joint secretary-level representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Finance (Department of Financial Services), Ministry of Information and Public Relations, Youth Affairs and Sports, and Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs). The Authority is designed to function as a digital office, maintaining and publishing the list of online money games, inquiring into complaints, issuing directions, orders and codes of practice, hearing appeals against decisions of service providers on grievances, and coordinating with financial institutions and law-enforcement agencies for effective enforcement. Banks and financial institutions will have specific compliance obligations to ensure that financial flows are restricted to legitimate, registered gaming entities. Banks can ask for a certificate of registration, say, in case they notice multiple financial transactions. If the online gaming authority determines that a game constitutes an 'online money game', it can issue orders to banks to immediately suspend, restrict, or discontinue all financial transactions related to that game.

Preventing...

people of Jammu and Kashmir, as the region remembers the innocent tourists who lost their lives in the terror attack.

"We pay tribute to the innocent lives lost in a senseless act of terror. They had come only to spend their holidays, yet were mercilessly targeted and killed. Even today, we stand in solidarity with their grieving families," the chief minister said after visiting those injured in a recent bus accident at Government Medical College (GMC) hospital here.

At least 21 people were killed and 51 others injured on April 20 when an overcrowded passenger bus plunged nearly 100 metres down a hillside in the Ramnagar area of Udhampur, crushing an auto-rickshaw before landing upside down on the road below.

The chief minister said, "On that day (April 22, 2025), we resolved—and we remain committed—that we must do everything possible to ensure such (Pahalgam type) incidents never happen again. Whether it is the elected government, the central government, or the law and order machinery, we will work together to make this effort successful." When asked about any change in Pakistan following Operation Sindoors, he said such assessments are best left to those with access to intelligence reports.

"I can only say that we will make every possible effort to ensure that even if Pakistan intends such actions, we will not allow them to succeed. That will remain our priority," he added.

On the impact of the Pahalgam terror attack on tourism, Omar Abdullah said, "It is your job to give report cards; ours is to make efforts. Our focus is to maintain normalcy." He acknowledged that the attack has had some impact compared to last year, but expressed optimism as the season progresses. "We expect a good number of visitors to come to Jammu and Kashmir—whether for darshan at Vaishno Devi Temple, the Amarnath Yatra, or for general tourism," he said.

The chief minister urged pilgrims to attend the upcoming Yatra in large numbers. The 57-day annual Amarnath Yatra is set to commence on July 5 and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. The pilgrimage will be conducted via both the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Bhalal route, with advance registration beginning on April 15.

Meanwhile, calling for an immediate end to the conflict in West Asia involving Iran, the US and Israel, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said its repercussions are being felt worldwide, including rising oil prices and disruptions to critical supply chains. However, he also noted that compared to many other countries, the situation in India remains relatively stable.

"We want this war to end; it should not be happening. As for the reasons behind the attack on Iran, only the countries directly involved—the US and Israel—can explain their actions, as their intentions remain unclear to us. "What has happened is wrong, but it must stop now," Abdullah told reporters, warning that the impact of the conflict is being felt globally.

Pointing to rising oil prices, shrinking supplies and disruptions in essential supply chains globally, Abdullah said several countries, particularly in Europe, are already facing severe strain, with fuel for ships being rationed. "Our neighbouring country (Pakistan), airplanes are allowed entry but not permitted to refuel before departure," he said, underscoring the scale of the crisis. Despite the challenges, Abdullah said India's situation remains comparatively stable. However, he warned that a prolonged conflict could deepen global disruptions. "We hope the war ends as soon as possible," he said, reiterating the need for stability amid growing international uncertainty.

At the meeting, US President Donald Trump said the US would indefinitely extend the ceasefire with Iran, which was due to expire on Wednesday, to give Tehran time to come up with a "unified proposal" ahead of possible negotiations.

Iran has offered no formal acknowledgment of Trump's ceasefire extension so far.

Strait Of...

for over 50 years, with global ramifications. "For a developing country like India, which relies on the West Asian region for a significant share of its energy requirements, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events, they are stark realities with direct implications for our security and economic stability," Singh said. He highlighted that in view of these challenges and their direct implications, India has adopted a proactive and coordinated strategy.

To deal with modern-day global challenges, Singh underscored the need for coordinated responses and trusted strategic partnerships. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz have placed strong emphasis on advancing this strategic partnership, he said. "We also see a clear convergence of views at the European Union level, reflected in the growing momentum to engage with India, including through the India-EU Defence and Strategic Partnership," Singh said. He also asserted that Atmanirbhar Bharat is not merely a procurement programme for India, but "an invitation to co-create, co-develop, and co-grow". "We recognise the established strengths of Germany's leading industrial enterprises, while also admiring the vigour and dynamism of the renowned German Mittelstand (small and medium-sized companies) in advanced and emerging technologies."

In India too, start-ups and emerging private companies are rapidly enhancing and complementing the capabilities of our larger and established defence enterprises. This is an area where India and Germany naturally complement each other, and our partnership can deepen further," Singh said. He reiterated that the two nations are not only strategic partners, but also consequential voices in shaping the global discourse of the present times.

"We are established democracies bound by shared values and dynamic economies driven by resilience, innovation and a determined industrial spirit. As lawmakers and esteemed members of the Committee, your guidance, voice and support can further strengthen and enrich the future course of our defence and strategic cooperation," the minister said. "When the chronicles of this era are penned, the India-Germany partnership will stand as a paragon of diplomacy, crafted not in response to crisis, but through the steady resolve of two mature democracies striving for a better world together," he said. Singh added that the current geopolitical instability can no longer be viewed as regional matters.

Their consequences are global in scope, he said, describing them as not localised disturbances, but serious developments with far-reaching implications for energy security, food security and global economic stability, apart from the immense humanitarian cost they entail. Upon his arrival, Singh was welcomed at the Berlin Airport with a military honour guard in a Special German Air Force aircraft, escorted by fighter jets, during his flight from Munich to Berlin, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier, Singh paid floral tribute to Nobel laureate Subrahmanya Chandrasekhar at the premises of the Humboldt University in Berlin, underscoring the enduring cultural and intellectual ties between India and Germany, it said.

Historic first...

wagons were unloaded at Bari Brahman and the remaining 0.4 at Anantnag, with each set carrying approximately 500 tonnes of dairy products. "The consignment included toned milk, milk powder, buttermilk, lassi, and other essential dairy items." This is a proud and historic moment for the region, as it marks the first time a Special Commissioner Divisional Commercial Manager. The arrival of the first special cargo train carrying Amul milk and dairy products has been planned keeping in mind the needs of citizens, traders, and families of Jammu and Kashmir. It will ensure round-the-clock availability of fresh dairy products across Jammu and adjoining areas," Singhal said. He added that the direct rail linkage would substantially reduce transportation costs and time compared to road routes, thereby benefiting local markets and consumers. Officials also recalled that in October 2025, the division had achieved another milestone when a 1,350-tonne consignment of industrial salt was transported by rail from Kharaghoda in Gujarat to Anantnag. The latest initiative is expected to further strengthen commercial and economic ties between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir, directly linking the dairy and industrial sectors with markets in the Kashmir Valley. The Jammu division said such initiatives would continue to enhance logistical efficiency while contributing to regional economic growth and supply stability.

BJP Delegation...

"dusting act" by Kharage. "We have demanded the strictest action. We have also demanded that Kharage and the Congress be restricted to appear in the consolidated Rijuji toll reporters. He said the Commission gave a patient hearing to the BJP delegation and assured that it will take "appropriate action" in the matter. "The Election Commission should take such action in the matter that addresses a proper conviction to curb country's prime minister a terrorist. Everyone should learn a lesson. We hope the Election Commission will definitely take action," the senior BJP leader said. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and BJP national general secretary Arun Singh were also part of the delegation. The development followed after Kharage accused Prime Minister Modi of terrorising political parties and people by misusing government machinery and central agencies to stifle the opposition.

Addressing a press conference in Chennai, the Congress chief initially referred to the prime minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP. However, when pressed by reporters to clarify the context

of the remark, the Congress chief said he meant the prime minister was "terrorising" the democratic fabric of the country.

"He is terrorising people and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist (in the literal sense). He is misusing his power and government machinery and abusing and maligning opposition parties," Kharage said. On Tuesday, the BJP had urged the Election Commission to take immediate cognisance of Kharage's remark and direct the Congress president to submit a public apology. In a memorandum to the poll panel, it also demanded that "suitable penal and regulatory proceedings" be initiated against Kharage for his remark under various sections of the BNS, and "appropriate campaign restrictions" be imposed on him. The BJP also said that its delegations comprising Sitharaman, Rijuji and Meghwal will meet the EC on Wednesday to raise the issue.

'Kashmir'...

we pay homage to those we lost, we also look ahead with hope for a future free from such acts of terror."

Ponywallah...

scending religion, language and creed," the deputy CM said, attending the event through video conferencing. "A mother's son, a family's pillar, snatched away in an instant, but this sacrifice made for humanity will never be forgotten by the country; it has been etched in history," he added.

Shinde also said he made every effort to safely evacuate tourists stranded in Srinagar after the terror attack last year and monitored the entire operation. When local residents raised the demand for developing the area as a tourist zone, Shinde assured them that efforts would be made to take a positive decision in cooperation with the central government.

A large number of tourists from Maharashtra visit Kashmir, and special attention would be given to increasing this number further in the future, he added.

Shinde also recalled the legacy of party founder Bal Thackeray and said, "The late Balasaheb Thackeray always helped people transcending caste and religion, and Shiv Sena walks on those very values." Kadam, who is a minister of state in the Maharashtra home department, said he came to Kashmir not to do politics but to give support to Shah's family.

Shiradi said Shiv Sena is a party that keeps its word, as it fulfilled Shinde's promise of help in building the house for Shah and his family and ensuring private companies are rapidly enhancing and complementing the capabilities of our larger and established defence enterprises. This is an area where India and Germany naturally complement each other, and our partnership can deepen further," Singh said. He reiterated that the two nations are not only strategic partners, but also consequential voices in shaping the global discourse of the present times.

"We are established democracies bound by shared values and dynamic economies driven by resilience, innovation and a determined industrial spirit. As lawmakers and esteemed members of the Committee, your guidance, voice and support can further strengthen and enrich the future course of our defence and strategic cooperation," the minister said. "When the chronicles of this era are penned, the India-Germany partnership will stand as a paragon of diplomacy, crafted not in response to crisis, but through the steady resolve of two mature democracies striving for a better world together," he said. Singh added that the current geopolitical instability can no longer be viewed as regional matters.

Their consequences are global in scope, he said, describing them as not localised disturbances, but serious developments with far-reaching implications for energy security, food security and global economic stability, apart from the immense humanitarian cost they entail. Upon his arrival, Singh was welcomed at the Berlin Airport with a military honour guard in a Special German Air Force aircraft, escorted by fighter jets, during his flight from Munich to Berlin, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier, Singh paid floral tribute to Nobel laureate Subrahmanya Chandrasekhar at the premises of the Humboldt University in Berlin, underscoring the enduring cultural and intellectual ties between India and Germany, it said.

wagons were unloaded at Bari Brahman and the remaining 0.4 at Anantnag, with each set carrying approximately 500 tonnes of dairy products. "The consignment included toned milk, milk powder, buttermilk, lassi, and other essential dairy items." This is a proud and historic moment for the region, as it marks the first time a Special Commissioner Divisional Commercial Manager. The arrival of the first special cargo train carrying Amul milk and dairy products has been planned keeping in mind the needs of citizens, traders, and families of Jammu and Kashmir. It will ensure round-the-clock availability of fresh dairy products across Jammu and adjoining areas," Singhal said. He added that the direct rail linkage would substantially reduce transportation costs and time compared to road routes, thereby benefiting local markets and consumers. Officials also recalled that in October 2025, the division had achieved another milestone when a 1,350-tonne consignment of industrial salt was transported by rail from Kharaghoda in Gujarat to Anantnag. The latest initiative is expected to further strengthen commercial and economic ties between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir, directly linking the dairy and industrial sectors with markets in the Kashmir Valley. The Jammu division said such initiatives would continue to enhance logistical efficiency while contributing to regional economic growth and supply stability.

"dusting act" by Kharage. "We have demanded the strictest action. We have also demanded that Kharage and the Congress be restricted to appear in the consolidated Rijuji toll reporters. He said the Commission gave a patient hearing to the BJP delegation and assured that it will take "appropriate action" in the matter. "The Election Commission should take such action in the matter that addresses a proper conviction to curb country's prime minister a terrorist. Everyone should learn a lesson. We hope the Election Commission will definitely take action," the senior BJP leader said. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and BJP national general secretary Arun Singh were also part of the delegation. The development followed after Kharage accused Prime Minister Modi of terrorising political parties and people by misusing government machinery and central agencies to stifle the opposition.

Addressing a press conference in Chennai, the Congress chief initially referred to the prime minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP. However, when pressed by reporters to clarify the context

of the remark, the Congress chief said he meant the prime minister was "terrorising" the democratic fabric of the country.

"He is terrorising people and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist (in the literal sense). He is misusing his power and government machinery and abusing and maligning opposition parties," Kharage said.

On Tuesday, the BJP had urged the Election Commission to take immediate cognisance of Kharage's remark and direct the Congress president to submit a public apology. In a memorandum to the poll panel, it also demanded that "suitable penal and regulatory proceedings" be initiated against Kharage for his remark under various sections of the BNS, and "appropriate campaign restrictions" be imposed on him. The BJP also said that its delegations comprising Sitharaman, Rijuji and Meghwal will meet the EC on Wednesday to raise the issue.

'Kashmir'...

we pay homage to those we lost, we also look ahead with hope for a future free from such acts of terror."

Ponywallah...

scending religion, language and creed," the deputy CM said, attending the event through video conferencing. "A mother's son, a family's pillar, snatched away in an instant, but this sacrifice made for humanity will never be forgotten by the country; it has been etched in history," he added.

Shinde also said he made every effort to safely evacuate tourists stranded in Srinagar after the terror attack last year and monitored the entire operation. When local residents raised the demand for developing the area as a tourist zone, Shinde assured them that efforts would be made to take a positive decision in cooperation with the central government.

A large number of tourists from Maharashtra visit Kashmir, and special attention would be given to increasing this number further in the future, he added.

Shinde also recalled the legacy of party founder Bal Thackeray and said, "The late Balasaheb Thackeray always helped people transcending caste and religion, and Shiv Sena walks on those very values." Kadam, who is a minister of state in the Maharashtra home department, said he came to Kashmir not to do politics but to give support to Shah's family.

Shiradi said Shiv Sena is a party that keeps its word, as it fulfilled Shinde's promise of help in building the house for Shah and his family and ensuring private companies are rapidly enhancing and complementing the capabilities of our larger and established defence enterprises. This is an area where India and Germany naturally complement each other, and our partnership can deepen further," Singh said. He reiterated that the two nations are not only strategic partners, but also consequential voices in shaping the global discourse of the present times.

"We are established democracies bound by shared values and dynamic economies driven by resilience, innovation and a determined industrial spirit. As lawmakers and esteemed members of the Committee, your guidance, voice and support can further strengthen and enrich the future course of our defence and strategic cooperation," the minister said. "When the chronicles of this era are penned, the India-Germany partnership will stand as a paragon of diplomacy, crafted not in response to crisis, but through the steady resolve of two mature democracies striving for a better world together," he said. Singh added that the current geopolitical instability can no longer be viewed as regional matters.

Their consequences are global in scope, he said, describing them as not localised disturbances, but serious developments with far-reaching implications for energy security, food security and global economic stability, apart from the immense humanitarian cost they entail. Upon his arrival, Singh was welcomed at the Berlin Airport with a military honour guard in a Special German Air Force aircraft, escorted by fighter jets, during his flight from Munich to Berlin, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier, Singh paid floral tribute to Nobel laureate Subrahmanya Chandrasekhar at the premises of the Humboldt University in Berlin, underscoring the enduring cultural and intellectual ties between India and Germany, it said.

wagons were unloaded at Bari Brahman and the remaining 0.4 at Anantnag, with each set carrying approximately 500 tonnes of dairy products. "The consignment included toned milk, milk powder, buttermilk, lassi, and other essential dairy items." This is a proud and historic moment for the region, as it marks the first time a Special Commissioner Divisional Commercial Manager. The arrival of the first special cargo train carrying Amul milk and dairy products has been planned keeping in mind the needs of citizens, traders, and families of Jammu and Kashmir. It will ensure round-the-clock availability of fresh dairy products across Jammu and adjoining areas," Singhal said. He added that the direct rail linkage would substantially reduce transportation costs and time compared to road routes, thereby benefiting local markets and consumers. Officials also recalled that in October 2025, the division had achieved another milestone when a 1,350-tonne consignment of industrial salt was transported by rail from Kharaghoda in Gujarat to Anantnag. The latest initiative is expected to further strengthen commercial and economic ties between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir, directly linking the dairy and industrial sectors with markets in the Kashmir Valley. The Jammu division said such initiatives would continue to enhance logistical efficiency while contributing to regional economic growth and supply stability.

"dusting act" by Kharage. "We have demanded the strictest action. We have also demanded that Kharage and the Congress be restricted to appear in the consolidated Rijuji toll reporters. He said the Commission gave a patient hearing to the BJP delegation and assured that it will take "appropriate action" in the matter. "The Election Commission should take such action in the matter that addresses a proper conviction to curb country's prime minister a terrorist. Everyone should learn a lesson. We hope the Election Commission will definitely take action," the senior BJP leader said. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and BJP national general secretary Arun Singh were also part of the delegation. The development followed after Kharage accused Prime Minister Modi of terrorising political parties and people by misusing government machinery and central agencies to stifle the opposition.

Addressing a press conference in Chennai, the Congress chief initially referred to the prime minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP. However, when pressed by reporters to clarify the context

BJP J&K pays tributes to Pahalgam terror victims, reaffirms zero tolerance against terrorism

BJP J&K remembers Pahalgam victims, hails Army's strong response under PM Modi

JAMMU, APR 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, paid heartfelt floral tributes to the innocent civilians martyred in the cowardly terror attack in Pahalgam at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, Jammu, to mark the first anniversary of the tragic incident.

BJP National Secretary & MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana, BJP Vice-Presidents Bhusan, Priya Sethi, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, and Gopal Mahajan, MLAs Surjit Singh Salathia,



Sham Lal Sharma, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manwal, Prof. Ghauri Ram Bhagat, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Yudhvir Sethi, Arvind Gupta, Devyani Rana, Shagun Parihar, Surinder Bhagat, Secretaries Arun Sharma, Treasurer Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District Presidents Nand Kishore

Sharma, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Nareesh Jasrotia, and Rinku Choudhary, Mahila Morcha President Neha Mahajan, and other senior leaders also paid tributes on the occasion.

Floral tributes were laid and a two-minute silence was observed in memory of the victims, reflecting the party's deep respect and solidarity with the bereaved families.

Highlighting India's firm response, he said that under the decisive leadership of Narendra Modi, the Indian Army delivered a befitting reply through Operation Sindoor, showcasing India's strength and resolve on the global stage. Dr. Narinder Singh also paid rich tributes to the martyrs and said that the BJP stands firmly with the affected families. He stressed that the bravery and precision of Indian Armed Forces have set an example for the world, reaffirming that any attack on innocent Indians will be met with decisive action. Ashok Koul stressed that the party workers will continue to work at the grassroots level to strengthen national unity and expose the nefarious designs of anti-national elements. He further added.

LG Visits GMC Jammu To Inquire About Health Of Udhampur Accident Victims



JAMMU, APR 22: Jammu and Kashmir LG Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the Government Medical College (GMC) here to assess the condition of two critically injured victims of the recent road accident in Udhampur. At least 21 people were killed and 51 others injured when an over-

crowded passenger bus plunged nearly 100 metres down a hillside in Rannagar area of Udhampur district on April 20. An official spokesman said a team of doctors briefed Sinha on the health condition of the injured and the specialized treatment protocols being followed. Hospital authorities

informed the LG that Hans Raj and Lakhwinder Singh are under the constant supervision of senior healthcare professionals and receiving the highest standard of clinical attention. Sinha directed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible medical care for their speedy recovery, the spokesman said.

JU Marks Earth Day with Educational Activities at Wadia Museum

JAMMU, APR 22: Earth Day, observed annually on 22 April, is celebrated worldwide to promote environmental awareness and encourage conservation efforts. At the Wadia Museum of Natural History, this day was marked with educational and awareness-oriented activities. The museum, which houses collections of rocks, minerals, and fossils, provides a rich platform for understanding Earth's history and natural heritage. On Earth Day, students and faculty participated in exhibitions on natural history and biodiversity, lectures and presentations on environmental conservation, awareness programs highlighting



issues such as climate change and pollution, and interactive sessions that connect geological knowledge with present-day environmental challenges. Such celebrations aim to sensitize students to the importance of protecting natural resources and

inspire them to adopt sustainable practices. The Wadia Museum plays an important role in linking scientific knowledge with environmental responsibility, making Earth Day celebrations meaningful and educational.

Kesri expresses grief over Udhampur Bus accident; demands advance medical care for injured

Seeks strict action on negligent driving; lauds compensation by UT and Central govt

JAMMU, APR 22: Shiv Sena Hindustan Jammu & Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesri has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic bus accident in Udhampur, where the bus fell into an 80-feet-deep gorge, resulting in several deaths and leaving around 30 persons injured. The party prayed to the Almighty for peace to the departed souls and for the speedy recovery of the injured.

While noting that the exact cause of the accident will be determined after investigation, the statement said that the J&K Government, the Central Government, and Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha have all condemned the incident, expressed grief, and ordered a strict inquiry into any kind of negligence. It was noted that Rs 2,00,000 ex-gratia has been



announced by the J&K Government and Rs 2,00,000 by the Central Government for the families of the deceased, along with assistance for the injured. Shiv Sena Hindustan, however, demanded that the government ensure completely free medical

treatment for all the survivors who are injured. "The government should issue orders to the Medical College that until all the injured fully recover, they must be provided all facilities completely free of cost. Many of these families live hand-to-mouth and are in urgent

need of help," the statement said. The party appreciated the financial aid announced by the governments but stressed that free, uninterrupted treatment at the Medical College is essential to give some relief to the affected families.

The statement also urged strict action against those who drive vehicles recklessly. "Drivers must remember that along with themselves, many families are sitting in the vehicle. They should drive with utmost care. The concerned department must also pay serious attention so that such mistakes do not happen again," P. Rajesh Kesri said. State Secretary Rajkumar, Vice Chairman Rajkumar Baba, and Sanjeev Sharma ji were present on the occasion.

BJP Misleading Women with 'Fake Protests' on Reservation Bill: Rattan Lal Gupta

Meets scores of Party functionaries from Bari Brahmana and Purmandal Blocks.

JAMMU, APR 22: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta on Wednesday accused the BJP of misleading women through what he termed as "fake protests" over the Women's Reservation Bill. He made these remarks while interacting with party functionaries from Bari Brahmana and Purmandal Blocks District Samba at the party's provincial headquarters, Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. Gupta alleged that the BJP's stance on women's reservation lacks sincerity and is aimed at creating confusion among the public rather than ensuring genuine empowerment of women. He reiterated that the National Conference remains committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of women and



called for honest and concrete measures instead of political theatrics. "BJP's so-called protests on the Women's Reservation Bill are nothing but a political gimmick aimed at misleading women. Instead of indulging in theatrics, they should demonstrate sincerity and take concrete steps to ensure real empowerment and representa-

tion for women" by consulting and taking opposition into confidence. During the interaction, various issues concerning industries, local development and public welfare were also discussed. Mr Gupta alleged that Centre is making hollow promises of incentives for the development of local industries but nothing has been done so far

although Omar led Govt. facilitating and supporting the local as well as other Industries in J&K. Gupta assuring the delegations that their concerns would be taken up at appropriate forums. He further urged the party functionaries to gear up the party cadre for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections.

Others who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, Parun Chand former Chairman District Choudhary District President ST Cella, Master Jagdeep Singh, Karim Choudhary, Showkat Parvez, Iqbal Ahmed, Ashwani Gorkha, Manoj Kumar, Garu Ram and others.

DPS Jammu celebrates earth day with zeal & purpose

JAMMU, APR 22: Delhi Public School, Jammu celebrated Earth Day with remarkable enthusiasm and a deep sense of environmental responsibility. Aligned with the global theme "Our Planet," the school organized a wide array of thoughtfully curated activities for students from Pre-Nursery to Class XII, fostering awareness, sensitivity, and action towards environmental conservation.



"Our Planet," the school organized a wide array of thoughtfully curated activities for students from Pre-Nursery to Class XII, fostering awareness, sensitivity, and action towards environmental conservation.

The celebrations began with the youngest learners (Pre-Nursery to Class I), who were sensitized through joyful and engaging activities such as colouring, leaf printing,

and nature exploration—instilling love and respect for the Earth at an early age. Students of Classes II and III participated in a vibrant rally, wearing Earth-themed crowns and raising impactful slogans,

while Classes IV and V showcased their creativity through meaningful placards and conducted a special assembly featuring speeches, poems, and skits centered on environmental preservation.

INDIAN ARMY DISTRIBUTED ANTI-DRUG PAMPHLETS AT BUDHAL

JAMMU, APR 22: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, the Indian Army conducted an awareness activity at Degree College Budhal on 22 April 2026, aimed at educating the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

During the event, anti-drug pamphlets were distributed among students and staff members of the college. The pamphlets highlighted the physical, psychological and social consequences of substance abuse, while also providing guidance on prevention and seeking help. The initiative witnessed active participation from students, who showed keen interest in understanding



the long-term impact of drugs on health, careers and society. Army personnel interacted with the students, emphasizing the importance of making informed and responsible life choices. The campaign aimed to sensitize young minds and encourage them to act as ambassadors of change within their communities. By spreading awareness at the grassroots level, the Indian Army continues to play a vital role in supporting civil administration efforts to eradicate drug abuse from the region. Such initiatives reaffirm the commitment of the Indian Army to the well-being of society.

Congress holds massive protest in Jammu against BJP over "disguised delimitation move"

"BJP misusing women's reservation as a cover for delimitation," Congress

JAMMU, APR 22: The District Congress Committee Jammu (Urban & Rural) on Tuesday held a massive protest at Shaheed Chowk, Jammu, against the BJP, accusing it of attempting to mislead the public by disguising the delimitation bill as a women's reservation bill. The protest was held on direction of PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, and was organised by former Minister J&K and President District Congress Committee Jammu Urban, Yogesh Sawhney and led by Working President PCC Raman Bhalla, Former Ministers Mula Ram and Yogesh Sawhney. It was joined by former MLCs Ravinder Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Thakur Balbir Singh along with several other prominent leaders and party workers participated in large numbers.

Protesters gathered in strength, raising slogans against the BJP government and holding placards condemning what they termed as a manipulative and anti-democratic move. The leaders alleged that the BJP was attempting to mislead Indian women by presenting the bill in a distorted manner, asserting that the real intent was to push delimitation through the backdoor rather than genuinely empower women. The demonstration witnessed significant participation, reflecting widespread resentment among Congress cadres and the general public. Working President PCC Raman Bhalla, while addressing the gathering, launched a sharp attack on the BJP, stating that the party has once again exposed its double standards by attempting to exploit the senti-

ments associated with women's empowerment for political gains. He said that while the Congress party has consistently supported the rights, dignity and political representation of women, the BJP is using the issue as a cover to advance its hidden agenda of delimitation. Bhalla emphasized that the structure and presentation of the bill raise serious concerns about its intent, suggesting that it was not a straightforward effort to ensure women's reservation but a calculated move to influence electoral outcomes. He further said that such actions weaken democratic institutions and erode public trust in legislative processes. Bhalla added that women across the country are aware and will not be misled by such tactics. He reiterated that the Congress party will

continue to oppose any move that seeks to dilute democratic values under the guise of reform and will remain committed to exposing what he described as anti-people and anti-women policies of the BJP. Former Minister Mula Ram, in his address, strongly criticized the BJP for what he termed a deliberate attempt to mislead the nation. He stated that linking delimitation with women's reservation is not only misleading but also undermines the genuine cause of women's empowerment. Mula Ram said that if the BJP was truly committed to empowering women, it would have ensured a clear, transparent and independent implementation of women's reservation without attaching any hidden political motives. He remarked that the people.



'Green Practices' event on Earth Day organized at University of Jammu

Jammu, Apr 22: The Business School, University of Jammu, celebrated Earth Day under the theme "Environmental Consciousness to Protect Mother Earth" to raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainable practices. The event was conducted under the patronage and guidance of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai. The program aimed to sensitize students, scholars, faculty members and other stakeholders about the pressing environmental challenges and the need for collective action to protect the planet. The event commenced with an insightful address by Ms. Rubal Mahajan, an advocate and environmentalist who has started an initiative "ANTS255 (As Now is the Time to Steer to Sustainable Spirituality)". Ms. Rubal engaged the audience with real-life cases related to sustainability of earth as a resource. She stressed upon the importance of acting promptly as the contin-



uous human intervention has significantly harmed the earth. She highlighted the importance of sustainable living, climate change and individual responsibility in preserving natural resources. Ms. Rubal further emphasized the role of youth in building an environmentally conscious society. Earlier, Prof. Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School, University of Jammu formally welcomed the resource person and the audience. In her address, she emphasized the importance of giving back to the mother

nature and highlighted that everyone should put in consistent efforts on daily basis to help protect the environment. Further, emphasizing that small actions can create a multiplier effect and inspire the chain of positive thoughts and behaviour. The session provided a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue where scholars, students and faculty gained deeper insights into green practices and environmental concerns. A thought-provoking interactive session was conducted where participants

actively engaged with the resource person and discussed practical approaches to green practices, environmental sustainability, waste management, conservation practices etc. The contemporary themes such as Agenda 2030, Cloud Seeding, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) etc. were thoroughly brainstormed. The interactive session was followed by an outdoor activity of making seed balls which can be used to plant trees in the future. The activity attracted enthusiastic participation from students, scholars, faculty members and non-teaching staff of TBS. The event was coordinated by Dr. Auid Hussain Parrey, Assistant Professor.

The Business School, who also presented the formal vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to the resource person, faculty members, scholars, students and non-teaching staff of TBS for their active participation and support in making the event a grand success.

Sensitization Programme Held at Police Station Poonch Under 100-Day Drug-Free Campaign

Poonch, Apr 22: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Drug-Free Campaign, a special sensitization programme was organized at Police Station Poonch to strengthen the collective fight against drug substance abuse. The initiative was conducted under the visionary supervision of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch, Sh. Shafiq Bhat (JKPS), Sh. Ajay Sharma (JKPS) Additional SP Operation (ASP) and Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan. The programme witnessed active participation from the medical fraternity, with the District Hospital Poonch team playing a significant role. Medical Superintendent Dr. Shafiq Chouhan, along with the dedicated Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF)



staff including Dr. Femia Bhat and Ms. Saima Bhat, contributed valuable insights during the session. During the programme, SHO and NDPS in-charges from across the district engaged in detailed discussions focusing on key strategies to curb drug abuse. The deliberations revolved around strengthening enforcement mechanisms, ensuring timely medical intervention for addicts, and enhancing rehabilitation measures to reintegrate affected individuals into society. A large number of police personnel and members of the general public also participated in the event, reflecting strong community involvement in the anti-drug initiative. Speakers emphasized the importance of the coordinated efforts between law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and the public to effectively tackle the growing menace of drug abuse.

Indian Army organized drug awareness drawing competition at Gursai Moori

Poonch: 22 Apr 2026. As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Abhiyan, recently launched by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army organized a drug awareness drawing competition on 22 April 2026 at Government Higher Secondary School, Gursai Moori. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students about the growing threat of drug abuse and to promote a culture of healthy, disciplined and responsible living among the youth. In alignment with this objective, a drawing competition was held at GHSS Gursai Moori, where 102 students actively partici-



pated, expressing their views on the issue through creative artwork. The students showcased remarkable imagination and awareness, depicting themes such as the harmful effects of drugs on health, the breakdown of families, the rise in crime and the importance of education, counselling and community support in prevention. The interactive activity encouraged creativity and reflection, making the session both engaging and impactful.

Road Safety Club GCW Udhampur Organizes Road Safety Awareness Rally

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 22, 2026: - In a significant move to curb road accidents and inculcate traffic discipline among the youth, the Road Safety Club GCW Udhampur, in collaboration with the NSS unit of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur, organized a Rally to aware the people about the road safety. Dr. Nalini Pathani, worthy Principal of the college flagged off the rally from the college premises. While addressing the students, she stressed the importance of organizing such awareness programs which helps in maintaining the traffic discipline among



the drivers as well as passengers. She applauded the Road Safety Club for organizing such type of program. The convener of the NSS unit Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma also addressed the participants about the importance of traffic rules. He guided the students that all of us must aware the

public and transport union about the importance of traffic rules. Now a day, road accidents are common problem. It ruins the life of not an individual but the whole family. The death of single individual is not only his/her death but the death of whole family. Driving by drinking, rash driving is common these days. So it is our duty to aware people about such type of driving problems. The rally started from the college premises and moved to Bal-Ashram near industrial area of Battal Ballian. In the way, students have raised slogan on road safety and enlightened the masses about ill effects of road accidents due to negligence of traffic rules. All the students returned in the college premises from Bal-Ashram where the month long activities on road safety awareness culminated. In the end, refreshment was distributed among all the participants. Vote of Thanks was

Bharat Priye remembers Pahalgam victims, urges strong safeguards against terror

Calls for foolproof security to prevent future attacks; warns terrorists against targeting J&K

Jammu, Apr 22: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Kissan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye today solemnly recalled the tragic events of April 22, 2025, when 26 innocent lives were lost in a brutal terror attack in Baisaran Valley, famously known as "Mini Switzerland." Plying heartfelt tributes to the victims, Priye described the attack as a barbaric and inhuman act that shook the entire nation. He said the targeting of innocent civilians in a peaceful tourist destination exposed the cruel face of terrorism and underlined the urgent need for sustained vigilance and unity to defeat such forces. Priye issued a strong and unequivocal warning to terrorists and their handlers, stating that any



attempt to cast an evil eye on Jammu and Kashmir would be met with a firm and decisive response. "The nation has zero tolerance for terrorism. Those who try to disturb peace in J&K must understand that their actions will invite consequences far beyond their imagination," he asserted. Referring to the response after the attack, he noted that the Indian Armed Forces had launched Operation Sindoor on the intervening night of May 6 and 7 last year, sending a clear message that acts of terror will not go unanswered. He cautioned that any future misadventure would invite even stronger retaliation. At the same time, Priye strongly urged the government and security agencies to ensure that such tragic incidents do not recur in the future. He emphasized the need for foolproof

security arrangements, enhanced intelligence coordination, and proactive measures to safeguard lives, particularly in sensitive and high-footfall tourist areas. "The loss of innocent lives is unacceptable. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure a secure environment where citizens and visitors feel safe at all times," he said, adding that preventing such incidents must be treated as the highest priority. Priye reiterated that the sacrifices of the victims will not be forgotten and called upon all sections of society to stand united against terrorism. He stressed that peace, development, and stability in Jammu and Kashmir must be protected at all costs, and no anti-national force should be allowed to derail the progress of the region.

Central University of Jammu Organised Panel Discussion for B.tech Students

Jammu, Apr 22: The Central University of Jammu today successfully organized an engaging panel discussion under the banner of Sahyog, bringing together industry experts, academicians, and B.Tech CSE students to explore the rapidly evolving landscape of cloud computing. The event was held under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, whose continued support fosters meaningful academic and industry-oriented initiatives. The session featured esteemed panellists Mr. Dheeraj Mahajan and Mr. Karan Khanna, who shared valuable insights into key aspects of modern cloud technologies, including scalability, security, artificial intelligence integration, and emerging indus-

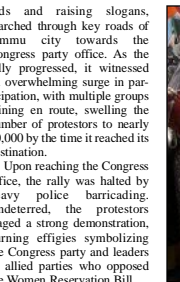


try trends. Their perspectives highlighted the transformative role of cloud computing in driving digital innovation across industries. The discussion also emphasized the growing career opportunities in the cloud domain and the importance of upskilling to meet dynamic industry requirements. Students actively participated, making the session highly interactive, insightful, and enriching. The event was graced by Prof. Dinesh, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, along with faculty members, whose presence added academic depth and encouragement to the discussion. The organizers expressed sincere gratitude to the panellists, faculty members, and participants for their valuable contributions in making today's event a grand success.

Massive Nari Shakti Akrosh rally in Jammu, thousands protest against denial of women's rights by Congress, INDI Alliance

Jammu witnesses massive women's protest rally against Congress, INDI alliance over Women Reservation Bill

Jammu, 22 April 2026: A massive "Nari Shakti Akrosh Rally" consisting of thousands of women from across the region, led by prominent social as well as political activists including MPs, and MLAs, rallied to express their outrage against injustice, and continual denial of women rights by the Congress and the INDI alliance.



The rally was organized to condemn their opposition to the Women Reservation Bill in Parliament, which participants described as a historic step toward empowering women. The rally commenced from Maharaja Hari Singh Park, where prominent women leaders addressed the participants. The protestors, carrying plac-

ards and raising slogans, marched through key roads of Jammu city towards the Congress party office. As the rally progressed, it witnessed an overwhelming surge in participation, with multiple groups joining en route, swelling the number of protestors to nearly 10,000 by the time it reached its destination. Upon reaching the Congress office, the rally was halted by heavy police barricading. Undeterred, the protestors staged a strong demonstration, burning effigies symbolizing the Congress party and leaders of allied parties who opposed the Women Reservation Bill.

Senior BJP leadership, including J&K BJP President & MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma



CA, BJP National Secretary & MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary

(Organization) Ashok Koul, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma,

MP (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana, BJP Vice-Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, and Gopal Mahajan, MLAs Surjit Singh Saladhia, Sham Lal Sharma, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Prof. Garhu Ram Bhagat, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Yudhvir Sethi, Arvind Gupta, Devyani Rana, Shagun Parihar, Surinder Bhagat, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, Mahila Morcha President Neha Mahajan and Purnima Sharma, Rajni Sethi, and other senior leaders were present to support the rally.

Addressing the gathering, Priya Sethi, former Minister, strongly criticized the Congress and its allies for what she described as their "anti-women

mindset." She stated that opposing the Women Reservation Bill reflects their unwillingness to empower women politically and socially. She asserted that while the Modi government remains fully committed to ensuring dignity, safety, and equal representation for women at all levels, Congress, and its allies denied the rightful dignity to women. Shagun Parihar, M.L.A. emphasized that the rally was not just a protest but a powerful message from the women of Jammu & Kashmir. She said that the Congress and INDI alliance have repeatedly failed women by prioritizing vote-bank politics over genuine empowerment. She reiterated that the Women Reservation

Bill is a transformative step that will reshape the political landscape in favor of women's participation. Devyani Rana, M.L.A. in her address, said that the massive turnout itself is proof of growing awareness in strong terms, stating that denying women their rightful representation is an affront to democratic values. She said that the BJP will continue to fight for women's rights and ensure that their voices,

Engineering, along with faculty members, whose presence added academic depth and encouragement to the discussion. The organizers expressed sincere gratitude to the panellists, faculty members, and participants for their valuable contributions in making today's event a grand success.

DC Anantnag chairs meeting of Single Window Committee of Mining Leases

Stresses interdepartmental coordination, adherence to Rules

ANANTNAG, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of the District Level Single Window Committee at his office chambers, to review and facilitate the execution of mining leases in the district. The meeting was attended by ADC, SE Hydraulics, ACR, Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, DFOs Anantnag and Lidder Divisions, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Horticulture Officer, District Soil Conservation Officer, District Mineral Officer, Executive Engineers of Irrigation/Flood Control, PHE, PWD and KPDCCL.



Assistant Directors of Fisheries and Tourism, and District Officer Pollution Control Committee, among others. During the meeting, elaborate deliberations were held on issuance of no

objection certificates post obtaining clearances from all stakeholder departments and on issues related to the execution of mining leases with respect to 34 major mineral blocks identified in the district. Various procedural and departmental aspects were discussed to ensure timely and smooth processing of cases. The ADC briefed the chair that NOCs from all concerned departments have been received while certain queries have been raised by the Forest Department and some cases have been flagged by the Irrigation and R&B Departments. The DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and timely disposal of cases to facilitate transparent and efficient execution of mining leases. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed rules and guidelines and ensure that all necessary formalities are completed within set timelines. The DC further instructed that the process should be carried out in a transparent and accountable manner, while ensuring environmental safeguards and regulatory compliance. After thorough deliberations, it was decided that the concerned departments shall address the queries raised, at the earliest for further processing of the cases.

Over 2,000 Students in Karnah Hold Solidarity Marches Honouring Pahalgam Victims, Reaffirm Commitment to Peace and Unity

KUPWARA, APRIL 22: Over 2,000 students from across Karnah Sub Division participated in solidarity marches to honour the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, while also marking the anniversary of Operation Sindoor. Students representing both government and private educational institutions gathered in large numbers and marched at AGS Hajinar, GDC Kandri, and AGS Tithwal. The rallies witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students raising their voices against terrorism and expressing unwavering support for the nation, the Indian Armed Forces, and the families affected by the tragic incident. The marches served as a



strong message against violence and extremism, reflecting the collective resolve of the younger generation to stand for peace, democracy, and harmony. Participants emphasized the importance of unity and resilience in the face of adversity, highlighting that acts of terror cannot shake the spirit of the people. Speakers at the events noted that such initiatives are a testament to the growing awareness and responsibility among youth, who are determined to contribute towards a peaceful, progressive, and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir.

JKEDI conducts Training Programmes under PMFME Scheme in Shopian, Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today inaugurated three-day/24 hours Training Programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Shopian and Ganderbal District Centres. The programmes saw the participation from candidates, officers from the Department of Horticulture and officials of JKEDI. At Shopian, the PMFME programme was inaugurated at District Employment and Counselling Centre, Shopian where Zia U Din, Technical Officer, Department of Horticulture gave a detailed outlook of the scheme. At Ganderbal, the programme was inaugurated at the Vikalp Centre, Government Degree College, Ganderbal. A total of 51 candidates have enrolled for the programmes. These training



programmes aim to enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in the micro food processing sector. Over the course of three days, participants will receive comprehensive training on key aspects of capacity building, including business planning, financial management, market linkages, and aware-

ness about the various schemes of the Government and access to credit facilities. The initiative is designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to establish and sustain micro food processing enterprises. By fostering entrepreneurship and strengthening local enterprise ecosystems,

the programme seeks to promote self-employment opportunities and contribute to local economic development. JKEDI continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing entrepreneurship across Jammu and Kashmir through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives under various government schemes.

Wall painting, awareness activities under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan held across Shopian

Students lead creative awareness drives, promoting drug free society

SHOPIAN, APRIL 22: In continuation of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, awareness and wall painting activities were extensively conducted across various schools in District Shopian. Students actively participated in painting walls and creating impactful visuals carrying strong anti-drug messages such as "Say No to Drugs" and "Choose Life, Not Drugs". The initiative provided a creative platform for students to express their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse while reinforcing awareness through art. The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation and effectively



engaged youth in spreading the message of a drug free society. Meanwhile, at GDC Shopian, NSS units organized a dedicated

wall painting programme under the theme "Drug-Free Messages." Students and volunteers showcased their artistic skills through vibrant and meaningful artwork highlighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of prevention. In addition, an awareness camp was organized at MC Shopian where participants were sensitized about the ill effects of drug abuse and the importance of community participation in addressing the issue. The programme focused on spreading awareness among the general public and encouraging collective responsibility towards achieving a drug free Shopian.

Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan Sub Division Zainapora intensifies Anti Drug drive; Awareness Programme, Rally held at GDC Zainapora

SHOPIAN, APRIL 22: Sub Division Zainapora intensified its anti drug efforts under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Day by organising an awareness programme and mass rally at GDC Zainapora. Held in collaboration with the Chemists & Druggists Association under the chairmanship of SDM Zainapora, Bilal

Ahmad, the initiative focused on the campaign's core pillars - Demand Reduction, Supply Control, and Community Participation. Officers from the Health Department, Drug Control Department, and J&K Police, along with students, civil society members, and trade representatives.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, requests for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works on or before 01/05/2026:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EA/22-01/2026-2	27.04.26 at 11:30 Hours	Allocation of Catering Station contract at Phagwara Railway Station.
EA/22-01/2026-1	27.04.26 at 11:30 Hours	Allocation of contract for setting up and operation of Automatic Vending Machines at Amritsar Railway Station.
EA/22-01/2026-7	28.04.26 at 11:30 Hours	Allocation of contract for (a) Setting up and operation of Kiosks (a) Praga Sagarji & Madia (b) Setting up and operation of small food stalls (c) TTE Read house at Ludhiana Railway Station. (d) Strengthening and Operation of Staff Canteen at Ludhiana Railway Station.
EA/22-01/2026-11	28.04.26 at 11:30 Hours	Allocation of contract for Advertisement rights through (a) Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. 20042/23 10222/20225, 10202/20201 & 12400/07.
EA/22-01/2026-11	30.04.26 at 11:30 Hours	Allocation of contract for setting up and operation of Single Brand Premium Store at Amritsar Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.rps.gov.in		
No. N&K/RCOM/INPR/182026 Date: 21.04.2026		Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager Northern Railway, Patliputra
RESOLVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

LADC team conducts inspection of Central Jail Srinagar to facilitate early release of eligible inmates

SHOPIAN, APRIL 20: In a coordinated initiative aimed at strengthening access to justice and ensuring timely relief to deserving inmates, the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) of Shopian and Pulwama carried out a joint inspection of Central Jail Srinagar today. The inspection was undertaken to identify cases eligible for early release in accordance with the categories defined under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the forthcoming Under Trial Review Committee (UTCRC) meeting. The joint team was led by Secretary DLSA Shopian/Pulwama, Mudassar Farooq, and comprised Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief LADC Pulwama, Mehrajudin Wani, and Junior Assistant DLSA Pulwama, Shakir Ahmad. The team was facilitated by Senior Superintendent of Jail, Saba Shawl, who provided detailed insights into the inmate population and administrative framework

of the jail. During the visit, the LADC teams conducted a thorough and systematic review of individual inmate cases. The assessment focused on identifying prisoners eligible for release under various SOP categories, including undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prescribed sentence, first-time offenders involved in minor offences, elderly or infirm inmates, and those granted bail but unable to furnish surety, among others as specified under UTCRC guidelines. The team also interacted with inmates across different barracks to verify legal records, assess the status of cases, and ensure that no eligible individual is deprived of legal aid or relief due to lack of awareness or assistance. Following the inspection, a consolidated list of eligible cases has been prepared and will be placed before the upcoming UTCRC meeting for appropriate consideration and necessary orders.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme on Skill Development, Financial Inclusion

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Social Welfare Department (SWD)- SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a one-day awareness programme on skill development, vocational training, and financial inclusion at Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, today. The programme aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and practical skills to support their future career aspirations. It brought together students and members of the SANKALP-HEW team, who provided valuable insights into a wide range of vocational training opportunities and skill development initiatives. The sessions were designed to enhance employability, foster entrepreneurial thinking, and prepare students to meet the evolving demands of today's job market. Experts highlighted various pathways through which young women can build sustainable careers and achieve economic independence. A major highlight of the event was the session on financial inclusion. Participants were sensitized to the importance of financial literacy, access to banking services,

DC Budgam holds interdepartmental follow up and coordination meeting on Ring Road, NH444

BUDGAM, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Ring Road Development Project in the district, following his field inspection of the project alignment yesterday. The meeting focused on construction of Ring Road Phase-I, Airport and Railway Station connectivity, connectivity with district roads, Synchronization with NH444 corridor, Railway underpasses, junctions etc. The DC was attended by ACR Budgam, Executive Engineer R&B Circle Srinagar, representatives of



NHAL, and other concerned officers. He reviewed the status of works, land acquisition, utility shifting and alignment, drainage and irrigation water channelisation. The DC directed executing agencies to ensure speedy progress across all stretches and directed for close coordination among departments to resolve bottlenecks.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Career is built by walking, not by waiting at the crossroads

Choosing a career path after 12th class feels like standing at a crossroads where every road looks important and the signboards are written in a language you are still learning. The difficulty comes not from lack of options but from too many options arriving at a time when your confidence, self knowledge, and exposure to the real world are still forming. Parents, relatives, teachers, coaching advertisements, and social media each add a different opinion that makes the choice heavier because you fear that one wrong turn could waste years of effort and money. The job market, and your own changing interests, the pressure to find the perfect path immediately is unnecessary. What matters now is to make a thoughtful first step that keeps future doors open while giving you skills that are valuable in multiple fields. Separate your interest from your aptitude because liking cricket commentary does not automatically mean you will thrive as a sports journalist if writing under deadline pressure drains you, and similarly scoring well in biology does not mean medicine is right if hospital environments and long duty hours clash with your temperament. Also map the financial reality of your family because an expensive private college with an education loan makes sense only if the median placement package in that exact course is at least double the annual loan repayment. Many careers that looked safe in 2010 like routine data entry or basic hotel management are now automated or oversupplied, while areas like healthcare, renewable energy, logistics, cybersecurity, mental health, electric vehicles, content, and data analysis keep adding jobs even during slowdowns, and you do not need to predict the exact winning job title, you only need to stand near growing sectors so your skills remain relevant. Remember that the world runs on services and every service has a career. The only requirement is to do the work professionally, keep accounts, be on time, and communicate clearly, and these are the same habits that succeed in jobs. If you join a course and dislike it after one semester you can shift, most universities allow branch change, migration, or you can finish and pivot with a diploma, and the only real failure is to stop learning and stop trying, and finally remember that your first job is not your final job. Take the best step you can see, review in six months, adjust, and keep walking, because a career is built by walking, not by waiting at the crossroads.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR



SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAV

More than 25,000 trains run across India every day. They carry more than 20 million passengers daily and move large quantities of coal, iron ore, grains, steel, cement and other commodities across a network of over 1,37,000 kilometres tracks.

The track is the foundation on which this entire system works. When it is in good shape, trains run safely at higher speeds. When it is not, the results range from speed restrictions and delays to safety risks. A cracked rail, a loose fitting or a clogged ballast bed can all affect how a train moves.

Keeping in view the importance of track, Indian Railways started a wide-ranging modernisation programme over a decade ago. The work covered track renewal using modern machines, testing and inspection through advanced methods, mechanised maintenance, safety fencing etc. Together, these efforts have changed the condition of the network in a visible way.

Since 2014, about 55,000 km of tracks have been

Modernizing the railway tracks

renewed thus improving safety, ride quality and reducing the need for frequent repairs. Around 44,000 track km of long rail panels (260 m each) have been laid. Longer panels mean fewer joints, which leads to smoother and safer train movement. Over 80,000 track km of stronger 60-kg rails are now in use, supporting heavier loads and higher speeds.

Laying stronger rail is important, but so is finding problems early. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing has been carried out across about 36.2 lakh track kilometres and 2.25 crore welds, checking for hidden cracks inside the rail that cannot be seen from the outside. As a result, rail and weld failures have come down by about 90%, a shift from fixing problems after the event to preventing them beforehand.

Other methods now in use include phased-array testing for flash-butt welds, magnetic-particle inspection for new welds, and GPS-enabled Oscillation Monitoring Systems (OMS) that measure ride quality and pinpoint the exact location of rough spots on the track.

The track machine fleet has doubled from 748 in 2014 to 1,785 in 2026. These machines carry out tamping, ballast cleaning and rail grinding better, faster and more evenly than manual work.

Machines have made a notable difference in deep screening of ballast - the layer of crushed stone beneath the track that provides drainage, absorbs vibration, and keeps

the track stable. Over time, ballast stones get powdered under the constant weight and vibration of passing trains, clogging the bed and reducing its ability to function. Screening restores the track bed to proper condition. This work has been carried out across more than 1 lakh track kilometres, mostly by machine.

To remove surface defects and hence to improve riding quality and safety, grinding of rail has been done for more than one lakh km.

With train traffic growing each year, maintenance windows between trains are shrinking. Machines help get more done in less time without disrupting services. But safety also depends on how trains pass through points and crossings. Indian Railways has taken up several supporting measures alongside track renewal.

About 17,500 km of safety fencing has been installed, especially where trains run above 110 kmph, helping prevent trespassing by people and cattle. At points and crossings, 36,000 thick-web switches and 7,500 weldable CMS crossings have been provided - these last longer and allow smoother train movement. Wider, heavier sleepers adopted in 2019 improve stability, particularly during summer heat. H-beam sleepers on girder bridges and long welded rails through yards have further strengthened the network. One of the clearest results of track modernisation is the increase in speed potential: Track supporting 130 kmph and above has grown

from 6% to nearly 23%. Track fit for 110 kmph and above has risen from about 40% to 80%. This has reduced journey times, improved punctuality, and made it possible to run semi-high-speed services like the Vande Bharat Express.

The combined effect of these modernisation measures is reflected in the safety numbers. Consequential train accidents fell from 135 in 2014-15 to 16 in 2025-26 - a drop of about 89%. The accident rate per million train kilometres improved from 0.11 to 0.01 - a 90% improvement. This has come during a period when traffic has grown: more trains, more passengers, but fewer incidents.

A web-enabled Track Management System (TMS) now brings together data from ultrasonic testing, ride quality readings and track geometry into one platform, making it easier to set priorities and act in time. Twelve years ago, 60% of India's railway track was limited to below 110 kmph, rail fractures were common and most maintenance was manual. Today, nearly 80% of the network handles 110 kmph or above, rail and weld failures have fallen by 90% and close to 1,800 track machines are at work. For millions of passengers and the businesses that depend on rail freight, these changes are making a real difference - smoother journeys, shorter travel times, and a more dependable network. The work is not finished, but progress shows what steady effort and continued investment can achieve.

India's Energy Wake-Up Call Amid West Asia Turmoil

JAYANTA MITRA AND APOORVA SINGH

Geopolitical upheaval costs nations, leading to prolonged uncertainty and human suffering, which is compounded by food and energy crises. The fragility of West Asia's economy is attributed to the devastating US-Israel-Iran war, which has caught humanity in an overt manifestation of a sociopolitical crisis and asymmetric power dynamics. Truly, the "world is at war". The implications of this geopolitical crisis are far-reaching. Can Indian society insulate itself? In fact, ordinary citizens have already started experiencing the downside of this chaotic phase. The raging war is marked by uncertainty and mistrust. Multiple ceasefire declarations have been made and violated. The combined LPG and LNG import bill has increased by about 50 per cent over the last six years, constituting around 3 per cent of India's total import bill in FY 2025. India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG consumption, and out of these imports, about 90 per cent come through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been impacted due to the current geopolitical situation and disruptions in supply chains. While the government is trying to increase its domestic production by 25 per cent, it appears a tall order, and this will take time. The sight of bus and railway stations of India tells a story that

we have all witnessed before. Labourers and domestic workers are thronging these places to head back 'home' - akin to the Covid days - albeit this time it is the ongoing energy crisis that is driving them there. The sense of belonging to their homeland beckons them as it gives a strong sense of safety. They feel fellow villagers will help them out with food, and there is no dearth of alternative fuel-firewood in abundance. For many, the free cylinders distributed under the PM-UJWALA Yojana await, but how long will it last? Besides, the refilling cost is also not affordable for many. We have already seen restaurants and roadside food joints shutting down and cylinders being sold at three to five times the official rate in the black market. The Indian government has been pushing for a shift towards electric-based cooking for the past few years through the Go Electric campaign or the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP). However, the uptake has been low, with only 5 per cent of households opting for e-cooking. Now is the opportune moment to endorse and champion the shift towards electric-based cooking, which is cleaner, safer, and a more affordable framework laid for it. We just need to synchronise our efforts for the desired results and create a robust ecosystem for its market penetration and wider adoption. The PM Surya Ghar scheme, initiated in

February 2024, aims to install rooftop solar in 1 crore households. It provides subsidies covering up to 40 per cent of the cost of solar panels, enabling households to generate their own electricity for e-cooking needs. Currently, the scheme has high inter-state disparities and high registration rates, and therefore lower conversion figures. It needs to be actively promoted, and both urban and rural households need to be roped into the scheme. Similarly, the PM POSHAN Yojana is the world's largest school feeding programme, serving hot cooked meals to approximately 11.8 crore children in around 11.2 lakh schools. If the component of rooftop solar installation is integrated into the scheme, it holds huge potential in adding to India's revised NDC target of 60 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2035. Another large government scheme is the PM AWAS Yojana, providing "Housing for All," with over 2.82 crore rural houses completed under PMAY-G and around 95.51 lakh urban houses completed under PMAY-U. PMAY-U 2.0 has recently begun, targeting an additional 1 crore beneficiaries, while the rural programme aims for 4.95 crore houses by 2029. If this scheme is linked to the ongoing PM Surya Ghar scheme, it will create a holistic mechanism for RE integration into houses at

subsidized rates. Convergence of existing government schemes would be a smarter way forward in nudging people towards adopting a cleaner, greener lifestyle, apart from contributing to India's NDC targets as well. Focusing on Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) will ensure there is energy access across the country by reaching out to the most vulnerable. As a matter of fact, the adoption of e-cooking will lead to an increase in peak power and demand by 27GW.

DRE addresses the current concern of increased load on the power grid with the transition to electric cooking. Further, battery-supported and solar hybrid systems can make e-cooking feasible and ensure grid stability. A strong policy push and incentives can help deal with high up-front costs, facilitating wider adoption. The wise move at this juncture is to set longer-term goals and ensure energy security, a critical imperative for growth, particularly for an emerging economy like India. A nation-wide campaign on efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and health, as well as environmental gains, could build greater resilience.

(The writers are, respectively, a Senior Fellow and a Research Associate at the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. Views are personal.)

Satish Sharma attends Village Mela at Thanger; pays tribute to former MP



JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today attended a Village Mela organised at Thanger, to mark the birth anniversary of former Member of Parliament Madan Lal Sharma. The mela was held as a tribute to the life and contribution of Late Madan Lal Sharma, a revered leader known for his unwavering dedication to public service and grassroots development.

Remembering his legacy, the Minister described him

as a people-centric leader who worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the poor and marginalised sections of society. Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that Late Madan Lal Sharma's contribution to the region remain unparalleled and continue to inspire public representatives and youth. "His vision of inclusive development and his deep connection with the people set a benchmark in public life. We must strive to carry forward his ideals with the same commitment and sincerity," he remarked. The Minister visited various departmental stalls set up during the mela, where different government

schemes and services were showcased. He interacted with the officials and members of the public, reviewing the outreach efforts and ensuring that on-the-spot assistance and awareness dissemination were being effectively carried out. A plantation drive was also organised on the occasion in memory of Late Madan Lal Sharma. The Minister participated in the drive and highlighted the importance of environmental conservation, stating that such initiatives serve as a meaningful tribute to the legacy of great leaders while contributing to a greener and sustainable future.

Emphasizing the role of such initiatives in strengthening governance at the grassroots level, the Minister highlighted that village melas serve as an important platform for bridging the gap between the administration and the public. He also underscored the importance of youth participation, stating that such events provide opportunities for engagement in sports, innovation and community-building activities.

CUJ Conducts Career Guidance Workshop for KV School Students at Rahya

Jammu, 21 April 2026: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, organized a one-day workshop on Career Guidance at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Rahya District Samba, under the guidance of Prof. Ritu Bakshi. The workshop was conducted for students of Classes IX & X with the objective of enabling them to make informed academic and career choices. The workshop was collaboratively conducted by research scholars along with M.Ed. Semester II and B.A. B.Ed. 5th semester students, who are currently pursuing a course in Guidance and Counselling. Their coordinated efforts ensured an engaging, interactive, and student-centered learning environment. As part of the workshop, a Vocational Interest Inventory was administered to help students identify



their interests and aptitudes. Based on their responses, participants were provided meaningful insights into potential career pathways. The facilitators also engaged students in interactive discussions, introducing them to a wide range of career options aligned with their individual interests and abilities. Additionally, students were informed about various upcoming examinations and academic opportunities, encouraging them to begin early preparation and plan their future

systematically. As a follow-up initiative, the M.Ed. and B.A. B.Ed. students adopted the participating school students to provide on-going mentorship and guidance. Students were encouraged to seek support whenever needed, ensuring continuity in academic and career counselling. The workshop proved to be a significant initiative in fostering awareness, building confidence, and empowering students to explore diverse and suitable career pathways.

Government focused to transform J&K into a hub of quality education, innovation: Sakeena Itoo

Lays e-foundation of Classroom Block for Innovative learning under DYOD, FYOG at IUST



She added that this foundation marks another milestone in the Omar Abdullah led Government's sustained efforts to modernize higher education institutions and create an enabling environment for holistic student

development. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo underscored the university's commitment to academic innovation and institutional growth. He stated that the upcoming facility will significantly

enhance IUST's capacity to deliver high-quality, outcome-based education and provide students with a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

Perennially, the Classroom Block will be constructed at an estimated cost of over ₹16 crore and will feature modern lecture halls, digital learning environments, collaborative spaces, and advanced academic infrastructure tailored to support the evolving needs of DYOD and FYUG programmes.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER, J&K
EXCISE & TAXATION COMPLEX, RAIL HEAD JAMMU/SOLINA SRINAGAR**

E-mail: excise.commr@jk.gov.in, Tel: 0191-247777

NOTICE FOR RE-AUCTION OF 03 RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS (JKEL-2) LICENSE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27.

- The instant notice is being issued for the convenience of prospective bidders who shall be participating in the re-auction notified for allotment of retail liquor vend (off-premises) for sale of liquor for the year 2026-27 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The details of these 03 locations of liquor vend alongwith Minimum Guaranteed Quota (MGQ) and Minimum Guaranteed Revenue (MGR) per vend and Minimum Reserve Bid price is given in Annexure-A to the J&K Excise Policy for the year 2026-27 notified vide S.O 37 Dated 10th of February, 2026 under Endorsement No. FD-ET/7/2023-03 Dated 10-02-2026 and bid document issued vide No. 49-EC of 2026 Dated 10-02-2026 under Endorsement No. EC/Excise-auction/2026-27/6660 Dated 10-02-2026 and approved by Finance Department vide Letter No.FD-ET/7/2023-03 Dated 10-02-2026.
- These 03 vend shall be allotted during the financial year 2026-27, subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions as per Bid Document and J&K Excise Policy 2026-27. These vend shall sell in retail to the public under one roof J&K Special Whisky/J&K Country Liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor including Imported Foreign Liquor/ Beer/Wine/Older/RTD which are permitted to be sold by the Excise Department, J&K.
- Re-auction for allotment of vend shall be done through the J&K Bank Ltd. on e-auction portal i.e. <https://jkexcisedept.procure247.com> in a completely secure and transparent manner. The detailed procedure for re-auction/instructions to the bidders shall be available on the e-auction portal and on the official website of the department i.e. <https://eabgar.jkexcise.nic.in>. The schedule of starting and closing of online bids for each location is given in the Annexure to this notice. All licenses issued through e-auction shall determine on 31/03/2027 irrespective of date of issuance.
- The Minimum Reserve Price bid for each of these 03 liquor vend shall be as per Annexure-A given in the Excise Policy 2026-27. The bidders can bid in increments of Rs 50000/- (Max 10 lacs) beyond the Reserve Price. In case a fresh Highest H1 bid is received within 5 minutes before the scheduled closing time of bidding, the time for e-auction shall be automatically extended by another 5 minutes beyond the scheduled closing of the particular bid. A maximum of five such extensions shall be allowed, during which the bid increment shall be Rs 1,00,000/- (Max Rs 20 lacs).
- To ascertain these 03 locations bidders are advised to read the Annexure-A of the Excise Policy 2026-27 and bid document.
- Annexure of this notice depicts the time of start and close of bidding of these locations.
- Prospective participants may visit the website/e-auction portal i.e. <https://jkexcisedept.procure247.com> for information and detailed/step-by-step procedure for e-auction and online submission of Participation Fee, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and uploading of required documents in accordance with the Excise Policy 2026-27.
- In order to submit e-bid, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at <https://jkexcisedept.procure247.com>. Registration of prospective bidders shall start from 22-04-2026 on the portal. All bidders are advised in their own interest to complete their registration well in time.
- For detailed terms and conditions including the conditions of eligibility, the conditions to be fulfilled before participation in the bid and those to be fulfilled by the successful bidder before issuance of temporary/regular license, the time allowed for completion of these formalities, the detailed list mentioning locations in which the vend is to be opened and the number of vend in each such location, the conditions governing bidding for more than one vend, the MGR per vend, MGQ of J&K Special Whisky/J&K Country Liquor/Local IMFL Brands per vend and Minimum Reserve Bid Price for each vend, are given in the Excise Policy 2026-27 notified vide S.O 37 dated 10-02-2026 and the bid document. These can be downloaded from official website of the J&K Excise Department i.e. <https://eabgar.jkexcise.nic.in>.
- A bidder shall have to pay online EMD of Rs.10 lacs and non-refundable participation fee of Rs.75,000/- separately for each bid from his/her KYC/PAN linked bank account.
- Prospective bidders are advised, in their own interest, to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the provisions of the J&K Excise Act 1958 Sst. and the Rules made there under, the provisions of the J&K Excise Policy for the year 2026-27 notified vide S.O 37 dated 10-02-2026 and with the area/location for which they intend to bid. This would enable them to bid effectively and with full knowledge of their business prospects as also their obligations/responsibilities. They may visit the official website of the department i.e. <https://eabgar.jkexcise.nic.in>, for information related to J&K Excise Act & Rules made thereunder.
- The prospective participants/bidders are advised to make their requisite banking arrangements well in time.
- All the prospective bidders are hereby informed through this notice that those H1 bidders who fail to deposit Bid Amount within stipulated time period shall be proceeded against with the recovery of Bid Amount/License fee under the provisions of Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act Svt 1996 (1939 AD) as per para 2.3.20 of J&K Excise Policy, 2026-27.
- Defaulters of J&K Excise Department including those who failed to deposit bid amount as H1 bidder in the current as well as previous policy years shall be ineligible to participate in the current re-auction process in terms of para 2.3.3 (j) of J&K Excise Policy 2026-27.
- The department reserves the right to cancel the re-auction process for a location where poor/inadequate response etc. in terms of participation of bidders or less bid amount in comparison to the sale potential of the location or earlier quoted bids received, is noticed, even after declaration of H1 bidder.
- Further, mere declaration of H1/successful bidder for a location shall not qualify the H1 bidder to obtain JKEL-2 license for a location. The H1/successful bidder shall have to qualify all other eligibility criteria and terms and conditions notified in the Excise Policy for obtaining the JKEL-2 license.
- A telephonic helpline number 0191-4064440 has been set up for providing assistance to the participants regarding re-auction. For any doubts/clearifications, prospective bidders may contact this number between 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM.

No. EC/Excise-auction/2026-27/472
Dated: 21/04/2026

DIP/J-948/26

-Sd-
Excise Commissioner, J&K

Annexure

S. No.	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time	RPN
1	25/04/2026	12:30	27/04/2026	12:30	Panchayat Upper Dhangri
2	25/04/2026	13:15	27/04/2026	13:15	Tehsil Kotranka
3	25/04/2026	14:00	27/04/2026	14:00	Poonch MC Ward No. 01

NOTICE

I Mumtaz Begum w/o Mushtaq Ahmed R/o Gandhri Tehsil and Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Bano Begum instead of correct name Mumtaz Begum in my Aadhar card bearing No 307104001496 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, Pawan Dubey (old Name) S/O Late Sh. Madan Lal Dubey R/O Ward No. 1, Main Bazar, Katra, has changed my name from PAWAN DUBEY (old Name) to PAWAN KUMAR (new name). I do hereby assume from this date the name/ surname PAWAN KUMAR (New name).

NOTICE

I, Mohd Younis S/o Ahamdullah Daing R/o Dhanmasta Tehsil and District Ramban I have applied for correction of my Wife Adhar name which has wrongly recorded as adhar Abid Begum and the actual name as per record is Abida Begum Now the public at large is hereby informed that, it is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection

NOTICE

I, Mohinder Singh S/o Paras Ram R/O Damote Tehsil and District Ramban I have applied for correction of my son Adhar name which has wrongly recorded as adhar Milan Singh and the actual name as per record is Redam Singh Now the public at large is hereby informed that, it is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection

NOTICE

Rohit Kumar s/o Omkar r/o charat dist,udhampur Jammu and Kashmir all documents name incorrect new issues name correction correct name.rohit Kumar

**GOVT OF UNION TERRITORY OF
J&K COURT OF IN THE
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST
CLASS TEHSILDAR POUNI (REASI)**

Raj Kumar S/o Kewal Krishan R/o Kotla Tehsil Pouni District Reasi. (Applicant)

V/S

1. UT of J&K through SHO P/S Ransoo/Reasi 2. Block Development Officer, Pouni (Non-ApPLICANT)
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court for seeking direction to the non-applicant for registration of date of birth of applicant's daughter.

S.No Name under registration Father's Name Mother's Name Place of Birth D.O.B 1. Sukshi Kant Raj kumar Shova Rani At Home 22-02-2008 (Kotla) Whereas through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, anyone has any objection/s in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of date of birth of applicant's daughter by the non-applicant he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 20 days after date of publication of this notice failing which proceedings shall be initiated under law. If the date fixed is decided as holiday, the matter will be taken up on next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 15-04-2026. Forwarded to Editor Early Times/State Times/Dainik Jagran etc for publication.
No.: Teh/P/BD/26-27/3
Dated: 15-4-26

**Executive Magistrate class
Tehsildar Pouni (Reasi)**



Rehari Kings XI to Face Mulan CC in Jambu Lochan T-20 Final Thriller

After thrilling semis at M.A Stadium, both teams eye title clash

Jammu April 22
Cricket fever is gripping Jammu as the stage is set for the grand finale of the 1st Jambu Lochan T-20 Cricket Tournament, with top local teams ready to battle it out on Thursday. Mulan Cricket Club will face Rehari Kings XI in what promises to be an exciting contest between two in-form sides. Organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association, the tournament has witnessed thrilling performances at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, drawing significant attention from cricket lovers across the region. In the first semifinal, Rehari Kings XI defeated Apex Cricket Club in a nail-biting encounter. After winning the toss, Rehari Kings XI elected to bat first and posted 139 runs



for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs. Puneet Kumar top-scored with 43 runs off 27 balls, hitting five fours and two sixes, while Vikas Lakhotra contributed 30 runs off 18 balls. For Apex Cricket Club, Rahul delivered an impressive bowling spell, claiming four wickets in four overs while conceding just 14 runs. Chasing the target, Apex Cricket Club put up a strong fight, led by a brilliant innings from Sumit Kumar, who scored 76 runs off 50 balls with 11 fours and one six. The match went down to the final over, where Apex needed 20 runs to win. Sumit smashed 18 runs in the over, but with six runs required off the last ball, he managed only a boundary, as Rehari Kings XI secured a dramatic one-run victory. From the Rehari Kings XI side, Chahat Choudhary, Kewal, and Deepak Manhas took two wickets

each, while Deep and Rahul picked up one wicket apiece. Deepak Manhas was declared Man of the Match for his all-round performance but sportingly handed over the award to Sumit Kumar in appreciation of his outstanding batting. The award was presented by Ajay Sharma General Secretary of the All J&K Power lifting Association, Sanjay Puri former national handball player and Amit Gupta MD Friends Dancing Institute. In the second semifinal, Mulan Cricket Club registered a comprehensive victory over Tantray Sports Club. Batting first, Tantray Sports Club were bowled out for 84 runs in 17.2 overs, with Kanav scoring 27 runs off 38 balls. Rahul Janwal started with the ball for Mulan Cricket Club, taking four wickets

for 17 runs in four overs, while captain Anchal Singh claimed three wickets for just 12 runs. In reply, Mulan Cricket Club chased down the target of 85 runs in just 9.2 overs, losing only one wicket. Akash Choudhary scored 40 runs off 26 balls, while Shaurya remained unbeaten on 40 off 24 balls to guide his team to an easy win. Vijay Dogra picked up the lone wicket for Tantray Sports Club. Rahul Janwal was named Man of the Match, and the award was presented by Nariender Mahajan Former President of J&K Handball Association and Surjit Choudhary prominent sportsman. With both teams in excellent form, an exciting final is on the cards as Mulan Cricket Club and Rehari Kings XI prepare to clash for the title.

Harbhajan backs Ishan Kishan to continue as SRH captain

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has praised Ishan Kishan's captaincy for Sunrisers Hyderabad and believes the franchise should continue backing the young wicketkeeper-batter as leader, even with Pat Cummins set to return to the side.



Sunrisers Hyderabad recorded their third straight win in IPL 2026 with a convincing 47-run victory over Delhi Capitals at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium. The result further strengthened their position in the points table and highlighted their recent turnaround under Kishan's leadership. The win was set up by a brilliant, career-best century from Abhishek Sharma, who powered SRH to a commanding 242 for 2.

The bowlers then delivered a disciplined performance, with Eshan Malina leading the attack as they restricted Delhi Capitals to 195 for 9 to seal a comprehensive victory.

Sharing his views on SRH's leadership, Harbhajan said the team has developed a strong understanding under Kishan, and continuity would help maintain that momentum. "Ishan Kishan should continue as Sunrisers Hyderabad captain even if Pat Cummins returns. It is a debatable call, but if the team has backed a young leader, they should stick with him. Cummins helped Hyderabad reach the final in 2024, no doubt. But the side is doing well under Kishan's leadership. The bowlers and other players have built good coordination with him.

KL Rahul, Nitish Rana Thrown Under The Bus As Delhi Coach Reveals Reasons Behind Defeat

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Given a target of 243, the Delhi Capitals failed to find their rhythm with the bat against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match on Tuesday. Opening the batting, the duo of KL Rahul and Patum Nissanka needed an explosive start, but the latter was dismissed for 8 off 6 balls. Rahul, who has been in good form this season, was expected to match Abhishek Sharma's performance for the Sunrisers and push for a century if DC were to win the match. Instead, he could only manage 37 from 23 deliveries.



Delhi Capitals' Director of Cricket, Venugopal Rao, didn't mince his words in the press conference after the match, highlighting how Rahul and other top-order batsmen's failure cost them the match. Nitish Rana, making a comeback to the team at the No. 3 spot, also struggled to find his timing from the first ball. Although he eventually scored 57 off 30, the man from the national capital could only muster 59 runs in the first six overs. The DC Director of Cricket admitted,

Wasim Khan to step down as ICC general manager

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Khan is set to step down as the ICC's General Manager, Cricket, bringing an end to his four-year stint in the role. He took over the position in May 2022, replacing Geoff Allardice after the latter moved into the CEO role at the ICC. Before joining the global body, Wasim had spent nearly three years as the CEO of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), where he played a key role in the board's administration.



Wasim's journey in cricket began as a player. He was the first British-born Muslim to feature in county cricket, representing Warwickshire in the mid-to-late 1990s. A left-handed batter, he played 58 first-class matches and 30 List A games across stints with Warwickshire, Sussex and Derbyshire.

One of the highlights of his playing career was being part of Warwickshire's County Championship-winning side in 1995, where he averaged close to 50 during the season. After his playing days, Wasim built a strong reputation in cricket administration. He served as CEO of Leicestershire County Cricket Club and also held a leadership role at the Cricket Foundation.

the game at the grassroots level. His tenure at the ICC, one of the key challenges Wasim had to navigate was the increasingly congested global cricket calendar.

The rise of franchise-based T20 and T10 leagues has put pressure on the international schedule, making it more difficult to balance bilateral series with league commitments. Despite this, the most recent Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2023-27 cycle, finalised during his time, actually saw an increase in the volume of international cricket being played. The period also marked a significant milestone with the introduction of the first-ever women's FTP, aimed at providing greater structure and opportunities in the women's game.

MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma Likely To Return As MI, CSK Square Off In Season-Defining El Clasico

New Delhi, Apr 22:

It is El Clasico of IPL on Thursday night - Mumbai vs Chennai at the Wankhede Stadium. While cricket is a team game, the news is about potential return of the two superstars of the game- MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma. Both likely to play on Thursday night, because the stakes for their respective teams are very high. It is the Indian Premier League's most storied rivalry that returns to the Wankhede - a venue that has witnessed some of the league's most defining moments. However the context of Thursday's contest is urgency, desperation, and a battle of survival. At the heart of the narrative are two of the league's biggest icons - MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma - both expected to return in a clash that could define their teams' seasons, as their respective team sources have told NDTV. Both aware of the urgency of the situation, this will be MSD's maiden appearance in the season. The likely inclusion comes as a tactical boost as much as a



necessity. Ayush Mhatre's injury has disrupted the balance of the team. For Chennai, it is an advantage that MSD looks to have recovered from calf strain, is travelling with the squad, he is actively wicketkeeping and batting in

training sessions as well. Even if he is not 100% on match day, all the signs point toward a return at a ground that holds rich memories for him - Wankhede, where he famously sealed India's 2011 World Cup triumph. The timing couldn't be more critical. Chennai are reeling from a crushing 10-wicket defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad - a result that has left their campaign on the brink. With just two wins from six matches, another loss could all but shut the door on their playoff hopes. Selection decisions, including whether to bring in Spencer Johnson, will be closely watched as the team searches for answers. Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, arrive with momentum on their side.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi "Demigod": Ajit Agarkar Sent Selection Plea, With Sachin Tendulkar Reference

New Delhi, Apr 22:

The cricketing world has its one and only 'God' in the form of Sachin Tendulkar, but former India cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth feels 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a 'Demigod' in the making. Srikkanth, who has been a vocal advocate for the Rajasthan Royals opening batter's national selection, urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee chief Ajit Agarkar to fast-track Sooryavanshi into the Indian team.



In fact, Srikkanth, a member of India's 1983 World Cup-winning team

under Kapil Dev, believes Sooryavanshi should have been part of the national squad for this year's T20 World Cup. "This guy, Sooryavanshi... imagine someone playing such shots. That boy is simply outstanding and brilliant. Ajit, I'm telling you, you need to fast-track him. The next series, he should be playing." I've been saying this since last year. He should have been fast-tracked, even into the T20 World Cup squad. He doesn't need to be in the XI straightaway-first let him be in the 15, understand the environment, and get a feel for international cricket," Srikkanth told The Week.

Dantewada Moves Beyond Maoist Past, Gets Sports Boost From Sachin Tendulkar



New Delhi, Apr 22:
Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar visited Chhatisgarh's Dantewada district on Wednesday to participate in an event as part of a grassroots sports initiative aimed at transforming the once Maoist-affected region into a thriving sports hub. Tendulkar arrived at Jagdalpur airport and later travelled to

Chhindar village in Dantewada, where an event under the 'Maidan Cup' initiative is being held. Talking to reporters at Jagdalpur airport, Tendulkar said, "I am very happy that we have developed around 50 school playgrounds (under the Maidan Cup initiative)." He said a Maidan Cup competition is being held in Dantewada, supported by the Mann Deshi and Sachin Tendulkar Foundation, benefiting more than 5,000 children. According to district administration officials, it launched the Maidan Cup initiative in collaboration with Mann Deshi and Sachin Tendulkar Foundation last year as part of efforts to shed the region's strife-torn image and promote sports culture. "It feels wonderful as our foundation with Mann Deshi team has been doing a good job here. I may play with the children as the sports event, which includes disciplines like kabaddi, kho-kho, athletics and volleyball, is being held," Tendulkar said.

West Indies Pacer's Bouncer Floors Batter. Helmet Kicked, Match Abandoned Due To Dangerous Pitch

New Delhi, Apr 22:

Bowling to the Leeward Islands' Jeremiah Louis, a delivery by Seales produced an unexpected bounce, rising sharply to hit the batter's helmet. The batter immediately fell to the ground, and his helmet also came off. In frustration, Louis kicked his helmet and walked off the field. Jayden Seales has claimed the first seven wickets to fall in an innings for Trinidad & Tobago against Leeward Islands, but looks set to be denied the chance to take 10 with the game halted due to a dangerous pitch. The Leeward Islands were 140/7 when the incident took place, with all seven wickets being taken by Seales. Louis was taken to the hospital for a concussion check and is said to be stable.



Cricket West Indies (CWI) also issued a statement after the game,

saying the match had to be abandoned due to the dangerous pitch conditions at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium. "Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that the second match of the Leeward Islands vs Trinidad and Tobago bilateral series in the 2026 West Indies Championship has been abandoned as a draw due to dangerous

medical personnel and subsequently transported to hospital to be evaluated for a possible concussion and is reported to be in stable condition. The decision to abandon the match was made in accordance with the official playing conditions governing the competition. Under these conditions, when on-field umpires determine that it is dangerous or unreasonable for play to continue, play must be stopped, and the CWI Match Referee consulted. "Following discussions with the curator, it was determined that the pitch could not be safely repaired without creating an unfair advantage and was therefore deemed unfit to resume, resulting in the match being abandoned as a draw. Both teams will be awarded points earned up until the abandonment of the contest in accordance with the championship's playing conditions.

Is the 'Vijay factor' about to turn the DMK vs AIADMK two-horse race into a dramatic three-cornered showdown?

New Delhi, Apr 22: The loudspeakers are finally quiet. The roadshows have wrapped up. The slogans have faded into the evening air. And now, Tamil Nadu is holding its breath. On the eve of polling, the political noise has turned into a tense silence. The familiar political rivalry is back, but a fresh face from cinema has shaken up the script. And suddenly, the story feels unpredictable. Voters across all 234 constituencies will cast their ballots in a single phase, and the mood on the ground suggests this is not going to be a routine contest. **DMK seeks continuity with welfare push**



justice policies, the DMK has tried to project stability and continuity. One of its biggest talking points remains free bus travel for women, a move that has had wide visibility across the state. The party is also highlighting investments in education, healthcare, and employment. Its campaign has focused on inclusive growth. The DMK's pitch is simple: don't change what is work-

ing. The leadership has repeatedly urged voters to support continuity so that existing welfare programmes can continue and expand. But even within the camp, there is caution. Leaders acknowledge that close contests in several seats could make every vote count. And that is where new factors could complicate the picture.

AIADMK eyes comeback with aggressive promises

On the other side, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) is pushing hard for a comeback. The party is banking on anti-incumbency sentiment and a renewed organisational spirit. It has also highlighted support from the BJP-led Centre as a sign of stronger coordination between state and national leadership. The AIADMK's campaign has leaned heavily on promises designed to ease daily economic pressures. These include direct

cash assistance, subsidised essential goods, and targeted financial support for women. Inflation and household costs have been key themes in their messaging. Alongside economic pledges, the party has also focused on law and order and administrative efficiency. Leaders have argued that a change in government would bring better governance and faster decision-making. Still, the AIADMK faces a tough challenge. While the party has mobilised its cadre, it is also navigating a crowded field where votes could split in unexpected ways.

Vijay factor shakes traditional contest

Enter the wildcard, actor-turned-politician Vijay. His entry into politics has added a completely new layer to the election. It began as curiosity but now has turned into real campaign energy, especially in urban areas.

Yellow alert for heatwave in Delhi; temperature set to touch 44 degrees

New Delhi, Apr 22: New Delhi is likely to witness heatwave conditions from Wednesday to Friday, with the mercury expected to soar to around 44 degrees Celsius in several parts of the national capital. In view of the situation, authorities have issued a yellow alert. Despite gusty winds offering some temporary relief on Tuesday, the maximum temperature stood at 38.8 degrees Celsius, which is one degree above the seasonal normal. The minimum temperature settled at 20.5 degrees Celsius and is expected to rise steadily, reaching around 26 degrees Celsius by April 25. The city experienced intense heat during the day, with the base observatory at Safdarjung recording a maximum temperature of



38.8 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees above normal levels. Notably, Delhi is yet to officially record heatwave conditions this season, even as temperatures continue to climb across various monitoring stations. Among other key weather stations, Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 38.6 degrees Celsius, which is considered normal for this time of the year, while Lodhi Road registered a higher reading of 39.0 degrees Celsius, marking a departure of 2.0 degrees above normal. The Ridge area emerged as the hottest location in the city, recording a maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees above normal. Ayanagar also recorded elevated levels at 39.8 degrees Celsius, which is 1.4 degrees above the average. On the minimum temperature front, Safdarjung recorded 20.5 degrees Celsius.

Pappu Yadav sparks outrage after claiming 'women can't enter politics without exploitation'



New Delhi, Apr 22: Independent MP Pappu Yadav on Tuesday triggered a major political storm with a controversial claim that "70-80% of politicians watch porn", as his earlier remarks alleging exploitation of women in politics drew widespread outrage. The controversy comes amid a sharp divide in

Parliament over the implementation of women's reservation, with the proposed rollout now tied to delimitation and unlikely before the 2029 general elections. Addressing reporters in Purnia on Monday, Yadav had first flayed what he described as deep-rooted discrimination against women in public life, ques-

tioning the gap between symbolic reverence and real power. "...In India, women are called goddesses, but they will never be respected here. System and society are responsible for this...90% of women cannot do politics without entering the room of politicians," he said. He also maintained that marginalised communities continue to lack adequate representation in positions of authority. Remarks snowballed into bigger political flashpoint. The row escalated further in Malda, where Yadav doubled down with a series of provocative claims, questioning those who had issued notices to him and widening his attack on political leaders.

Devendra Fadnavis backs Sunetra Pawar in Baramati rally, says determined to bring out truth in Ajit Pawar plane crash

New Delhi, Apr 22: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed strong confidence in Mahayuti candidate Sunetra Pawar, stating that she has the capability to carry forward the legacy and fulfil the unfinished dreams of late leader Ajit Pawar. Addressing the final public rally ahead of the April 23 Baramati bypoll on Tuesday, Fadnavis said, "I have spent more than 35 years in politics, and with that experience, I can immediately identify who can emerge as a good leader. Based on that experience, I can confidently say that Sunetra Pawar has the ability to fulfil Dada's



unfinished dreams." He further added, "She has not just become the state's first woman Deputy Chief Minister, but also she would emerge as a strong and capable leader. I have absolutely no doubt about this." Referring to the pub-

lic sentiment following Ajit Pawar's demise, the Chief Minister said, "There is deep sympathy and affection for Ajit Pawar in everyone's hearts. However, the manner in which his accident occurred has raised several doubts among people." Reiterating the demand for clarity, Fadnavis said, "Everyone feels that the truth must come out. I had said this earlier, and I repeat it today: until the truth behind this accident comes out, we will not sit quietly. We are determined to bring out the truth." Calling for high voter turnout, he urged the electorate to treat the bypoll as an opportunity to pay tribute to the late leader. "There should be record voting on April 23. This is an opportunity for people to pay tribute to Ajit Pawar," he said. "Faking a swipe at the candidates in opposition to Sunetra Pawar in Baramati,

Fadnavis added, "Those contesting from the opposition are merely in the fray for publicity. I do not wish to comment much on them, but I appeal to the people that the results of this election should become a topic of discussion across the country." He concluded by urging voters to ensure a decisive mandate. "With record voting, you should ensure Sunetra Pawar's victory by casting your votes in her favour," he said. The Baramati by-election is scheduled to be held on April 23, following the vacancy caused by the death of Ajit Pawar in a plane crash earlier this year.

SC seeks Centre's reply on plea challenging validity of NIA Act

New Delhi, Apr 22: The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday sought a response from the Centre on a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the National Investigation Agency Act, observing that the issues raised were of "vital importance." A Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Centre, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and the Kerala government. The Bench also raised a key question: "Without being a police station, can the NIA register an FIR?" The petition has been filed by Kerala-based advocate Mohammed Mubarak A.L., who was arrested in December 2022 after the NIA took over a matter involving alleged activities of the Popular Front of India (PFI). He remained in custody for over a year before being granted bail by



the Kerala High Court in June 2024. The court has granted four weeks to the Centre, the NIA, and the Kerala government to file their responses, and two weeks thereafter for the petitioner to submit a rejoinder. The matter has been scheduled for hearing on July 14 after the court reopens following

the summer vacation. Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Siddhartha Dave referred to provisions of the Act, particularly Section 6(5), which allows the Centre to direct the NIA to investigate scheduled offences suo motu. "The Bench noted that the government would need to clarify the

legal basis for such powers, including the agency's authority to register FIRs independently. The petitioner's central argument is that the NIA Act violates the federal structure of the Constitution by enabling the Union government to override the powers of State police forces. The plea contends that "police" falls under the State List, and therefore Parliament lacks competence to create a central agency with overriding jurisdiction in this domain. It further challenges Sections 6 to 10 of the Act, alleging that they grant excessive and unguided powers to the Centre, allowing it to take over investigations within States without their consent. This, the plea argues, effectively creates a parallel national police framework, undermining State autonomy in matters of public order and policing.

Dhami seeks Kharge's apology over 'terrorist' remark on PM Modi

New Delhi, Apr 22: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday demanded a public apology from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his controversial remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking briefly to media persons at Sangner International Airport in Jaipur, Dhami said the use of a term like "terrorist" for the Prime Minister was derogatory and an insult to the world's largest democracy. "Such statements hurt the sentiments of 140 crore Indians," he said. The Chief Minister accused Mallikarjun Kharge of disregarding democratic norms and constitutional decorum, alleging that his remarks reflected arro-



gance and appeasement-driven politics. He also criticised the Congress and its INDIA bloc allies over the Women's Reservation Bill, claiming they had opposed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill related to women's reservation. Dhami asserted that "Nari Shakti" would respond to such actions in future elec-

tions. Expressing confidence in the BJP prospects, Pushkar Singh Dhami said that after campaigning in West Bengal, he believes the state is poised for political change. He predicted the formation of a "double engine government" and said it was time for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to step down.

National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases officially recognised as Zero Waste to Landfill



New Delhi, Apr 22: In a significant step toward sustainable urban development, the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, has been officially recognised as Zero Waste to Landfill. "This achievement establishes NITRD as a benchmark for responsible and environmentally conscious waste management in India's healthcare sector," the Ministry of Housing

and Urban Affairs said on Wednesday. The initiative was executed by the Why Waste? Wednesdays Foundation through its flagship program, Swachh Sankalp, showcasing how structured planning and collective action can drive meaningful change. Spanning a sprawling 27-acre campus, the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) generates approximately 1 to 1.2 tons of waste daily, including 500-650 kgs of wet waste.

Operating under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it has emerged as a healthcare institution to achieve full compliance in the Bulk Waste Generator category under the 2026 Solid Waste Management Guidelines. This recognition underscores NITRD's pioneering commitment to sustainable practices, setting a benchmark for responsible waste management in India's healthcare sector. The project adopted a comprehensive and structured approach to sustainable waste management, beginning with an in-depth waste audit and baseline survey to map all existing waste streams, evaluate current practices, and identify critical gaps in operations. This diagnostic phase provided a clear understanding of the institute's waste generation patterns.

Congress leaders mourn Thrissur blast, seek urgent relief measures

New Delhi, Apr 22: Senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K. C. Venugopal, on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow over the deadly explosion at a fireworks facility in Thrissur, urging authorities to intensify rescue efforts and ensure immediate medical care for the injured. In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said he was "deeply saddened" by the incident that occurred just days before the iconic Thrissur Pooram. Calling the loss of lives and scale of devastation "heartbreaking," he extended his condolences to the bereaved families and stressed the need for swift government action. "The government must ensure immediate rescue efforts and proper treatment for the injured,"



he said. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also conveyed her condolences, saying she was "deeply saddened" by the tragedy. She expressed solidarity with the affected families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

Describing the incident as shocking, K. C. Venugopal noted that it occurred just days ahead of the Pooram celebrations. He said he

was "pained" by the loss of lives and "numb" at the scale of devastation. He urged authorities to deploy all possible resources for rescue operations and ensure that the injured receive timely medical attention. The explosion has cast a shadow over preparations for Thrissur Pooram, one of Kerala's most celebrated festivals known for its elaborate fireworks displays. Authorities have launched extensive rescue and relief operations, while an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the blast. Fireworks manufacturing and storage units in the state have often come under scrutiny over safety concerns, highlighting the risks associated with handling explosive materials. Emergency teams rushed to the site soon after the incident, and efforts are ongoing to manage the aftermath and assist those affected.



Real estate sector records 72% growth in capital inflows to \$5.1 billion in 2026

New Delhi, Apr 22: The real estate sector has witnessed a record surge in the capital inflows in the first quarter of 2026, with the investments rising 72% year-on-year to \$5.1 billion.

As per CBRE's latest market monitor report, these inflows, the highest in any quarter ever, were primarily led by developers, closely followed by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The period also witnessed a significant 53% quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) investment surge from \$3.3 billion in Q4 2025, reflecting a sustained institutional investor confidence in the fundamentals of the country's real estate sector, it said.



Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR cumulatively accounted for around 65% of the total investment share. Notably, capital from Singapore and Canada comprised ~72% and ~27%, respectively, of total foreign inflows. During Q1 2026, the investment momentum was mainly led by substantial inflows into built-up office assets and continued activity in land/development site acquisitions, which together commanded more than 90% of the overall equity investment flows.

The report highlighted that the developers constituted 42% of the total capital inflows, closely followed by REITs at 40%.

Investments by REITs surpassed \$2 billion, reflecting a multi-fold increase from the previous quarter and representing a substantial share of the total investment pie.

The report also outlined that a significant portion of this capital was directed towards land acquisitions. Over 73% of the funds dedicated to site acquisitions were deployed for mixed-use and residential projects, with the rest committed to office, warehousing, and hospitality developments.

The investment activity in Q1 2026 was largely driven by domestic investors, who accounted for 96% of total inflows.

Developers led the market with a 42% share while REITs followed closely at 40%, with investments crossing \$2 billion.

Stock market records sharp loss amid sell-off in IT stocks

New Delhi, Apr 22:

The Indian stock market on Wednesday extended early losses to close sharply lower amid pressure in IT stocks. At the close, the Sensex was down 757 points, or 0.95 percent, at 78,516, while the Nifty declined 198 points to 24,378.

Profit booking was seen in banks and IT heavyweights amid the ongoing Q4 earnings season.

Among sectors, the IT index was down 4.5%, private banks shed 0.4%, while FMCG, media, metal, and realty rose 0.1%. On the Nifty, the key gainers were Tata Consumer Products, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors, NTPC, Jio Financial Services. While on the losing side were HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, TCS, M&M. In the FMCG stocks,



Emami, Tata Consumer Products, Hindustan Unilever, United Spirits, Varun Beverages, and Dabur India all closed higher, gaining between 1.5% and 4.2%. The Indian rupee depreciated by 30 paise to settle at 93.79 against the US dollar on Wednesday, compared to its previous close of 93.49. Investor sentiment remained cautious after U.S. President Donald Trump announced an indefinite extension of the Iran ceasefire. In the global market, the US markets signalled a cautious rebound, with S&P futures rising 0.6% and Nasdaq futures gaining 0.7%. In Europe, the STOXX index edged up 0.1% in early trade, while Asia saw a more subdued trend, with MSCI's Asia-Pacific index (excluding Japan) slipping 0.5% after hitting a seven-week high in the previous session. Oil prices slipped below the \$100 mark. Brent crude futures fell 0.3% to around \$98.16 per barrel after briefly nearing \$100 earlier in the session.

Centre's new Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules 2026 structured into 6 parts, 26 rules

New Delhi, Apr 22:

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026, are organised into 6 parts and 26 rules, establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework for the digital gaming sector. These rules, which the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) finalised after extensive inter-ministerial consultations, are scheduled to come into force on May 1, 2026. As per the Ministry, the rules serve as the operational architecture for the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act, 2025. This legislation follows the parliamentary enactment of the PROG Act in August 2025. The primary objective is to safeguard citizens from the risks associated with online money games while simultaneously fostering a structured environment for e-sports and social gaming. "The Act reflects the Government's resolve, articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to position India as a global hub for gaming, innovation and creativity, and at the same time protect society from the financial,



psychological and social distress caused by predatory online money gaming platforms," the Ministry stated. The regulatory framework introduces the Online Gaming Authority of India as a unified, digital-first regulator. Based in Delhi, this body functions as an attached office of MeitY and comprises representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Finance, Information and Broadcasting, and Sports. Its mandate includes maintaining a public list of prohibited online money games and coordinating with law enforcement agencies to ensure effective enforcement. A central component of the new rules involves a formal determination test to classify games.

Textile exports rise 2.1% to Rs 3.16 lakh crore in FY26; Ready-Made Garments leads

New Delhi, Apr 22:

India's textile sector sustained its growth momentum in global markets in the Financial Year 2025-26, with total exports, including handicrafts, rising 2.1% year-on-year to Rs 3,16,334.9 crore from Rs 3,09,859.3 crore in the previous fiscal, reflecting steady global demand and competitiveness across segments.

As per the sectoral information shared by the Ministry of Textiles, Ready-Made Garments (RMG) of all textiles remained the largest contributor to textile exports, rising from Rs 1,35,427.6 crore to Rs 1,39,349.6 crore, an increase of 2.9%. Cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products recorded exports of Rs 1,02,399.7 crore in FY 2025-26 as against Rs 1,02,002.8 crore in FY 2024-25,



reflecting stable growth of 0.4%. Man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups posted a stronger growth of 3.6%, with exports increasing from Rs 41,196.0 crore to Rs 42,687.8 crore. Handicrafts, recorded the highest growth among major categories, rising by 6.1% from Rs 14,945.5 crore to Rs 15,855.1 crore. The export expansion was geographically broad-based, with growth reported in more than 120 destinations during April 2025 to February 2026. A notable growth has been observed in key markets such as UAE (22.3%), UK (7.8%), Germany (9.9%), Spain (15.5%),

Japan (20.6%), Egypt (38.3%), Nigeria (21.4%), Senegal (54.4%), and Sudan (205.6%). The government extended export promotion measures such as the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme and the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme beyond March 31, 2026, providing continued cost competitiveness to exporters. India's FTA agenda also saw major progress during 2025-26, with important implications for the textile and apparel sector. The India-EFTA TEPA entered into force on 1 October 2025; the India-UK CETA was signed in July 2025; the India-Oman CEPA in December 2025; the India-New Zealand FTA was announced on 22 December 2025; and the India-EU FTA was concluded on 27 January 2026.

India's marine exports hit record Rs 72,326 crore in FY26 despite US tariffs, West Asia disruptions

New Delhi, Apr 22:

India's marine product exports touched an all-time high of Rs 72,325.82 crore (\$8.28 billion) in FY 2025-26, overcoming geopolitical tensions in West Asia, tariff pressures in the United States and volatile global trade conditions.

According to provisional data released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the country exported 1.93 million tonnes of seafood during the fiscal, marking a record in both value and volume. The strong performance comes amid multiple global headwinds, including shipping disruptions linked to the prolonged West Asia crisis, elevated freight costs and uneven demand across key markets. Frozen shrimp once again emerged as the undisputed engine of India's seafood export growth. The segment contributed Rs



47,973.13 crore (\$5.51 billion), accounting for more than two-thirds of the country's total marine export earnings. Shrimp exports also rose 4.6 per cent in volume and 6.35 per cent in value. Southeast Asia emerged as another major growth centre, registering an increase of 36.1 per cent in value and 28.2 per cent in volume. Japan also remained a stable mar-

ket, with imports rising 6.55 per cent in value. In contrast, exports to West Asia saw a marginal decline of 0.55 per cent, largely attributed to regional instability and logistical uncertainties during the fog end of the financial year, the MPEDA said in a statement. The United States (US) retained its position as India's largest seafood market, importing marine products worth \$2.32 billion, exports to the country registered a decline of 19.8 per cent in volume and 14.5 per cent in value due to the impact of reciprocal tariff measures and changing buying patterns. However, exporters were able to offset the slowdown in the American market through stronger penetration into other regions. Exports to China, the second-largest destination, recorded impressive growth, with imports from India rising 22.7 per cent in value and 20.1 per cent in volume. The European Union also posted robust gains, with exports jumping 37.9 per cent in value and 35.2 per cent in volume, indicating stronger demand recovery and widening acceptance of Indian seafood products. Exports of frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, dried marine items and live products registered positive growth, beyond shrimp.

MPC members flag West Asia conflict; oil shock as key risks, back status quo on rates

Mumbai, Apr 22:

Members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have highlighted the West Asia conflict, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, and elevated crude oil prices as major risks to India's growth and inflation outlook, according to the minutes released on Wednesday. MPC member Dr Nagesh Kumar said the global and domestic outlook has been significantly impacted by the conflict, reversing the earlier "goldilocks" phase of high growth and low inflation. He noted that India's dependence on crude oil, natural gas and fertiliser imports from the Middle East has amplified the impact, with the blockage



of the Strait of Hormuz pushing oil prices sharply higher. He said, "The overall economic sentiment is also affected, with international agencies lowering the global GDP growth projections for 2026 by 40 basis points to 2.9 per cent from 3.3 per cent in 2025. The rupee has come under pressure due to the combined effect of rising oil prices, short-term capital outflows, and the strengthening of the dollar." He projected India's growth at 6.9 per cent for FY27, down from 7.6 per cent and inflation at 4.6 per cent, driven largely by supply shocks. Bhattacharya highlighted that the growth-inflation trade-off has become more uncertain due to geopolitical tensions.

RBI rolled back NDF curbs as volatility eased, measures were temporary: Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar



Mumbai, Apr 22: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rolled back restrictions on offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) trading as the volatility in the rupee market eased. Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said on Wednesday, stressing that the measures were temporary and aimed at managing excessive market fluctuations. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 25th year celebration of Clearing Corporation of India Limited, Sankar said

the earlier restrictions were introduced due to heightened volatility and were not linked to the direction of the rupee. "All that was done was to deal with a temporary event that created a large volatility in the market. Once that is taken care of, we should be back on track with what we do. Our idea is that any user anywhere in the world who has an exposure to risk to the rupee should be able to access any product that is available. It was a temporary measure that had to be rolled back sometime. We did it now," he said.

The RBI had imposed restrictions on April 1, 2026, on offshore NDF trading. These have now been partially rolled back, allowing authorised dealers to offer rupee derivatives to clients again. Banks can also rebook cancelled contracts, although a cap of USD 100 million on open positions continues to remain in place to manage volatility and prevent excessive speculation.

Tesla brings in 2nd model to India; to expand service, body shop network

New Delhi, Apr 22:

American electric carmaker Tesla on Wednesday announced acceleration of its journey in India, driving in the three-row six-seater SUV Model YL priced at Rs 61.99 lakh, its second offering in the country. The company, which last year made its much-awaited entry into India with the launch of its Model Y, is also revving up expansion of charging network across highways connecting major cities. "What we are going to do in the coming quarter or in this quarter is to expand our service and body shop network and presence in cities of Bengal, Hyderabad, Chennai and Ahmedabad," Tesla India General Manager Sharad



Agarwal said at the launch. Stating that the company will be closer to its customers, he said, "Service for us is more of peace of mind to our customers because you don't need to come to the Tesla service centre to fix your car." Charging is a very important part of the ecosystem that we are building here in India, he said and added the company had already enabled five super-charger stations in India and each of these locations was strategically selected. Agarwal said the company is looking to "disrupt" the premium SUV segment with the newly launched Model YL. "We want to build the charging around the lifestyle of our customers," he said. India has a similar population like China where Tesla has 2,500 plus superchargers, he said. "That is what when we are committed to the market, as the market demands, as per the lifestyle of our customers... we are going to build the charging infrastructure in this country," Agarwal said.



Sagar Dattatray chairs review meeting on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in Doda

DODA, APRIL 22: A comprehensive review meeting to assess progress on the 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11, 2026, was successfully conducted at DC Office Complex, Doda.

The meeting was chaired by District Mentor for the campaign, Sagar Dattatray Doifode, Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, J&K.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, SSP, ADC, DPO ICDS, ACD, SE PWD (R&B), SE Jal Shakti, DFO, Joint Director Education, CPO, ACP, Principals of GDC Doda, Baderwah, Kastigah and Thathi, along with other district officers who participated both physically and virtually. During the meeting, the Special Secretary conducted a detailed review of the departmental action



plans, ongoing activities and achievements under the campaign. He was informed that the cases of drug addiction among the students in educational institutions were negligible. He asked for maintain-

ing strict vigilance over the dreaded social evil. The Special Secretary also interacted with the SDM Thathi and college principals to assess the ground-level situation and gather

feedback. The Health Department presented data on registered drug-affected patients while the need for establishing dedicated de-addiction centres in the district was strongly emphasized. Various departments highlighted the awareness initiatives, outreach programmes and community participation under the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner presented a detailed overview of district-level activities through a comprehensive presentation, including a phase-wise action plan and schedule of the campaign. He informed that district police had taken effective measures against the drug abuse and trafficking. Various departments including Education, Health, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Higher Education, Agriculture, Labour, ICDS, Forest and Sports shared their initiatives.

Two-Day Training Module on VIP Security Held at District Police Lines Udhampur

Jammu, April 22: A two-day training module began at District Police Lines Udhampur by the Security Wing in coordination with Zonal Police Jammu.

As part of enhancing the preparedness and professional competence of police personnel in handling advanced security gadgets and effectively discharging duties during VVIP/VIP engagements and other important events, a comprehensive training session was conducted at District Udhampur today. The dedicated security teams detailed for this purpose functioned under the overall supervision of Sh. Rakesh Kumar, JKPS, SO to IGP Security J&K, who ensured meticulous planning and structured delivery of the training programme. The training



module is aimed at upgrading skills in VIP security protocols, access control mechanisms, and the use of modern security equipment. The programme witnessed active participation of officers/officials drawn from various points of deployment. During the sessions, Shri Rakesh Kumar, JKPS, SO to IGP Security J&K, comprehensively briefed the participants on standard operating

procedures, emerging security challenges, and best practices to be adopted during high-risk deployments. Emphasis was also laid on coordination, effectiveness, and the importance of a professional approach in ensuring foolproof security arrangements.

The event was attended by SSP Udhampur, DySP Hqrs, SDPO, SHO PS Udhampur, and 120 subordinate staff.

DC Rajouri pushes multi-pronged strategy to strengthen 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan



RAJOURI, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu &

Kashmir Abhiyan in the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized strengthening the role of Women Vigilance Committees, stressing the need for their enhanced awareness and capacity building. He directed the concerned officers to formulate a structured action plan to ensure effective community participation in curbing drug abuse. Highlighting the importance of grassroots monitoring, the DC called for impact assessment at the Panchayat level to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign and identify gaps for timely intervention. He also stressed the need to intensify social media campaigns to amplify awareness and reach a wider audience, especially the youth.

Tribute to Hindus killed in the Pahalgam terror attack by Movement Kalki

Jammu, Date: 22-April... A tribute gathering was organized by Movement Kalki at Gait Mata Chowk, Amphalla, to honor the Hindus who lost their lives in the terror attack at Pahalgam (Baisaran Valley, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir). Members lit candles and offered prayers for the departed souls, strongly condemning the cowardly act. All members of the organization stood united in demanding strict action against terrorism and pledged that the sacrifice of innocent people will never be forgotten. On this occasion, Organization Minister Karnail Chand, Advisor Pritam Sharma, Board Members Sapna Hindu, Anuradha, Yogi Rajendra Hindu,



Vikram Mahajan, Environment Incharge Anil Arora, Founder Deepak Singh, and other central members were present. Speaking to the media, members stated that such a heinous act—where innocent people were

allegedly targeted after being identified by religion—is completely unacceptable and condemnable. They said that the Government of India, the Army, and security forces have responded firmly against such terrorism through

operations and ensured that those responsible for such acts are brought to justice. They further emphasized that to prevent such incidents in the future, the Government of India must take stronger and more effective measures, and continue decisive operations against terrorism. The members also urged that individuals involved in anti-national activities should be identified and strict legal action should be taken against them to safeguard the unity and security of the nation. Movement Kalki appealed to the government to take concrete and strict steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and ensure the safety of citizens.

Congress Protest in Kishtwar Against Modi Government Over Women Reservation Bill

Kishtwar, 22 April: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Kishtwar today organized a protest at Dak Bungalow, Kishtwar, against the Modi Government, accusing it of misleading the people of India regarding recent developments related to the Women Reservation Bill.

The protest was led by Shri Sheikh Mujeeb Ali (Former President DCC Doda), with participation from several senior Congress leaders including Firdous Ahmed Mingnoo, Sharif Ahmad Saroori, Shabir Ahmed Lone, Naveed Ashraf Kichloo, Pyare Lal Rathore, Dr. Junaid Hassan, Sheikh Zaffar, Dr. Zakir Malik, Ajaz Ahmed Ganai, Shareef Malik, Ghulam Abbas Malik, Syed Irfan, Maqbool Ahmed, Hussain Mir,



Asif Ali Butt, Muzaffar Hussain, Mohd Iqbal Ganai, Jindu Ram, Noor Hussain, Nayyar Ameen Butt, Bidya Lal, Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Suhail Sheikh, and others. Addressing the gathering, Congress leaders and workers strongly condemned what they described as a deliberate attempt

by the government to create confusion among the masses. They stated that the Women Reservation Bill had already been passed in 2023, and the recent proposal being projected by the government is, in fact, linked to delimitation and does not align with established norms. The leaders further alleged that the government intends to carry out delimitation of parliamentary constituencies based on the outdated 2011 Census, claiming that such a move is driven by political interests rather than ensuring fair and equitable representation. Reaffirming their stance, the leaders emphasized that the Indian National Congress has consistently supported women's welfare, including reservation in legislative bodies. They pointed out that Rahul Gandhi has raised the issue in Parliament, questioning why the Women Reservation Bill passed in 2023 has not yet been implemented if the government is genuinely committed to women's empowerment.

One year after Pahalgam attack, why responsibility of security failures not fixed - Congress

Jammu, April 22:- One year after the heinous and gruesome Pahalgam carnage, the responsibility for the grave security lapses has not been fixed and no one punished or even indicted or shifted to reflect sense of accountability and respect for human lives. Paying rich tributes to those martyred in the Pahalgam attack and expressing deep sympathies with the families of victims including the brave young man Adil Shah who created history of humanity, JKPC said that the pain and anguish of the victim families can't be measured, in the wake of the manner in which the perpetrators could carry out the carnage, in broad day light. It was surprising that there was not even a single policeman deployed at a place where around 2000 tourists used to visit daily in a place surrounded by forests. JKPC Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma said, adding it was an unpardonable failure on the part of those at the helm of affairs. The authorities responsible for law and

order, were in deep slumber when the killers sponsored by Pakistan succeeded in carrying out the selective attack in a most brutal and inhuman manner, with sinister designs to create communal hatred and riots. Although the killers succeeded in their design to martyr 26 innocents but failed in their other designs as the people especially in Kashmir saw through their nefarious designs and gave a befitting response to the perpetrators and their mentors in Pakistan. Months later the gruesome incident, the LG of UT owned the moral responsibility although it is home ministry which is directly looking after the affairs in the UT of J&K. Party questioned if a mere statement was enough and no one should face the consequences of utter failure and criminal negligence. On the day when one year has passed, no one seems accountable or even answerable to the people of J&K and entire nation over the gross security failure, he added.

Satish Sharma emphasizes youth engagement, sports promotion at Sher-e-Kashmir T20 Tournament Finale

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, underscored the importance of youth engagement through sports while addressing the grand finale of the 2nd Sher-e-Kashmir T20 Cricket Tournament at MA Stadium Jammu.

Highlighting the transformative role of sports, the Minister stated that such tournaments provide a constructive platform for the youth to showcase their talent, develop discipline and stay away from social evils like drug abuse. He emphasized that sports not only build physical fitness but also nurture leadership qualities and a spirit of

teamwork among young individuals. The Minister lauded the efforts of the Youth National Conference for organizing the tournament under the "Say No to Drugs" initiative, terming it a significant step towards channelizing youth energy in a positive direction. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen the sports infrastructure and ensure wider participation of youth across Jammu and Kashmir. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from several teams, including KT Lions, Royal Legends Club, Warriors XI, Rising Stars, Strikers Club and Young Strikers, reflecting the growing interest of youth in cricket and competitive sports across the region. Congratulating the players, Satish Sharma appreciated their sportsmanship and competitive spirit, noting that such events foster unity, camaraderie and a sense of purpose among the youth. He encouraged the young players to remain dedicated and pursue sports as a means to achieve excellence and contribute positively to society. The Minister also complimented the organizers for successful conduct of the tournament and expressed hope that more such initiatives would be organized in future to engage the youth meaningfully. The event was attended by Rattan Lal Gupta, Tejinder Paul Singh Aman along with former minister Bahu Ram Pal, senior leaders and a large number of youth participants.

DC Ramban conducts public grievance redressal camp at Panchayat Doligam

RAMBAN, APRIL 22: In a significant outreach initiative aimed at strengthening grassroots governance, the Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a public grievance redressal camp at the remote village Geladh Hirjha in Panchayat Doligam of Banihal block, resolving most of the public issues on the spot. The camp witnessed active participation from locals, who appreciated the initiative of the Deputy Commissioner. Interacting directly with the people, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated that taking governance to the doorstep of citizens and ensuring timely redressal of their concerns remains a top priority of the District Administration. During the public grievance redressal camp, villagers raised a range of issues concerning power supply, drinking water, road connectivity, construction of bridges,



healthcare facilities, Anganwadi services, and other developmental needs. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to all grievances, resolving most issues instantly while directing concerned officers to address the remaining matters in a time-bound manner. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Animal Husbandry

Officer to deploy a mobile veterinary team, headed by a doctor, once a week to provide treatment to livestock in the area. He also instructed the Executive Engineer JPDCI to complete metering in the area to ensure proper regulation of electricity billing. He stated that such measures are essential to improve service delivery, especially in far-flung and underserved areas. The Deputy Commissioner further urged the public to actively participate in the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, calling upon community members, particularly the youth, to join hands in eradicating the menace of drug abuse and building a healthier society. The camp was attended by ACD Sheraz Ahmed, SDM Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, besides Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD, PMGSY, JPDCI, RDD, Health, Education and officers from various other departments, who addressed public concerns related to their respective sectors. En route, the Deputy Commissioner also met various individuals and delegations and listened to their concerns. He directed the concerned officers to resolve all genuine issues on priority.

CM Omar Abdullah discusses key developmental issues with public representatives

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Several public representatives today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of developmental and governance-related matters. Among those who called on the Chief Minister were Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sajad Ahmad Kichloo, MLA Inderwal Payare Lal Sharma and former Minister Abdul Ghani Kohli. During the interactions, the visiting public representatives apprised the Chief Minister of various issues and demands concerning their respective constituencies and areas of responsibility. Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun also called on the Chief Minister and dis-



ussed issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Discussions largely focused on strengthening infrastructure, improving public service delivery, and addressing region-specific concerns. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that

their genuine demands would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development and responsive governance, emphasizing that the concerns of people from all regions are being addressed in a systematic and time-bound manner.

CS reviews roadmap for promotion and strengthening of Handicrafts & Handloom sector in J&K

Focus on skilling, GI tagging, credit access, and infrastructure development

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and future roadmap for large-scale promotion and strengthening of the Handicrafts and Handloom sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JKHHMC and other concerned officers. Taking a comprehensive review of departmental initiatives, the Chief Secretary emphasized the immediate operationalization of non-functional training centres across districts to ensure uninterrupted skill development and capacity building of artisans and craftsmen. He directed that these centres be aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure wider recognition of training certifications. Stressing formalization and financial inclusion, he instructed the department to enhance artisan registrations on the



Udyam portal and facilitate their linkage with the RBIs Unified Lending Interface (ULI) to improve access to affordable credit. He further advised exploring the introduction of a dedicated term loan product for the sector, on the analogy of the agriculture sector, to enable capital infusion and business expansion. The Chief Secretary also called for expansion of training and capacity-building programmes in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), stating that short-term courses and diploma programmes would help integrate

modern technology with traditional crafts. Reviewing the progress on GI tagging, he directed optimal utilization of the QR-based management system for tracking and tracing GI products and emphasized its full operationalization through integration with the Government of India's Meghraj cloud platform. He also stressed expediting the implementation of the Text-RAMPS scheme, including early finalization of the requisite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit

Singh, presented a detailed overview of departmental functioning and initiatives aimed at revitalizing the sector. He informed that proposals for multiple projects have been submitted to the Government of India for approval to strengthen handicrafts across districts. He also highlighted capacity-building programmes being conducted in collaboration with NIFT, Budgam, including courses ranging from 15 days to one year. He further informed that approximately 17,000 artisans and weavers were registered during the previous year, taking the total to over 4.52 lakh across the Union Territory. Additionally, around 12,600 individuals have been trained through departmental training centres, he added. Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Musarat Islam, highlighted key initiatives including establishment of a Craft Village at Sonpah (Budgam), Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for wool processing, yarn dyeing and dehairing in Srinagar.

Rana calls for comprehensive strategy to address water scarcity in Kandi areas

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today emphasised the need for a comprehensive and result-oriented strategy to tackle the growing water scarcity in Kandi areas, stating that the challenge requires coordinated and long-term interventions. The Minister made these remarks while interacting with the public delegations at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), where the people from various parts of Jammu highlighted their concerns, with



water supply emerging as the key issue. Stressing sustainable solutions, the Minister underscored the importance of creating water harvesting tanks across Kandi belts to capture rainwater that otherwise goes unused. He said such infrastructure can

serve as dependable local water sources during the dry spells and reduce dependence on distant supply lines. He also called for intensified awareness drives to sensitise the communities about water conservation and the limited nature of groundwater

reserves in these areas. Rana stressed the need for effective dovetailing of efforts among the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and other line departments to ensure efficient water conservation and management. He highlighted that behavioural change among communities is as vital as infrastructure, urging judicious use of water in domestic consumption, agriculture and livestock rearing to prevent further depletion of already stressed sources. The Minister directed the field officers to strengthen ground-level monitoring to detect and plug leakages in the water supply network, noting that such losses deprive end users of their rightful share. He instructed the officers to conduct regular inspections of pipelines, storage tanks and distribution points to ensure optimal utilisation of available resources. To ensure equitable distribution in water-stressed areas like Bathindi, the Minister directed the officials to implement alternate-day water supply and hold field officers accountable for the quality and regularity of monitoring reports.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review progress on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan's 100 Days Campaign

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti, chaired a meeting to review the progress on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan's 100 Days campaign across the Jammu Division. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from all districts of Jammu Division, Director General, Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Director Health Services Jammu and concerned officers. The meeting discussed the activities and programs being conducted under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (100 Days campaign) and assessed its impact. It was informed that large scale awareness activities are being conducted in every district



with wide participation of people from all walks of life. The awareness programs are being conducted upto the panchayat level which include rallies, discussions, competitions in school for the eradication of the menace of drug abuse from the society. It was further informed that comprehensive steps have been employed for identification of drug abuse hotspots while stringent action has also been taken against the drug peddlers as per law. Mahila Nigrani Samitis are being

constituted in every panchayat and ward to provide feedback on the impact and active support in the intensified campaign against the Drugs abuse. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners for facilitating the mainstreaming of drug addiction victims by providing them institutional support and medical care. He further directed for active monitoring of the drug de-addiction centres while ensuring there are no unauthorized drug de-addiction centres.

DC Srinagar presides over Mega Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp of PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana at Kashmir Haat

Over 5,000 rooftop solar installations in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today presided over a mega Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana here at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah) aimed at sensitizing citizens about the scheme benefits and facilitating on-the-spot registrations. The programme was organized by Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) to spread awareness about rooftop solar installations and encourage residents to avail benefits under the scheme. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens, reflecting



growing interest in sustainable energy solutions under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The mega awareness camp was attended by Chief Planning Officer

Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer KPDCCL, Syed Ahmad Wani, Superintending Engineer KPDCCL and Mohammad Amin Shah

Executive Engineers of all four divisions of KPDCCL including Syed Abrar, Tasaduq Nabi, Nissar Ahmad, other KPDCCL Officers, scheme vendors and technical experts.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the advantages of the scheme, noting that Rooftop Solar installations can significantly reduce electricity bills while contributing to environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the initiative provides subsidies to households, making clean energy solutions more affordable and accessible.

Highlighting the purpose of the event, Akshay Labroo said the programme was aimed at

informing residents about the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitating on-the-spot registrations. He noted that the scheme is demand-driven and voluntary in nature, and urged people to enroll and take advantage of the opportunity to reduce energy costs while contributing to environmental conservation.

The DC emphasized further intensifying outreach efforts and organize similar awareness camps across the district to ensure wider coverage under the scheme so that maximum households are benefited from less electricity bills and promoting renewable energy to contribute to the environment.

J&K Resident Commission observes Earth Day with plantation drives in Delhi, Amritsar



NEW DELHI, APRIL 22: The Resident Commission, Jammu & Kashmir government, New Delhi, today observed Earth Day 2026 with plantation drives conducted across its premises in Delhi and Amritsar, aligning with this year's global theme "Our Power, Our Planet."

Marking the occasion, Additional Resident Commissioner, J&K, led the officers and staff in planting the saplings at J&K House, 5 Pithivraj Road, New Delhi. The green initiative was carried out simultaneously at J&K House, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi and J&K House, Amritsar, where the respective Manager-cum-Protocol Officers and staff undertook similar drives. Addressing the staff, the Additional Resident Commissioner underscored the urgent need for environmental conservation. He urged all the employees to adopt plantation as a regular, sustained activity rather than a one-day observance. "Our collective action today determines the health of our planet tomorrow. Each sapling planted is a step towards,

whom currently face difficulties in securing affordable and safe accommodation in the city. Emphasizing its importance, the Minister said the project would significantly reduce the logistical and financial burdens on people from the Chenab Valley. He directed the executing agencies to maintain strict monitoring, ensure accountability at all levels and provide all necessary amenities to make the facility fully functional and user-friendly. Once completed, Chenab House is expected to ease the hardships faced by residents of the Chenab region and strengthen support infrastructure for the people from remote and hilly areas, contributing to more inclusive regional development.

Javed Rana pushes for time bound completion of Chenab House

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the under-construction Arsarai Chenab Doda House at Transport Nagar, Nawar, stressing the need for timely completion and strict adherence to quality standards. He was accompanied by

the senior officials from the Jal Shakti, Forest departments besides officers from the Jammu Development Authority. The inspection focused on evaluating the construction progress and identifying the measures to accelerate execution. The Minister also reviewed the local water supply scenario, highlighting the need to augment the infrastructure in

view of future demand. The concerned officials informed him that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth ₹3.22 crore has been prepared for construction of a tube well to cater to Chenab House and adjoining areas. The project is aimed at ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply while addressing existing shortages. Javed Ahmed Rana

asked the concerned departments to expedite approvals and initiate work on the tube well at the earliest, ensuring quality and timely execution. Reviewing the Chenab House project, the officials briefed the Minister on current progress, timelines and proposed facilities. Spread over approximately five kanals, the proposed G+2

structure is being developed as a dedicated accommodation facility for the people from Chenab region, including Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts, who frequently travel to Jammu for education, healthcare and other essential needs. The facility is expected to benefit the students, patients and their attendants, many of

whom currently face difficulties in securing affordable and safe accommodation in the city. Emphasizing its importance, the Minister said the project would significantly reduce the logistical and financial burdens on people from the Chenab Valley. He directed the executing agencies to maintain strict monitoring, ensure accountability at

all levels and provide all necessary amenities to make the facility fully functional and user-friendly. Once completed, Chenab House is expected to ease the hardships faced by residents of the Chenab region and strengthen support infrastructure for the people from remote and hilly areas, contributing to more inclusive regional development.

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

Early Times Printing Press Samadhian Road, Jammu

E-Mail: editor.northinnews@gmail.com

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

