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RS. 3.00

This is the hour for society to awaken to fight and to prevail: LG Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor Joins Padyatra in Udhampur for Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir



JAMMU, APRIL 27: In the war against drugs, unity will be our shield, resolve our weapon. Let us commit to shaping a Jammu Kashmir where young people carve free destinies, families remain whole, communities thrive strong, and aspirations

blaze anew. We stand Manoj Sinha said on unwavering for our youth. Monday, He said the battle for our future," the against drug menace Lieutenant Governor, demands unity beyond all

divisions. As citizens of Jammu Kashmir, we should pledge to stand together, bound by our common duty to protect our youth, strengthen families, and secure prosperity. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan at Udhampur. The Lieutenant Governor had joined thousands of residents in Padyatra and urged every citizen to recognize Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan as our shared war against narcotics and he said that together we must win this

Shah says Central forces will stay in Bengal for 60 more days after polls; asks people to vote without fear of 'Didi's goons'

KOLKATA, APR 27: Central forces will remain in West Bengal for 60 more days after the assembly polls. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday and asked voters to cast their votes without fear of "Didi's goons" in the final phase, a remark signalling the Centre's commitment to prevent possible post-poll violence. Shah made the remarks while addressing a gathering on the last day of the election campaign after leading a massive roadshow in Behala, where voting will take place on Wednesday during the second and final phase of the West Bengal assembly



ed on May 4. "Brothers and sisters, go and vote on the 29th, do not worry about Didi's (Mamata Banerjee's) goons. The Election Commission has deployed CAPF at every nook and (Contd on Pg 2)

PSA Cannot Be Used as Shortcut to Jail HC Quashes Doda East MLA Mehraj Malik's Detention

JAMMU, APRIL 27 (JNF): In a major legal setback to the administration, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the Public Safety Act detention of Doda East MLA Mehraj Din Malik, ruling that allegations which essentially fall within the realm of ordinary law and order cannot be stretched to justify preventive detention under the garb of "public order". Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani, while allowing the habeas corpus petition, set aside detention order No. PSA-05 of 2025 dated 08.09.2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Doda, and directed the authorities to release Malik forthwith from preventive detention in the case. The Court

observed that there is a clear distinction between "law and order" and "public order", holding that every breach of law does not automatically become a ground for detention under preventive laws. Referring to the settled position of law, the Court said preventive detention curtails the most precious right of liberty and must be invoked only in genuine and inevitable circumstances. Malik, 37, Member of Legislative Assembly from Doda East, had been detained and lodged in District Jail Kathua on the allegation that his activities were prejudicial to maintenance of public order. The detention was based on a police dossier citing 18 FIRs and 16 DDRs (Contd on Pg 2)

Iran offers to end chokehold on Strait of Hormuz and asks US to end blockade, officials Say

CAIRO, APR 27: Iran is offering to end its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz without addressing its nuclear program, two regional officials with knowledge of the proposal said Monday, as the country's foreign minister made a visit to Russia he said was an opportunity to consult with Moscow regarding the war against Israel and the United States. Iran also wants the U.S. to end its blockade of the

country as part of its proposal, said the two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. The new proposal, passed to the United States by Pakistan, likely won't be supported by U.S. President Donald Trump, who wants to end Iran's atomic program as part of an overall deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and make the ceasefire permanent. "We (Contd on Pg 2)

Governor Gupta, CM accord warm welcome to President Droupadi Murmu on arrival in Shimla

SHIMLA, APRIL 27: The Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, who arrived on a five-day visit to Himachal Pradesh, was accorded a warm welcome on her arrival at the Kalyani Helipad at Chharabra near Shimla today at around 11:30 A.M. Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta accompanied with Chief Minister Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and others senior officers of the Civil Administration and the Indian Army received the President and extended a warm welcome on behalf of the people of



the State. Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Anirudh Singh, who has also been designated as the Minister-in-Waiting for Rural Development and (Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

NIA Takes Over Case, Gets Remand Of Five Terrorists

JAMMU, APR 27: The National Investigation Agency has taken over the case related to the recent unearthing of an interstate Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module and secured custody of five arrested terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals, for questioning on Monday, officials said. On April 7, Jammu and Kashmir police achieved a major success in its counter-terror campaign by arresting five LeT operatives, including Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, who has been on the run for 16 years and was able to set up bases outside the union territory. Besides Abdullah, another Pakistani terrorist, Usman alias (Contd on Pg 2)

Shabir Shah Sent to 10-Day NIA Custody as 1996 Mob Violence Probe Deepens

JAMMU, APRIL 27 (JNF): In a significant development in a decades-old case, a Special Judge NIA Prem Sagar, remanded Shabir Ahmed Shah, son of Ghulam Mohd Shah, resident of Anantnag and presently at Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, to 10 days' police custody in connection with NIA case RC-01/2026/NIA/JMU. The accused was produced before the Court by CIO NIA D/SP Ankit Rohilla, who sought custody for further investigation into the 1996 Naaz Crossing mob violence case. After examining the case diary and hearing submissions of the prosecution, the Court observed that the accused was prima facie involved in serious offences punishable under Sections 147, 148, 336, 341, 307, 332 and 427 RPC, along with Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Sections 7/27 of the Arms Act. The National Investigation Agency (Contd on Pg 2)

CM Omar inaugurates conference on emerging technologies in Engineering at GCET Jammu

CM emphasizes leveraging of AI in tourism, cultural preservation while inaugurating Rs.19.71 cr School of Architecture building



JAMMU, APRIL 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the 11th National Conference and Exhibition on Emerging and Innovative

Trends in Engineering Technology (NCEITEET) at Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, underscoring the need to harmonize technological advancement with cultural heritage while fostering innovation-driven growth among youth. The two-day event is being organised by GCET Jammu in technical collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and in association with World Consortium of Universities. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed School of Architecture (SOA) building at GCET, developed at a (Contd on Pg 2)

Partition In 1947 Result Of 'Population Imbalance': Ambekar

INDORE (MP), APR 27: The 1947 Partition of India resulted from a "population imbalance". Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Sunil Ambekar has claimed and stressed the need to address such concerns. During a public interaction to mark 100 years of the RSS, Ambekar also underlined the concept of Hindutva, saying it emphasises unity and inclusiveness among people. "Population imbalance" was a matter of concern for society, said Ambekar, the RSS national publicity and media department head.



"Studies have shown that when the number of people following original traditions declines due to population imbalance, the identity of that place changes and its unity and integrity face challenges," he said. (Contd on Pg 2)

35 IAS and JKAS Officers assigned to vibrant villages programme-II

JAMMU, APRIL 27: With a view to ensure comprehensive and sustainable development of villages located along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) and the launch of Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II), the 35 IAS and JKAS officers are assigned the Vibrant Villages programme during the month of May and June, 2026. The Deputy Commissioners concerned shall facilitate the visits and provide necessary logistical and administrative support. As per the

Historic milestone for Ladakh: Five new districts notified in Ladakh; taking total districts to seven

L-G Vinai Saxena says the decision will strengthen governance and development in remote areas of Ladakh

L-G says move aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and prosperous Ladakh

LEH, APRIL 27: In a historic decision to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh and to fulfil their long-pending demand, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today, i.e. 27th April 2026, approved the issuance of notification for the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. With this, Ladakh will now have total seven districts from the existing two. The five new districts are Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass. The Ministry of Home Affairs,



Territory in 2019. Three districts, namely, Nubra (Headquarter: Diskit), Sham (Headquarter: Khatse), and Changthang (Headquarter: Nyoma) have been carved out from Leh district, while two districts, Zaskar (Headquarter: Padum) and Drass (Headquarter: Drass-Ranbirpura) have been carved out from Kargil district. Consistent to the notification, the territorial

limits of the seven districts now have been defined. Now, the Leh district will have 44 revenue villages, while Nubra will have 30 revenue villages and Changthang will have 24 revenue villages. Similarly, Kargil district will have 80 revenue villages, while Sham district will have 27 revenue villages, Zaskar, 26 revenue villages, and Drass will have 19 revenue villages. Lieutenant Governor, Saxena, described the move as "historic", saying this would usher in a new era of inclusive development in the Union Territory by ensuring an effective and efficient delivery of services at the doorsteps. "This transformative decision underscores the Government of India's commitment to (Contd on Pg 2)

Court Grants NIA Remand of Five LeT Operatives in Interstate Terror Module Case

JAMMU, APRIL 27 (JNF): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday secured custody of five arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, including two Pakistani nationals, after taking over the investigation into the recently unearthed interstate terror module. The accused were produced before the Special NIA Court, Jammu, presided over by Judge Prem Sagar, after the agency formally took over the case for further investigation. The Court granted two-day NIA remand of Pakistani nationals Abdullah alias Abu Hureira and Usman alias Khubaib, while three Srinagar residents - (Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

This is...

fortresses of resistance; let every household stand as a vigilant bastion. I call upon each resident to enlist as a warrior in this cause," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that every section of society must embrace the spirit of Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan so that history records that on April 27, the flame of hope, unity, and determination was kindled in Udhampur. "Every family must rise, ensuring that chronicles remember Udhampur's united stand, united fight, united triumph and a legacy of a narcotics-free tomorrow dedicated to nation-building. In the coming 83 days, let us reshape society's perception and treat those trapped in addiction as sufferers who deserve compassion and not condemnation. Rehabilitation must restore their dignity and reintegrate them into the community. Let collective energy drive the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign. Transform awareness into accountability, ensuring public participation deepens and highlight the vital role of women and youth in leading this fight," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that this war against drug menace will unfold in phases, each demanding courage and devotion. He further added that awareness campaigns must enlighten families about drug addiction symptoms and dangers of narcotics and they should be reminded that the threat is not distant, but among us.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor flagged off an Anti-drug awareness Bike rally and launched Mini-Olympics under the Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign. He also handed over sanction letters to individuals recovered from substance abuse, and felicitated the winner of Nasha Mukta Ideas Championship.

Shah says...

corner, and I am telling you that even though the BJP will come to power after the elections, central forces will remain here for 60 more days," he said.

The road show, organised in support of BJP candidates for Behala Purba and Behala Paschim, turned the South Kolkata neighbourhood into a sea of saffron on the final day of campaigning.

Standing atop an open-hood vehicle, Shah walked with supporters and showered flower petals on crowds lining both sides of the road.

Ascerting that there was a strong wave in favour of the BJP, Shah said that once voted to power, the party would take strict action against infiltrators and those involved in political violence.

"I want to warn Didi's goons in Chandannagar - do not step out to intimidate voters on April 29. After May 4, the BJP will punish the culprits and hang them upside down," he asserted.

Earlier this month, Election Commission officials said that as many as 500 CAPF companies will remain deployed across West Bengal for post-poll law and order duties even after the declaration of results. They will stay "till further orders of the EC," they said. Each CAPF company comprises around 100 personnel. A record 2,450 central paramilitary companies, comprising nearly 2.5 lakh personnel, have been deployed across the state for the assembly polls. Of these, 2,321 CAPF companies have been deployed for the second phase of polling.

Ami Shah's statement that CAPFs would remain in West Bengal for "60 more days" even after polling is widely viewed through the prism of the 2021 post-poll violence in the state. After the results of the 2021 Assembly elections were declared on May 2, widespread violence was reported across several districts, with allegations of murders, arson, looting, assaults, sexual violence and forced displacement of opposition workers, particularly involving clashes between BJP and TMC supporters.

Political observers say Shah's remark serves multiple strategic purposes. First, it is aimed at reassuring anti-TMC voters-particularly BJP supporters in politically sensitive and violence-prone constituencies that they can vote without fear of post-poll reprisals. In Bengal politics, allegations of post-election violence and intimidation remain a major psychological factor, and the BJP is seeking to neutralise that fear. Second, it helps reinforce the BJP's long-standing political narrative that the TMC regime survives through coercion, intimidation and electoral violence, while the saffron party positions itself as the guarantor of democratic rights and free voting. Third, it seeks to influence undecided voters and fence-sitters, especially in rural and semi-urban Bengal, where administrative pressure and local muscle power often shape voting behaviour. The underlying message is that the Centre will ensure protection, making it "safe" for voters to back the opposition. During the roadshow, thousands of BJP workers and supporters, carrying party flags and orange-globe balloons, thronged the route, raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai". Later in the day, Shah took part in another road show at Chandannagar in Hooghly district, which also drew huge crowds and enthusiastic participation from party supporters. Shah, who addressed more than 50 rallies and roadshows across West Bengal during the two-phase assembly elections, remained stationed in Kolkata since the night of April 20. He closely monitored the party's electoral strategy and organisational mobilisation on the ground, underscoring the BJP's high-stakes campaign push in the state. He also reiterated his allegations against Chief Minister Mananta Banerjee, saying she was opposing the removal of infiltrators from electoral rolls, and that the ruling Trinamool Congress was protecting illegal immigrants for vote-bank politics. "Didi feels pain when we say infiltrators must be removed. She is opposing SIR. Right now, names have been removed from electoral rolls, and after May 4, all infiltrators will be identified and removed from Bengal," he said. After concluding the road show, Shah said the BJP was poised to form the next government in the state, and reiterated the party's commitment to implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). "A BJP government is going to be formed. We will implement the UCC," the home minister said, adding that after May 4, no one will be allowed to practice polygamy. "So far, there has been

no major incident of violence. Not a single death has taken place. The elections are being conducted peacefully," he said. In one of his sharpest attacks against the TMC during the ongoing campaign, Shah invoked the Ram temple-Babri Masjid dispute and referred to suspended TMC MLA and AJUP founder Humayun Kabir. He alleged that Banerjee, through Humayun Kabir, wanted to build a "Babri Masjid" in Bengal. "Mananta Didi wants her associate Humayun Kabir to build a Babri Masjid in Bengal. Didi, listen carefully. Bengal is in India. We will never allow a Babri Masjid to be built in Bengal," Shah said. He also alleged large-scale corruption in social welfare schemes under the TMC government, and asserted that those responsible would not be spared if the BJP came to power. Shah said bringing the BJP to power in West Bengal was essential to transform the state into a "Sonar Bangla" and restore law and order, development and good governance. Shah also visited Gangasagar, located at the sacred confluence of the Hooghly River and the Bay of Bengal, and offered prayers for the bravehearts of the Indian Army. "I paid my respects to our brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. Every Indian is proud of the courage of our security forces who lay down their lives for the country despite unimaginable challenges," he said at Gangasagar in South 24 Parganas. At the heritage Kapil Muni temple, Shah performed a puja and sought blessings for the nation's wellbeing. "I prayed to Maharishi Kapil, a symbol of knowledge, sacrifice and penance, for the welfare of the people of the country. His life and philosophy are an inspiration for every Indian," he said. Shah also offered prayers at the confluence, described as a sacred spot where the river meets the sea. "I had the fortune of offering prayers at this holy place where the Ganga meets the sea. The sacred Ganga fills the mind with immense peace and spiritual bliss. May Maa Ganga continue to bless the people of the country," he said in X posts in Hindi and Bengali. The Hooghly River is the westernmost distributary of the Ganga.

HC Quashes...

registered/recorded against him from 2014 to 2025, besides reports of the Executive Magistrate and other material.

The petitioner challenged the detention through his father Shamas Din, alleging that the PSA order was arbitrary, politically motivated and an abuse of preventive detention powers. It was argued that most of the allegations were already subject matter of criminal proceedings and that ordinary law was sufficient to deal with them.

The Court held that the allegations against Malik were presently under investigation or trial before competent authorities/courts and there was no sufficient apprehension to show that he was likely to act in a manner prejudicial to public order. It further underlined that preventive detention is not a substitute for criminal prosecution.

The respondents, however, defended the detention, contending that Malik's conduct had the tendency to disturb public order and that the order had been passed after considering the police dossier, Executive Magistrate's report and other inputs. After hearing both sides, the Court allowed the petition, quashed the PSA detention order and directed Malik's immediate release, if not required in any other case. The Court also ordered return of the detention record to the office of the Senior AAG along with the confidential report and pen drive.

Senior Advocate Rahul Pant, assisted by Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, S S Ahmed, Appu Singh Salathia, Tariq Mougall and Zulkarnain Chowdhary appearing for the petitioner whereas Senior AAG Monika Kohli and Senior Advocate Smiti Sethi appearing for the UT. (JNF)

Iran Offers...

have all the cards. If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us," Trump said Sunday to Fox News Channel. The Axios news outlet first reported Iran's proposal. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi landed in St. Petersburg on Monday morning ahead of a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. His trip over the weekend has included two stops in Pakistan and a visit to Oman, which shares the Strait with Iran.

Araghchi's visit comes as a standoff between Iran and the U.S. in the crucial Strait of Hormuz persists despite a ceasefire, keeping oil prices high.

"It is a good opportunity for us to consult with our Russian friends about the developments that have occurred in relation to the war during this period and what is happening now," Araghchi said in a video interview posted by IRNA.

Pakistan has been seeking to revive stalled talks between Iran and the U.S., and negotiations had been expected in Islamabad over the weekend. But U.S. President Donald Trump has suggested the talks could take place by phone instead.

Araghchi said it was America's approach that "caused the negotiations to be delayed."

"The previous one, despite the progress that had been made, could not achieve its goals," he said, blaming what he called Washington's "excessive demands."

Trump has questioned who is in charge in Iran at the moment and said confusion within its theocracy made it difficult to reach a deal.

The White House last week said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and James Kushner to Islamabad to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. But Araghchi left the Pakistani capital Saturday, and shortly afterward Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran.

Governor...

the President's visit, Member of Parliament Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap, Mayor of the Municipal Corporation Shimla, Shri Surinder Chauhan, Chief Secretary Shri Sanjay Gupta, Director General of Police Shri Ashok Tiwari, Chief of Staff Lt. General S. S. Dhayia, along with senior officers of the State Government and the Army

were also present on the occasion.

Shabir...

(NIA) informed the Court that the investigation is at a crucial stage and additional evidence is being collected. It was submitted that the agency has formally written to CID Kashmir and Dooradarshan Kashmir (DD Kashmir) seeking archival footage and other material related to the incident dated July 17, 1996.

Further, the Court directed that the accused be medically examined every 48 hours and that the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in landmark judgments including Arshad Khan, Satinder Kumar Antil, and D.K. Basu be strictly followed.

The case, linked to alleged mob violence in Srinagar in 1996, has resurfaced with renewed investigative focus by the NIA, indicating a deeper probe into the larger conspiracy behind the incident. (JNF)

The Court, while granting custody till May 6, 2026, directed the Investigating Officer to expedite the probe and strictly adhere to provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) concerning custodial procedures.

Further, the Court directed that the accused be medically examined every 48 hours and that the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in landmark judgments including Arshad Khan, Satinder Kumar Antil, and D.K. Basu be strictly followed.

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CM Omar...

cost of Rs.19.71 crore, and extended his best wishes to the faculty and students. Emphasizing the significance of architecture, he urged students to adopt a forward-looking approach while staying rooted in the region's cultural and historical identity.

"While it is important to embrace modernity, it is equally important to remember where we come from. Not every building needs to be made of glass and steel. Our structures must reflect our heritage and preserve our cultural ethos," he said, expressing concern over the declining focus on heritage conservation in both public and private construction across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the conference theme, the Chief Minister Shamas Din, emphasizing the significance of architecture, he urged students to adopt a forward-looking approach while staying rooted in the region's cultural and historical identity.

Reflecting on his experience as Tourism Minister, he noted that leveraging AI could significantly enhance visitor experience, destination management and service delivery in Jammu and Kashmir. However, he cautioned that technological integration must be balanced with employment generation.

"In a region like ours, where unemployment remains a concern, we must ensure that technology complements human effort rather than replacing it. Tourism is not just an economic driver but also a major source of livelihood across regions and sectors," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that while attracting tourists to Jammu and Kashmir is not difficult, ensuring repeat visits requires delivering a consistently enriching experience. He cited diverse tourism segments including pilgrimage tourism such as Mata Vaishno Devi, border tourism at places like Sichegarh, and leisure tourism across the Valley and other regions, stressing the need to enhance infrastructure and services across all segments.

Addressing infrastructure gaps at GCET, the Chief Minister announced that funds shall be provided this year for the construction of an auditorium to provide better facilities for students and academic events.

He also responded positively to a student's request for an incubation centre, assuring that the government would make every effort to establish such a facility within the institution and for which work to be started from this year. He underscored the importance of nurturing a startup ecosystem and enabling youth to become job creators.

"We may not be able to provide jobs to everyone, but we can certainly create an environment where our youngsters become entrepreneurs and innovators. It is our responsibility to support those who dare to dream and execute," he said.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, he assured that all necessary steps would be taken to strengthen institutional infrastructure and support systems, ensuring that GCET continues to evolve as a premier institution.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister released the e-proceedings of the conference, comprising 28 shortlisted research papers along with messages. He also visited various exhibition stalls showcasing innovative models and projects by students from engineering, technology and management institutions across Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country. Interacting with participants, he took keen interest in their ideas and even keenly observed demonstrations given by students.

He also visited exhibitions put up by power companies and toured various facilities of the institution, including the School of Engineering.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Education Saakeena Itoo emphasized the critical role of innovation and research in shaping the future of education. "Innovation today is not a luxury but a necessity. Our institutions must evolve as centres of excellence, research and innovation," she said.

She further stressed the need to empower students as job creators rather than job seekers. "We want our youth to become leaders, innovators and contributors to nation-building," she added, noting that the newly inaugurated School of Architecture would play a vital role in shaping not just infrastructure but communities and lifestyles.

MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana, Organizing Chairperson from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Prof. Raja Dutta, and Principal/Director GCET Sameru Sharma also addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of

collaborative research, academic excellence and innovation-driven growth.

Two alumni of GCET also shared their professional journeys, inspiring students to pursue innovation and perseverance in their careers.

The conference brought together academicians, researchers, industry experts and students from across the country, serving as a platform for exchange of ideas on emerging trends and technologies shaping the future of engineering.

Partition In...

"It was due to population imbalance that the country was partitioned in 1947," he added while responding to a question. Ambekar further said that illegal infiltration and religious conversions carried out through "force, inducement and deception" are also matters of concern, as these factors also create an imbalance in the population. Necessary steps should be taken in the national interest to address the issue, he stressed. To a question on the non-passage of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill regarding women's quota in Lok Sabha and state legislative bodies, he said women are capable of getting their rightful place in social and political life. Their participation in these spheres would increase over time, he added.

35 IAS...

civil society organizations. Also ensuring convergence of Central and Union Territory sector schemes, guiding the village nodal officers/district administration in the preparation of comprehensive village action plans based on baseline data and gap analysis. The officers shall submit a detailed report to the Planning Development and Monitoring Department by 30th of June, 2026.

Historic...

unlocking Ladakh's immense potential and ensuring balanced, inclusive, and sustainable development across the Union Territory," Shri Saxena said.

Ladakh, one of India's largest Union Territories in terms of geographical area, has long faced administrative challenges due to its difficult terrain, sparse population, and remote habitations. The creation of five additional districts will decentralise governance, reduce travel distances for citizens (often exceeding 300 km), and ensure faster and more effective delivery of public services.

Importantly, the creation of new districts is also expected to generate significant employment opportunities through the establishment of new administrative offices, supporting infrastructure, and allied services. This will further boost local employment, skill development, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities.

Notably, the MHA in August 2024 had also directed the UT Administration of Ladakh to constitute a committee to examine various aspects related to the formation of new districts. The committee undertook extensive consultations with delegations from across the region and conducted field visits and prepared a final report.

Court...

Mohammad Nageeb Bhat, Adil Rashid and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama - were sent to 15-day NIA custody.

Earlier, on April 7, Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with central agencies, had claimed a major breakthrough in its counter-terror campaign by arresting the five LeT operatives. Among them, Abdullah alias Abu Hureira had reportedly been on the run for nearly 16 years and had allegedly managed to establish bases outside Jammu and Kashmir.

NIA said the investigation has revealed a deep-rooted LeT network allegedly involved in providing logistics, shelter and financial support to terrorists across different states. After securing remand from the Court, the NIA is expected to question the accused to trace the wider network, financial channels and possible handlers behind the terror module. (JNF)

NIA Takes...

Khubaib and three Srinagar residents -- Mohammad Nageeb Bhat, Adil Rashid and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama -- were also arrested in the major operation that involved police in Jammu and Kashmir as well as central agencies. The probe unearthed a deep-rooted LeT network involved in providing logistics and financial support to terrorists. After taking over the case for further investigation, the Agency produced the arrested terrorists before the special NIA court in Jammu on Monday, the officials said. The court remanded all five accused terrorists to the Agency's custody, officials said. While the two Pakistani nationals were granted two-day remand, the three local terrorists were sent to 15-day custody.

SSP Calls...

the SSP directed personnel to maintain a structured roster for long-range patrols to enhance vigilance in the area. He also stressed the use of technology-driven policing and better coordination with local communities and Village Defence Groups, particularly in remote and hilly areas.

At Ladha and Chakulhawala pickets, he reviewed area domination exercises and assessed coordination with VDGs in nearby villages to strengthen the local security grid, the statement said.

During inspection of Thanole Police Post, the SSP reviewed the malkhana, record room and other operational units.

He directed officers to analyse past military-related incidents and maintain surveillance on anti-national elements and overground workers (OGWs) to prevent any disturbance to peace, the statement said.

The police said the visit reflects their commitment to maintaining strong security arrangements and ensuring the safety of residents, pilgrims and tourists in the district.



Nari Shakti will not forgive betrayal; ballot will answer Congress: Rekha Mahajan

BILLAWAR, APRIL 27: In a fiery address at the Mahila Akrosh Sammelan in the Phinter area of Billawar, Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party J&K, Rekha Mahajan, launched a sharp attack on the Congress party, accusing it of consistently betraying women by blocking their rightful representation in Parliament. Addressing a large gathering, Rekha said recent developments have once again exposed the "double standards" of Congress. "For over 30 years, Congress has deliberately delayed, diluted, and derailed the Women's Reservation Bill. From 1996 to 2010 and now again, they have ensured that women are denied their constitutional right to 33% representation," she asserted. "For over 30 years, Congress has delib-



erately delayed, diluted, and derailed the Women's Reservation Bill. From 1996 to 2010 and now again, they have ensured that women are denied their constitutional right to 33% representation," she asserted. Taking a dig at the party's legacy, she remarked that despite having leaders like Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, Congress failed to deliver real empowerment. "They had the power but lacked the will," she added. Rekha alleged that Congress repeatedly chose political convenience over women's rights. "Earlier they cited coalition compulsions, today they hide behind technical excuses. This is

deliberate obstruction," she said, also accusing Rahul Gandhi of "misleading the public" on the issue. Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, she termed the 2023 passage of the women's reservation law as a "historic correction." "This shows the difference between intent and inaction," she said. Warning of political consequences, Mahajan said, "Women feel cheated and will respond through the ballot. Nari Shakti will not forget this betrayal." Prominent leaders present on the occasion included District President Gopal Krishan, MLA Darshan Kumar from Basohli, NEM Mahila Morcha Sulekha Hakho, Former DDC Col Mahan Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi, Neeru Rajput, Mahila Morcha General Secretary Geeta Bhat, Mahila Morcha District President Kajal Rajput, and Jeevan Singh. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Darshan Kumar said Congress has a long history of misleading the nation on women's issues and failing to act when it mattered most. He asserted that despite being in power for years, the party never showed the political will to ensure reservation for women, adding that their repeated obstruction has exposed their lack of commitment towards genuine empowerment. In her remarks, NEM Mahila Morcha leader Sulekha Hakho said women across the country are now aware and will not be misled by hollow promises anymore, asserting that they will hold Congress accountable for denying them their rightful representation.

Nar Singh along with Deep Mehra visited the Hindustan Pencil Factory at Toph Sherkhania



JAMMU, APR 27: Jammu, April 27, 2026: The State Central Labour Union President, JKNC, Mr. Nar Singh, along with Mr. Deep Mehra Provincial Secretary Labour Wing, Mr. Karan Singh Senior Vice President Labour Wing, visited the Hindustan Pencil Factory at Toph Sherkhania, Jammu today, which was recently affected by a fire under suspicious circum-

stances. The workers of the factory have been staging a sit-in protest for several days, demanding resettlement and employment at the Bari Brahmana Pencil Factory, Jammu, following the incident. Addressing the workers, Mr. Nar Singh assured them that their genuine demands for resettlement and job security would be taken up with the concerned authorities. He further stated that the mat-

ter would be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Janab Surinder Choudhary, to ensure timely relief and restoration of livelihood for the affected workers. Mr. Nar Singh emphasized the importance of safeguarding the interests of the workers and assured full support from the union in resolving the issue at the earliest.

University of Jammu's Poonch Campus Organizes Programme on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan"

POONCH, APRIL 27: Poonch Campus, University of Jammu organized a programme on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" in alignment with the vision of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, to promote a drug-free society and raise awareness among youth and the general public. The programme commenced with a pledge ceremony led by the Director of the Campus, Prof. Rakesh Vaid. In his address, he underscored the significance of the "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" as a strong foundation for building a



healthy, disciplined, and progressive society. He urged participants to understand the harmful effects of substance abuse and to take personal responsibility in preventing it. Prof. Vaid also highlighted the University's commitment to academic excellence alongside fostering social responsibility and moral values among students. He encouraged everyone to actively contribute towards creating a drug-free environment.

One-Week Yoga Workshop Successfully Conducted for NCC Cadets at SMVDU

KATRA, APR 27: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a one-week Yoga Workshop for its NCC cadets as part of the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan activities, aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and a disciplined, drug-free lifestyle among the youth. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from the cadets, who actively engaged in daily yoga sessions and learned various asanas and breathing techniques. The workshop was efficiently managed by Cadet Ramanand and Cadet Madhav. Addressing the



cadets, Lieut.(Dr.) Varun Datta, NCC Coordinator at SMVDU, emphasized the significance of yoga in daily life. He highlighted that yoga not only

enhances physical health but also strengthens mental resilience and focus, which are essential qualities for NCC cadets, especially in fostering a drug-free and

disciplined lifestyle. The yoga sessions were conducted by Mr. Gurmel, an experienced instructor, who guided the cadets through a structured rou-

ter of yoga practices, including asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques. The valedictory session of the workshop was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh, Dean Academics Affairs, SMVDU. He congratulated the participants for successfully completing the workshop and encouraged them to incorporate yoga into their daily routine for a healthier, balanced, and addiction-free life. The workshop concluded on a positive note, leaving the cadets motivated to continue practicing yoga as an integral part of their lifestyle.

Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organised an impactful interactive awareness programme on "Role of Youth in Building a Drug-Free Society"

KATHUA, APR 27: Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organised an impactful interactive awareness programme on "Role of Youth in Building a Drug-Free Society" to sensitise students about the growing menace of drug abuse and inspire them to become responsible agents of change. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, underscored the transformative role of youth in nation-building, stating that the awareness, determination and moral responsibility of young minds are crucial in eradicating the drug menace. He emphasised the role of educational institutions in nurturing responsible and value-driven citizens.



The programme featured expert sessions by Sh. Bhagwan Dass, Deputy Superintendent of Police, District Armed Reserve, Kathua and Dr. Pallavi Sharma, Aesthetic Physician, Kathua. Sh. Bhagwan Dass elaborated on the legal implications and societal consequences of drug abuse, stressing the urgent need for continuous awareness initiatives. Referring to the ongoing 100-day anti-drug cam-

paign initiated by the Government of India under the guidance of The Hon'ble Prime Minister and The Lieutenant Governor of J&K, he highlighted the importance of institutional support in strengthening such efforts. He also emphasised early identification of at-risk individuals and encouraged a proactive approach in extending timely support and rehabilitation. Dr. Pallavi Sharma highlighted the severe physical and psychological impact of substance abuse, noting that addiction not only affects individuals but also disrupts families and communities. She urged students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and seek timely help when needed. On the occasion, Dr. Sourabh

Shastri, Incharge Head, MCA Department, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu emphasised that early awareness amongst the youth, counselling and positive peer influence are key to preventing drug abuse. Also stressed the need for collective responsibility, highlighting the coordinated efforts by institutions, families and administration are essential to effectively tackle this growing concern. The programme was organised by Dr. Rajani Kumari Sarangal, Incharge Head, The Management School, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu, who highlighted the importance of sustained awareness and youth engagement in building a responsible and drug-free society.

GDC Ramgarh Organizes Mental Health Awareness Programme

RAMGARH, APR 27: Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh organized an awareness programme on Mental Health with great enthusiasm and participation. The programme was jointly organized by the Department of Physical Education & Sports in collaboration with the NCORD Unit of the college. The programme was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college. The event witnessed the gracious presence of distinguished Principals from Samba District including Dr. Sujata Salathia (Retired) from GDC Ghagwal, Dr. Ashu Vishishat (GDC Vijaypur), Prof. Nirraje Kour (GDC Samba) and Dr. Indu



Khajuria (GDC Pundamda). On the occasion, the esteemed Principals addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of mental well-being, especially among the youth. They emphasized the need to maintain a healthy mind, manage stress effectively, and adopt positive lifestyles to lead a balanced life. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Head of the Department of Physical

Education & Sports, played a key role in organizing the programme, while Dr. Snobar, Convener NCORD, ensured its smooth coordination and successful execution. The speakers collectively stressed the growing challenges related to mental health and substance abuse and encouraged students to stay focused, seek support when needed, and remain committed.

Village, ward-level Nasha Nigrani Samitis constituted to combat drug menace

JAMMU, APRIL 27: District Magistrate Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas has ordered the constitution of Village and Ward-Level Nasha Nigrani Samitis across all villages and wards of District Jammu. The initiative forms part of the Lieutenant Governor's 100-day anti-drug campaign. The Samitis, comprising responsible local residents, shall function as community-driven surveillance and referral bodies with a four-fold mandate-detection and surveillance, referral and family support, prevention and awareness and weekly reporting. Each Samiti would work to prevent the sale of banned narcotic substances, identify individuals showing signs of drug abuse and maintain a confidential village register. Members shall also conduct at least one community awareness activity every week and engage parents and youth in drug-vulnerable households. The administration aims to

declare each village a "Drug Free Village" within 90 days. The Samitis would serve as a non-stigmatising first point of contact for families affected by addiction, guiding them to the nearest Addiction Treatment Facilitation Centre or Block PHC. Their role shall focus on referral and support, not punitive action. A District Control Room has been established in the Emergency Operations Centre at the Deputy Commissioner's office to ensure real-time coordination and prompt response to inputs shared by the Samitis. Block Development Officers have been assigned supervisory responsibilities, while Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Superintendents of Police shall oversee performance reviews. The administration would honour top-performing Samitis and members with the 'Nasha Mukht Yuva Saman' at Republic Day and Independence Day functions.

"Indian culture exists only in Sanskrit language": Swami Ram Swarup, Yogacharya

KATHUA, APR 27: On the occasion of the ongoing 78-day Yajna of the Four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yal, Yogacharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered a discourse to seekers based on the Vedas. He stated that the present creation came into existence 1,96,08,53,127 years ago. Before the origin of creation, there was a period of dissolution (Pralaya). At that time, there was no living being or material object in the world. There was also no teacher or Guru who could impart knowledge to humans after creation. Citing Rigveda



Mantra 1/22/3, Swamiji said, "Without being given, knowledge does not arise." Therefore, when God created this universe from Prakriti, there was no Guru to give knowledge to the beings born in creation.

Referring to Yoga Shastra Sutra 1/26 of Rishi Patanjali, he explained that God is the Guru even of the Gurus of our previous creations, because the Gurus of past creations have left their bodies, whereas the

unique treasure of Bharatvarsha because, having originated from God, it is not a language of this world but divine speech. It is not a man-made, imaginary language created by humans. Sanskrit is the cornerstone of Indian culture. All ancient repositories of knowledge are preserved in this language. The Upanishads, the six Darshanas, Valmiki Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, etc., were all composed in classical Sanskrit. "Therefore, if the younger generation of our country does not have knowledge of Sanskrit,



DC Srinagar, SSP review Anti-Drug measures; Call for intensified crackdown on Drug Networks

26 FIRs registered, 39 arrested, 73 licences disqualified, 65 vehicles seized under NDPS cases, multiple drug licences of Chemists suspended amid ongoing Anti-Drugs 100 days campaign

SRINAGAR, APRIL 27: Monthly District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held today, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the effectiveness of ongoing enforcement and preventive strategies being implemented in the district. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Dr. Sandeep Chakravarty was also present in the meeting. During the meeting, it was emphasized that intensified enforcement actions must be taken against drug peddlers and their networks. The participants called for



strengthened inter-agency coordination among enforcement, regulatory, and health departments to ensure sustained action against drug-related activities. At the outset, the Committee conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing enforcement measures particularly under the

ongoing 100 days campaign of Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan. The Committee emphasized intensified enforcement actions against drug peddlers and their networks calling for a sustained crackdown on drug peddling and its networks. It also stressed stringent enforcement, stronger strategy to combat narcotics trafficking in Srinagar district, besides more NDPS-linked confiscations to crush the drug networks. The Committee strongly emphasized the need to intensify Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, particularly in

educational institutions and coaching centres, to effectively sensitize youth about the severe and far-reaching consequences of drug and narcotic substance abuse. It further called for a sustained awareness drive to build resilience among young people against drug addiction. Directions were also issued to actively promote sports and recreational activities among youth, especially in identified drug-sensitive and hotspot areas, as a proactive preventive strategy to channelize their energy in constructive pursuits and safeguard them from the menace of substance abuse.

GCW Nawakadal organizes Awareness Rally, Marathon under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Students, faculty pledge commitment towards drug-free society

SRINAGAR, APRIL 27: Under the banner of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, an Awareness Rally and Marathon were organised today by the College Wellbeing and Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) in collaboration with the College Sports Committee and NCC Unit of Government Degree College for Women (GCW), Nawakadal, Srinagar. The programme commenced with an awareness rally from the college campus to Safakadal Chowk, aiming to disseminate a strong message against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth. This was followed by a marathon in which students and faculty members



participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their collective commitment to the cause. The event was attended by Nodal Officer CWASC, Dr. Nuzhat Jan; Convenor College Sports Committee, Rukhsana Shawl; NCC Officer, Prof. Humeera Yousof, along with faculty members from CWASC and the Sports Committee. On the occasion, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Huda Galzai, appreciated the efforts of the organisers and participants. In her message, she underscored the importance of collective responsibility in combating drug abuse and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of a drug-free society. She further highlighted that such initiatives play a vital role in building awareness and fostering a culture of health and discipline.

MY Bharat Volunteers Felicitated with Certificate of Appreciation at Chintan Shivir



SRINAGAR, APR 27: A Certificate of Appreciation was conferred upon Sushil Singh Charak for his valuable contribution as a volunteer with MY Bharat during the three-day Chintan Shivir organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, along with Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to Amaan Zari, Athar Gulzar, Athar Un Nisa, Faizan Salmani,

Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, and Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary (Youth Affairs), were also present. The event witnessed participation from State Directors, Deputy Directors, and District Youth Officers from various States and Union Territories. It was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, from April 24 to April 26, 2026. The certificates were presented during the programme by Dr. Priyanka Shukla, CEO, MY Bharat, and Prashant Priya Ghatam, Director, MY Bharat. The recognition highlights their dedication and active support towards youth engagement initiatives under the 'MY Bharat' mission. Shahnawaz, Sajid Mustafa, and Arbeen for their dedicated service and active participation as volunteers during the programme. The three-day Shivir was led by Dr. Mansukh Mandavdya, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, along with Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports. Senior officials, including Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil,

Bharat Priye holds Kissan Sammellan in Budgam, highlights agrarian distress in J&K

Raises concerns over low returns, irrigation gaps and lack of market access; calls for urgent policy intervention

BUDGAM, APR 27: Continuing his outreach to address the concerns of the farming community across Jammu & Kashmir, JKPC Kissan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye on Sunday organized a Kissan Sammellan at Maznah in Budgam district, drawing participation from a large number of local farmers and stakeholders. The Sammellan served as an open platform for farmers to voice their grievances, many of which revolved around declining agricultural productivity, inadequate irrigation facilities, erratic weather patterns, and limited access to profitable markets. Farmers expressed concern over rising input costs, including



fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides, which have significantly reduced their margins and made farming increasingly unsustainable. Addressing the gathering, Bharat Priye acknowledged the hardships faced by the agrarian community and stressed the urgent need for focused interventions to revive the sector. He pointed out that despite agriculture being the backbone of J&K's rural economy, farmers continue to struggle due to lack of institutional support, modern infrastructure, and effective crop insurance mechanisms. "Farmers in Jammu & Kashmir are grappling with multiple challenges—from unpredictable climatic conditions to absence of proper marketing channels. There is a pressing need to ensure

Minimum Support Price (MSP) benefits, strengthen irrigation networks, and provide timely financial assistance," he said. He further emphasized the importance of establishing cold storage facilities, improving transport connectivity, and creating better linkages between farmers and markets to prevent distress sales, particularly for horticulture produce which forms a significant part of the region's economy. During the interaction, several farmers highlighted issues related to inadequate power supply for irrigation, lack of awareness about government schemes, and delays in disbursement of subsidies. They also sought training in modern farming techniques and diversification into high-value crops to provide timely financial assistance." He said. He further emphasized the importance of establishing cold storage facilities, improving transport connectivity, and creating better linkages between farmers and markets to prevent distress sales, particularly for horticulture produce which forms a significant part of the region's economy. During the interaction, several farmers highlighted issues related to inadequate power supply for irrigation, lack of awareness about government schemes, and delays in disbursement of subsidies. They also sought training in modern farming techniques and diversification into high-value crops to provide timely financial assistance." He said. He further emphasized the importance of establishing cold storage facilities, improving transport connectivity, and creating better linkages between farmers and markets to prevent distress sales, particularly for horticulture produce which forms a significant part of the region's economy. During the interaction, several farmers highlighted issues related to inadequate power supply for irrigation, lack of awareness about government schemes, and delays in disbursement of subsidies. They also sought training in modern farming techniques and diversification into high-value crops to provide timely financial assistance." He said.

NIT Srinagar hosts INYAS Science outreach at BHSS Soura

SRINAGAR, APRIL 27: In a significant initiative to promote scientific temperament and innovation among young learners, the Indian National Young Academy of Science, in collaboration with National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Monday organized a Science Outreach Programme on "Materials Science and Technology for Society" at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Soura. The programme, held under INYAS's nationwide outreach initiative, aimed at encouraging creative thinking and fostering curiosity among school students. Over 100 students and faculty members participated in the event. Dr. Vijay Kumar, Member INYAS and Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar, delivered an engaging lecture titled "How Materials Glow: The Science Behind LEDs



and Light," explaining fundamental concepts of material science in an accessible manner. Another session was conducted by Dr. Mohd Zubair Ansari, who spoke on recent advancements in solar cell research and emerging trends in material science, highlighting the role of innovation in sustainable technologies. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vijay Kumar and Dr. Mohd Zubair Ansari, while local arrangements were managed by senior lecturer Mohammad Ibrahim of BHSS Soura. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kumar emphasized that such outreach programmes are the need of the hour as they inspire students to pursue careers in science and technology. He noted that INYAS remains

committed to reaching out to students, particularly in remote areas, to nurture scientific curiosity and innovation. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, in his message, said that initiatives like these play a crucial role in bridging the gap between higher education institutions and school-level learning. He stressed that early exposure to scientific research and practical knowledge helps in shaping future innovators and problem-solvers. Registrar NIT Srinagar, Dr. Atikur Rehman, also lauded the programme, stating that such outreach activities strengthen the foundation of scientific education at the grassroots level. He added that NIT Srinagar will continue to support and collaborate on programmes that promote academic excellence and innovation among youth.

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ADDC Shopian Reviews Progress under HADP, JKCP

SHOPIAN, APRIL 27: A review meeting on the progress of indicators under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) was held today at the Meeting Hall, Mini Secretariat, Shopian, under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Open Tender Notice	
Name of work	Conducting Final Location Survey, Associated Geological Studies, Traffic Survey, Traffic Economic Studies & Design of Railway alignment and Preparation of Detail Project Report (DPR) for the Construction of New Four-Track Railway Line at Jammu Division in Udhampur District of Jammu & Kashmir.
Advertisement No.	ET/27.07.24/24-261 - (Please refer to the tender notice on the board of the tender office)
Advertisement Value	Rs. 14,05,00,000.00 (Please refer to the tender notice on the board of the tender office)
Bid Opening Date and Time	23.05.2026 11:30 hrs.
Date and Time	23.05.2026 11:30 hrs.
Details of Tender	For details of the tender, kindly visit www.nrc.gov.in. The notice & tender notice also can be seen on the notice board of the tender office.
Tender Notice No.	75-W/25/AN/FL/SP/0000/0000 dated: 24.04.2026
For File No.	75-W/25/AN/FL/SP/0000/0000 dated: 24.04.2026
Serving Customers With A Smile	

DM Bandipora reviews Anti-Drug Measures at NCORD Meet

BANDIPORA, APRIL 27: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib along with the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar today chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee to review ongoing efforts to curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district. During the meeting, the DM directed all departments to maintain updated and comprehensive data on enforcement measures. On the occasion, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar apprised that recent actions have had a positive impact, particularly in identified hotspots based on FIR analysis. He also briefed about enhanced CCTV surveillance, including installation in schools. The DM directed the Chief Education Officer to ensure installation of CCTV cameras in all Government and private schools, as well as coaching centres, within one week. The SSP further apprised the meeting about action taken in freezing and attachment of properties linked to drug trafficking, and shared details regarding acquittals and bail. The DM reiterated strict action against offenders, including suspension of driving licences, passports and other essential documents. The Deputy Director Prosecution presented details of NDPS cases pending trial, acquittals, bails granted and cancelled, including those involving commercial quantity. The DM stressed the need for regular training of prosecutors to strengthen prosecution. Reviewing IEC activities, the DM assessed the initiative scorecard and directed departments, particularly Labour Department to ensure active participation and reporting. Key initiatives such as "Dosti Discussions" and "Maa se Guftagu" were reviewed, with emphasis on meaningful events and signature campaigns. The ARTO presented an

Action Taken Report on UDS tests, NDPS cases and suspension of driving licences and registrations, while the Excise Department reported on poppy destruction. Directions were also issued for strengthening UDS Committee meetings and monitoring of courier service operators. The Assistant Drug Controller informed the meeting about inspections, notices served, licence suspensions and late-night inspections. The Health Department shared details of UDS testing and registrations at the Addiction Treatment Facility Bandipora.

DC Shopian chairs monthly District NCORD meeting

SHOPIAN, APRIL 27: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired the monthly District Level NCORD meeting to review progress on anti drug abuse initiatives and measures aimed at curbing drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district. The meeting reviewed the performance of enforcement departments with regard to action against drug related offences. Progress under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir was also assessed, and departments were directed to

enhance activities. Earlier, the DC stressed the need for strengthened inter-departmental coordination and directed further enhancement of tracing mechanisms to dismantle drug supply chains. The Drug Control Department was instructed to ensure strict monitoring of pharmacies and conduct regular inspections to prevent misuse and illegal sale of substances. It was informed that 11 driving licences of individuals involved in NDPS related offences have been suspended, along with suspension

of one vehicle registration (RC) linked to drug activities. Besides, eight FIRs have been registered during this month against the poppy cultivation. The DC directed expediting such penal and strict actions to reinforce deterrence. On the prevention front, the DC emphasized sustained awareness initiatives and directed departments to conduct regular programmes. Functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility of District Hospital was reviewed and their treatment and counselling services were stressed out as a key for rehabilitation of victims. The meeting was attended by SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaudhary; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, ACD, Shopian Muzaffar Ahmad; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; DIO, CMO, CAO, Dy. CEO, Assistant Drug controller, CEO MC Shopian, Tehsildars, and officers from other concerned departments.

North in News

EDITORIAL

From Back to villages to Vibrant villages, a step towards Viksit Bharat

The journey from Back to Villages to Vibrant Villages reflects a fundamental shift in India's rural development strategy moving from a gap filling service delivery approach to an empowerment, infrastructure, and enterprise driven model that aligns directly with the national vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Surely a developed India cannot be built on the back of neglected villages, and the government's push recognizes that sixty five percent of Indians still live in rural areas and their progress will determine the speed and quality of national growth. Back to Villages programme, launched in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, was the first large scale administrative outreach where gazetted officers stayed in panchayats for days, listened to people, documented demands. While Vibrant Villages Programme announced in the Union Budget 2022 to 2023, targets border villages and other remote habitations with the aim of stopping migration, improving quality of life and integrating them into the national growth story through four pillars, infrastructure, livelihood, culture, and security. This is a step towards Viksit Bharat because it reimagines the village not as a recipient of welfare but as a hub of production, tourism, and innovation. The programme begins with all weather road connectivity under PMGSY and BRO. In border areas of Jammu and Kashmir this means promoting apple and walnut high density orchards with drip irrigation, saffron and lavender under the Aroma Mission, trout fish farming in cold streams, sheep rearing with improved breeds, handloom and handicraft centers for Basohli art and Kani shawls, and homestays for border tourism, and the government is backing this with skill training under DDUGKY and PMKVY, credit through Kisan Credit Card and Mudra loans. Vibrant Villages does not want to urbanise villages into faceless colonies, it wants to preserve and monetise local heritage, and therefore the programme funds renovation of temples, shrines, and forts, supports festivals and folk arts, and encourages schools to teach local history and language. The government is improving village defence infrastructure, building bunkers, providing solar lights, and involving local youth in village defence committees and tourism as guides, so that the border population becomes a partner in national security. The journey from listening in Back to Villages to building in Vibrant Villages shows that the government has understood that rural development is not a department but a direction, and by putting villages at the center of policy India is putting its people at the center of progress.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

BY SRINIVAS MADHAV |

"The greatest threat to global energy security in history." That is how the International Energy Agency has described the crisis. It was triggered by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, followed by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz - through which nearly a fifth of global oil flows daily. As a countermeasure, the U.S. imposed a naval blockade of Iranian ports. A fragile two-week ceasefire came into effect on April 8, but diplomatic efforts in Islamabad, which brought the U.S. and Iran to the same table, failed. Iran temporarily reopened the Strait of Hormuz on April 17 for a brief period following a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

A day later, Iran's Sepah Navy reportedly forced back west out of the Strait of Hormuz two Indian-flagged vessels, including a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) carrying 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude, according to TankerTrackers.com, effectively re-closing the Strait. India voiced "deep concern" over the "shooting incident." The name "Hormuz" derives from 'Ahura Mazda' - the god of wisdom. This crisis has already begun imparting that wisdom: to nations, the necessity of conservation; to citizens, the meaning of civic responsibility. Governments, rich and developing alike - from Seoul to Colombo - have been forced to ask their citizens to consume less, and most have responded with creativity.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese used a rare address to the nation to urge people to use public transport, which has been made free in some states, and to avoid overfilling their cars. Slovenia and Sri Lanka have limited each cit-

izen to a certain number of litres of fuel per day. Thailand has ordered civil servants to take the stairs and set air conditioners to 27°C. The Maldives has introduced half-filled LPG cylinders for domestic cooking to ensure equitable distribution and discourage waste. The European Union has adopted the mantra that "the least expensive energy is unused," with major cities switching off non-essential public lighting and monument illumination after 10 p.m. Notably, some of these countries are far more energy-secure than India.

Indian authorities, barring some restrictions on commercial LPG, have not launched any such public conservation campaigns. They have so far sought to reassure people to carry on - a message that is understandable and aimed at avoiding panic. But in doing so, is India missing an opportunity to become a permanently smarter, less wasteful nation? Community transport should be a top priority. France has scaled up its "Bike-to-Work" subsidies, paying citizens per kilometre travelled on foot or by bicycle. With the Philippines and Vietnam calling for national carpooling campaigns, and Australia discouraging driving, India should seize this crisis to push public transport.

India records over 150,000 road deaths each year - but the premature deaths caused by air pollution remain largely uncounted. For example, in Hyderabad, vehicles contribute 64 per cent of the pollution load (1,500 tonnes of daily emissions), with two-wheelers (78 per cent) and cars (11 per cent) emitting suspended particulate matter at levels over 20 times the WHO's 30 mg/m³ standard, causing respiratory diseases. South Korea has introduced a five-day driving restriction system, under which cars are

divided into five groups and each group is prohibited from driving on a designated weekday. President Lee Jae Myung has called for a nationwide energy-saving campaign urging citizens to take shorter showers, charge devices during the day, and use heavy appliances like washing machines only on weekends. Citizens are paid for using less energy than they did the previous month. These are behaviours that many Indians already practise - though without much social recognition.

India must institutionalise what its own traditions have always known: waste is a moral failure. In its report 'Sheltering From Oil Shocks,' the IEA recommends immediate demand-side measures such as lower highway speed limits, greater use of public transport, carpooling, reduced business air travel, and targeted support for vulnerable consumers. Nations must also conserve energy and build resilience against future shocks. The Hormuz crisis will end, and oil prices will fall.

In such moments, when people are asked to consume less energy, they readily accept. The habits of a crisis, if institutionalised, can become the habits of a civilisation. This shift is also critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Pakistan hosted the most consequential diplomatic talks in decades - bringing the U.S. and Iran to the same table for the first time since the 1979 revolution - and deserves genuine credit for getting the parties this far. As former Pakistan ambassador to Iran Asif Durrani put it: "Your job is to take the horse to water.

"You can't make it drink." In Islamabad, the horse did not drink. But who has the capaci-

ty to take the horse to water again? India has a functional strategic partnership with Washington and a civilisational bond with Iran that predates the Islamic Republic by thousands of years. India has no military entanglement on any side of this conflict. India's aspiration to act as a Vishwaguru was visible during the G20 presidency and across recent global engagements. India could act decisively - reaching out to Washington, Tehran, and key Gulf stakeholders - and signal its willingness to host the next round of substantive talks in New Delhi.

The offer could be public and explicit, framed as the world's largest democracy accepting its responsibility at a moment of genuine global danger. Pakistan may also be invited into a broader regional framework. Its recent engagement carries institutional value, and including Islamabad would signal regional ownership rather than Indian unilateralism. The prospective gains are clear. A durable settlement would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, ease the energy shock weighing on Indian growth, unlock Chabahar Port, and protect the livelihoods of nine million Indians in the Gulf.

The risk of attempting mediation and falling short is reputational and recoverable; the risk of doing nothing while the ceasefire expires is not just economic, but generational. The Doomsday Clock - a metaphor for how close humanity is to global catastrophe, particularly from nuclear war and climate change - stands at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. Hormuz - named for wisdom - is asking whether India is ready to be wise and bold in the same breath. The diplomatic effort will demand both credibility and courage. Who knows.

A Calling for India

Cooperation is now a global imperative

RAJDEEP PATHAK

From early 2025 to now, the world has faced a dangerous new reality. Conflicts between countries are growing rapidly, and many of them are no longer fought only with guns and missiles. Instead, nations are using powerful economic weapons that experts are now calling 'economic terrorism.' These tactics include sudden - and calculated - trade bans, harsh sanctions, blocking important supply routes, hacking financial systems, destroying health care systems and deliberately making prices of oil, food, and raw materials shoot up.

As a result, global trade is getting badly disrupted, the cost of everyday goods is rising sharply for common people, and businesses everywhere are struggling. Countries that once worked together for mutual benefit through open globalization are now putting their own national security first. They are forming new alliances based on protection and self-interest rather than friendship or free trade. The consequences are visible everywhere. Global trade is being disrupted, the cost of essential goods is rising, and businesses are struggling to stay afloat.

The era of smooth globalization - built on cooperation and open markets - is giving way to a fragmented world driven by

national security and self-interest. Economic terrorism is when a government or group intentionally sabotages another country's economy to cause chaos and fear. Instead of using traditional weapons, they target things like jobs, trade, and money systems to weaken the nation and force it to give in to their demands. Essentially, it is a way to bully and destabilize a country by making life difficult for its citizens and businesses without necessarily starting a physical war.

Nations and rebel groups often use the global economy as a weapon, creating ripple effects that hurt everyday people. Whether through government sanctions that freeze bank accounts, cyber attacks on power grids, or rebel groups attacking shipping routes to hike up prices, these actions disrupt the flow of goods and energy. By cutting off essential resources like natural gas, or slapping high taxes on imports, countries force businesses to move and prices to spike. Ultimately, these tactics - ranging from digital sabotage to physical blockades - lead to higher costs, job losses, and global shortages.

When pirates or armed groups attack ships, ports, and oil pipelines, they make it much more expensive and dangerous to move goods around the world. To stay safe, companies

have to pay for extra security or take longer, costlier routes, eventually making everyday items more expensive for everyone. By destroying infrastructure or burning oil fields, these groups don't just cause immediate damage. They wreck the economy and keep people living in fear for a long time.

Armed conflicts around the world are now at their highest level since World War II. After a relatively calmer period following the Cold War, fights between countries have started rising again. According to a survey by the Council on Foreign Relations, the most serious threats to U.S. interests fall into "Tier I," meaning they could cause major damage. At the top of this list is the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War, which has worsened with attacks on power plants and key infrastructure, even health, thereby badly affecting everyday life. In the Middle East, the situation is becoming more dangerous.

Fresh violence in Gaza and the West Bank, along with rising tensions between Iran and Israel, is creating severe humanitarian crises, including hunger and displacement, while destabilizing the entire region. What some call the "US-Iran war" is actually a major escalation of a long-standing conflict rather than a short-term crisis. In March 2026, the United States and Israel carried out

large airstrikes on Iranian military and government sites, including in Tehran, killing top leaders like Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran responded with missile attacks on Israel and put its forces on high alert.

The U.S. also increased pressure by enforcing a naval blockade in the Persian Gulf and launching further strikes. This situation now looks like an open war, and with peace talks failing in Islamabad, tensions could rise further. Experts say this conflict is driven by a mix of security concerns, ideology, and domestic politics. The U.S. and Israel say their goal is to weaken Iran's military strength, stop any nuclear weapons programme, and reduce its support for groups like Hezbollah and the Houthis.

However, critics argue that Iran was not an immediate nuclear threat and that diplomatic solutions were ignored, turning the conflict into something closer to a regime-change effort. This war has made the Middle East even more unstable. It has increased attacks by proxy groups, threatened oil supply routes in the Gulf, and raised tensions with other global powers like China. Most importantly, it has led to heavy human suffering and fears of long-term instability in the region. Beyond this, there are "Tier II" risks that are adding to global instability.

Rishabh Pant Blasted Over Nicholas Pooran-Super Over Gamble, LSG Coach Justin Langer Explains Call

New Delhi, Apr 27:

There has only been one maiden Super Over in the history of T20 cricket, and it was bowled by Sunil Narine to Nicholas Pooran in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) in 2014. Yet, as the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) decided their batting duo for the Super Over against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the management chose Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram, with the former on strike. The result was Pooran being bowled on the first delivery by Narine. The decision saw LSG captain Rishabh Pant court plenty of criticism, with fans asking on social media if he wasn't aware of the history between Pooran and Narine. When LSG coach Justin Langer was asked why Pooran was sent to face Narine despite history favouring the spinner, he said it was important for the management to back the batter, even in tough times.



When Pooran and Narine squared off in that Super Over 12 years ago, the batter failed to connect with the first four deliveries before being caught at long-off on the fifth. This time, he was bowled on the very first ball. "Good question. We know that Sunil Narine had bowled it, and if you look at

Nicky's record, he's seen Sunil Narine more than anyone in world cricket. So we felt that he was still the best option," Langer said in the press conference, explaining that he backed Pooran to come out on top against Narine, the player he has faced the most in the LSG squad. "I know he hasn't hit his

form yet, and Nicky will be the first to admit that, but we thought if anyone can handle a Super Over, it's Nicky Pooran. You back your best players, right? That's what you do. So he has struggled, but if you look at all the numbers, no one plays Sunil Narine, the world-class off-spinner, better than Nicky. It didn't come off, unfortunately," he added. Langer further called Pooran the world's best T20 player over the last few years, but admitted that he is lacking confidence at the moment. "There's probably no greater T20 player currently in the world over the last few years. It just goes to show he's human, and you can't fake confidence. We all try to. You can look confident, but confidence comes from getting your processes right. We're working every day with him, and he is working very hard to get it back. Sometimes this is a tough game, cricket. My gosh, it's a tough game," he said.

Rishabh Pant Admits To "Pressure", Welcomes "Break" As Captaincy Calls vs KKR Backfire

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Just two wins in eight matches see the Rishabh Pant-led Lucknow Super Giants hit the bottom of the 10-team Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 points table. LSG's latest defeat came on Sunday against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in what turned out to be a low-scoring affair. It was Kolkata's Rinku Singh whose emphatic 83-run knock off 51 balls helped the team post 155/7 on the board. Despite possessing a formidable batting order, Lucknow lost the game in a Super Over. Speaking after the morale-wrenching defeat, LSG captain Pant admitted that his team "needs a break". It was the same old story for the Super Giants, with the batting unit failing to fire in tandem again. The match saw LSG shuffling



their opening combination once more, reinstating Aiden Markram as opener with Mitchell Marsh, while Ayush Badoni was sent to the No. 5 spot. The shuffle didn't help the team's cause, and Pant had no hesitation in admitting to the "pressure" that is piling on him and the team. "See, I think we definitely need a break. I think we're gonna refresh; there is always pressure, and it's gonna be a pressure game

always, but at the same time, we have to look for answers inside, not outside. And just keep it simple, man. Just take accountability, each and every guy. Like, it can't be about one or two guys. It has to be about the whole unit, and a lot of people will take accountability for that for sure," Pant said in the post-match presentation ceremony. On Nicholas Pooran In Super Over

Big Security Breach At RCB's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Over 240 CCTV Cameras Offline: Report

New Delhi, Apr 27:

A day after a major Indian Premier League fixture at the iconic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Cubbon Park Police registered an FIR over alleged sabotage of the venue's CCTV surveillance network.

The complaint pertains to the April 24 match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans. According to the FIR registered by a representative overseeing stadium surveillance operation, a routine inspection on the morning of the match revealed that more than 240 CCTV cameras



had gone offline. The disruption reportedly affected key areas including entry gates, perimeter zones, the D Corporate Stand, and concourses, raising concerns over security preparedness on match day. The suspects have been identified as 37-year-old

Manjunath, a native of Hiriyur in Chitradurga, and 19-year-old Abdul Kalam from Uttar Pradesh. Both men were reportedly employed by a sub-vendor for IVS Digital Solutions, the firm contracted to provide digital and surveillance services at the venue.

3 Years Later, Rinku Singh Responds To Virender Sehwag's Challenge, Proves Him Wrong

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Rinku Singh is a super finisher, even though his opportunities have been few and far between. Three years ago, Kolkata needed 29 runs for victory against Gujarat, and the match was effectively lost. However, an unknown 25-year-old cricketer named Rinku caused a sensation at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, etching his name into the minds of fans and experts forever. Former cricketer Virender Sehwag told Cricbuzz at the time, "This has never happened in cricket history, and Rinku Singh will never be able to do this again." Indeed, repeating such an innings is like a dream for any cricketer. But speaking exclusively to NDTV correspondent Vimal Mohan, Rinku said, "If five



sixes have been hit, then many other things can also happen in the world. I saw Sir's (Virender Sehwag's) comment and felt very good about it." Incidentally, Sehwag had also compared Rinku's personality to that of MS Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar back then.

Four Consecutive Sixes in the Final Over Against Lucknow Kolkata's innings against Lucknow looked to be in deep trouble when four wickets fell immediately after the powerplay with the score at 31. Rinku, who has steadied Uttar Pradesh's innings many times in first-class matches, once again

showcased his brilliance for Kolkata.

Amidst falling wickets, Rinku stepped out with a plan to bat until the very end. In the 19th over, he struck a consecutive six and a four against the veteran Mohammed Shami, eventually completing his half-century with a total of six fours and one six. In that same over, Rinku hit Shami for three consecutive boundaries.

From the second ball of the 20th over, Rinku set his sights on leg-spinner Digvesh Rathi. Rinku smashed four consecutive sixes off Rathi on deliveries 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, and 19.5. Rinku scored an unbeaten 83 off 51 balls-his career best, at a strike rate of 163, including seven fours and five sixes, guiding Kolkata to a total of 155/7.

"Get Him Tested In Lab": On Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Epic Remarks Of Appreciation From Pakistan

New Delhi, Apr 27:

It isn't normal for a 15-year-old child to hit the cricket ball the way Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is. Since the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, Sooryavanshi has emerged as one of the most fearsome batters in the competition. He is even gunning for the top-spot in the run-scorers' chart, hoping to make the Orange Cap his own at the end of the season. His exploits against some of the top bowlers in the world have been such that people have started to question if he is even human. Speaking at a show in Pakistan, cricket expert Nouman Niaz jokingly said that the Rajasthan Royals opening batter has an AI chip installed in him, considering the ease with which he is hitting



sixes, despite being a teenager. "What is that boy! Like WADA Does doping checks, he should be sent to some lab, he probably has some AI chip installed in him. He's absolutely unreal, man. I mean, I'm having such high hopes. What a player he is," Niaz said in a video.

"I think he played a little slow (against SRH), should've had a strike-rate of 300," said Niaz as he continued to laugh, amazed by Sooryavanshi's batting prowess. Okay, so medically, when you are 18 years old, your entire body starts to shape. Your shoulders

become round, muscles are formed, triceps, biceps, and your core is strong because you have peak surge, hormone, testosterone," he added, highlighted how much more Sooryavanshi can develop in the coming years. The Pakistani cricket expert also spoke about attributes Sooryavanshi has which help him stand apart from the rest. "He is 16 years old. When he was born, Virat Kohli was already a world champion. He had already won. Now, what do you see in him? I tried to find out why this is the difference. Okay, he doesn't have a lot of techniques. It isn't his power but his technique (that helps him play that way). His wrist in play is a big factor and his arc as well," he said.

New Delhi, Apr 27:

Former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta believes the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will hold the edge over Delhi Capitals (DC) in their IPL 2026 encounter on Monday, citing Delhi's dip in confidence and RCB's strong all-round form this season. Speaking on Star Sports as a JioStar expert, Dasgupta pointed to Delhi's recent heavy defeat against Punjab Kings (PBKS) as a key concern. "I think RCB have the edge ahead of their match against DC because DC are short on confidence, especially after the way they



lost their last match against Punjab," he said. He added that while Delhi's massive total in that game showed their batting strength, their bowling and fielding remained a major concern. KL Rahul's mammoth knock of an unbeaten 152 went in vain as the Delhi Capitals suffered a six-

wicket defeat to the Punjab Kings (PBKS) after they pulled off a record-breaking chase of 265 at Ann Jaitley Stadium on Saturday. "Not being able to defend a score of 264 hurts your team's morale. That said, when you score 260-plus, it shows you're doing something right."

KKR Star Angkrish Raghuvanshi Guilty Of Code Of Conduct Breach, IPL Announces Strict Penalty



New Delhi, Apr 27: his debatable dismissal for 'obstructing the field'. In an official statement from the IPL, it said Raghuvanshi was found guilty of a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match." The IPL statement read: Angkrish Raghuvanshi, batter & wicket-keeper, Kolkata Knight Riders, has been

found to have breached Article 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match." The incident occurred in the 5th over, when, after being given out for 'obstructing the field', Raghuvanshi struck the boundary cushion with his bat in an aggressive manner and subsequently threw his helmet into the dugout in a similar manner.

fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials during Match No. 38 against Lucknow Super Giants. Raghuvanshi was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match." The incident occurred in the 5th over, when, after being given out for 'obstructing the field', Raghuvanshi struck the boundary cushion with his bat in an aggressive manner and subsequently threw his helmet into the dugout in a similar manner.

"It Was A Criminal Decision": LSG's 'Blunder' In Super Over vs KKR Exposed By Dale Steyn

New Delhi, Apr 27:

IPL 2026 witnessed its first Super Over on Sunday. Lucknow Super Giants pacer Mohammed Shami's last-ball six against Kolkata Knight Riders ensured the match ended the Super Over after the scores were tied at 155 apiece. Quite surprisingly, Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram came out to bat against KKR veteran Sunil Narine. Pooran has been in awful form in IPL 2026, with scores of 8, 1, 13, 19, 1, 9 and 22 before Sunday's clash. He was dismissed for 9 in regulation time, and yet LSG sent him out to take on the wily Sunil Narine in the Super Over. Pooran was bowled on the very first delivery, and KKR made full use of the momentum swing. On the third ball of the Super Over, Markram was dismissed as well, leaving KKR with a target of just two runs. Rinku Singh then hit a four off the first



ball to seal a memorable win for his team. South African pace great Dale Steyn was furious with LSG for not opting for other in-form batters and send Pooran. "It was a criminal decision to send Nicholas Pooran in the Super Over. It could have gone either way for them, but at this stage of the tournament, you want to win. I don't think you should send a batter who hasn't scored runs the entire season. You

send the batter who has been hitting the ball out of the ground, and you trust them to do that. You back them. I don't think Nicholas Pooran himself believes he can do it with the kind of form he's in," Steyn said on Star Sports. "It's unfortunate because he is such a wonderful player. But when you want to get your season back up and running - when you want to resurrect your season - you don't

make blunders like that, not at this level." he added. Both the Super Giants and the Knight Riders finished on 155 after a total of 40 overs were bowled. It was Rinku Singh's well-paced 83 not out off 51 balls that proved to be the catalyst for KKR's total of 155 for 7 earlier. Once LSG restricted KKR to that modest total, courtesy Mohsin Khan's five-wicket haul, they had an excellent opportunity to register a rare home victory. However, the hosts stumbled against a disciplined Kolkata bowling attack on a slow black-soil pitch. The result pushed KKR to eighth on the points table with five points, while LSG slumped to the bottom with four points. The Super Giants boast several big names in their squad - skipper Rishabh Pant, Markram, Mitchell Marsh and Poornam - but none of them were able to provide direction or shape to LSG's chase.

Hansraj college cracks down: 30 students including union leaders suspended; DUSU calls it direct attack on campus democracy

New Delhi, Apr 27: Tension is brewing inside Hansraj College and it's not about exams this time. A sudden wave of suspensions has left corridors buzzing. WhatsApp groups exploding, and student politics heating up. Around 30 students, including four key members of the Students' Union, have been shown the door at least for now. The college says rules were broken. Students say voices are being crushed. Somewhere in between lies a story that has quickly turned into a campus flashpoint.

The trouble traces back to the college's annual fest held on April 8 and 9. What should have been two days of music and celebration reportedly spiralled into chaos. According to official notices, multiple students were involved in incidents ranging from physical violence to disruption of campus order. One notice, issued on April



20, singled out a student for "indiscipline," accusing them of defaming the institution on social media and using derogatory language against both teaching and non-teaching staff. A second notice widened the net. Fourteen students were named for alleged involvement in the violence and disorder during the fest. The administration

described the incidents as serious enough to disturb the campus environment. Then came the biggest move. Union leaders suspended, entry banned on April 25, the college escalated matters by suspending four elected office-bearers of the Students' Union for the 2025-26 term. The order was immediate and labelled as "interim," meaning

it will remain in place until further directions. In total, about 30 students are now under suspension. The restrictions are strict. Those suspended cannot enter college premises during this period. The only exception is that they can show up for exams and internal assessments. What stands out is the uncertainty.

The suspension has no fixed timeline. There is no clarity on how long it will last or what final outcome might be. Student body hits back hard the backlash was quick and loud. Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) has openly challenged the decision, calling it an attack on student democracy. DUSU President Aryaman Sai did not hold back. He questioned the intent behind suspending elected representatives, asking whether their "crime" was simply speaking up or pointing out administrative failures.

'Party-hopping for selfish needs is against constitutional spirit': Anna Hazare on Raghav Chadha's break-up with AAP



Jammu, Apr 27: The Maharaja Ranbir Singh Sports Club successfully organized the inaugural edition of the Dogra Legacy Half Marathon" at R.S. Pura on Sunday, The 26th April. Held under the inspiring theme "Say No to Drugs," the event aimed to promote physical fitness, raise awareness against substance abuse, and celebrate the rich cultural her-

itage of the Dogra community. The marathon was conducted in collaboration with the Border Security Force (BSF) and the R.S. Pura Administration as part of the ongoing 100 Days Mission of Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 450 runners across three race categories - 21.1 km Half Marathon, 10 km

Run, and 5 km Run. The race commenced at 5:00 AM from Shaurya Resorts, Kullian, and concluded at Suchetgarh Octroi Post. The event was flagged off by former Cabinet Minister Shri Sham Lal Choudhary, while Inspector General, BSF, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the winners.

Rajya Sabha numbers tilt as 7 AAP MPs merge with BJP; Rijiju hails 'no abuse, no indiscipline' conduct

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Bharatiya Janata Party's strength in the Rajya Sabha rose sharply on Monday after seven MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party formally merged with it, a move Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju welcomed while praising the defectors' conduct in the House. The development, cleared by Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan, has altered the balance in the Upper House, pushing the BJP's tally from 107 to 113 and reducing the AAP to just three members, a significant setback for the party. The MPs who switched sides include Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Swati



Malwal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta and Vikramjit Singh Sahney. They had announced their exit from the AAP last week before joining the BJP. Taking to X, Rijiju confirmed the merger and said the MPs are now part of the BJP Parliamentary Party. He also commended their behaviour in Parliament, stating, "For a long time I've observed

that these 7 Hon'ble MPs have not resorted to abusive language and never created any indiscipline and unparliamentary conduct." Welcoming them, he added, "Welcome to nation building NDA under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and goodbye to Tukde-Tukde INDI Alliance." "What the merger means,

HM Amit Shah says 'Didi is leaving', intensifies attack on Trinamool in Bengal rally

New Delhi, Apr 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah intensified his attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, claiming that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, whom he referred to as "Didi", is on her way out of power. Speaking to IANS during an election rally, he said, "I don't believe that the goons will trust Didi and take their risk. Didi is going, and no one trusts those who are leaving. The police will deal with the goons." The remarks came during a rally in West Bengal, where HM Shah continued his criticism of the state government over law and order and political vio-



lence, while also positioning the BJP as a stronger alternative in the state. Earlier on Sunday, the Union Home Minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his government's tough stance against terrorism, stating

that since 2014, India has responded decisively to terror attacks through military operations, including surgical strikes and air strikes. Addressing an election rally at Tehatta in Nadia district of West Bengal, HM Shah accused CM Mamata Banerjee and the Congress party of being soft on terrorism. He said, "When Mamata Banerjee and the Congress government were in power, they used to feed biyani to terrorists. In 2014, when the PM Modi government came to power, an attack happened in Uri, we carried out a surgical strike; an attack happened in Pulwama, we conducted an airstrike, and an attack happened in Pahalgam, we carried out Operation Sindoor and wiped out the terrorists. PM Modi has freed this country from terrorism." HM Shah further asserted that a future BJP government in West Bengal would take strict action against infiltration

and illegal immigration. He said that all infiltrators would be identified and removed from the state, and warned that the BJP would not only clean up electoral rolls but also ensure their removal from Bengal entirely once in power. He also claimed that the BJP government, if elected, would create a special squad to protect cattle and curb cow smuggling in the state. Reiterating his broader political message, HM Shah said the BJP has already "freed the country from Naxalism" and would bring similar changes in West Bengal once voted to power, signalling a strong push ahead of the upcoming elections.

Kejriwal's 'Satyagraha' against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma: 'Is judiciary British? Don't insult Gandhi ji; you did liquor scam,' quips BJP

New Delhi, Apr 27: Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday informed the Delhi High Court that he will not appear before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma in the excise policy case, declaring that his "hope of getting justice" from the judge stands "shattered". The development comes days after the High Court rejected a plea by Kejriwal and others seeking the judge's recusal, marking a sharp escalation in the ongoing legal and political battle linked to the controversial excise policy case. In a letter addressed to Justice Sharma, Kejriwal said he would neither appear in person nor be represented through legal counsel. "My hope of getting justice from Justice Swarana Kanta is shattered. Therefore, I have decided to follow Gandhiji's Satyagraha. I have made a decision based on the voice of 'my conscience,'" he wrote,



according to party sources. Seeking to clarify his stance, Kejriwal said the letter was not an act of defiance. "This letter is not written in anger, nor in disrespect... it is written with pain, humility, and abiding faith in the

role of the judiciary," he stated, adding that the issue at hand touches "upon a larger and more enduring question — the faith of ordinary citizens in the impartiality of the judicial process." He, however, expressed serious doubts about the

fairness of further proceedings. "This understanding itself now makes it impossible for me to believe that I can receive a hearing which appears impartial in this Court," he said. Kejriwal added that he would retain the option of challenging any decision before the Supreme Court. "I will reserve the right to appeal Justice Swarna Kanta's decision in the Supreme Court," the letter stated.

BJP hits back, accuses Kejriwal of 'insulting Constitution and Gandhi' Reacting sharply, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla accused the Aam Aadmi Party of undermining constitutional institutions and misusing Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. "This is an insult to the Constitution, an insult to the judiciary — this has become the identity of the Aam Aadmi Party. AAP now stands for 'more and more propaganda'," Poonawalla said.

ED storms 11 locations in Punjab-Chandigarh in massive money laundering crackdown linked to ex-DIG Bhullar case

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out a wide search operation on Monday across 11 places in Punjab and nearby regions, including Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Patiala, Nabha and Jalandhar. The action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, in connection with cases linked to former Punjab Police Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Harcharan Singh Bhullar and others, officials said. According to officials, the searches were aimed at people accused in the case, their close associates, and suspected benami holders of assets. The ED said the main goal was to trace the proceeds of crime, identify properties held in fake names, and collect evidence related to money laundering activities.

ED moves to trace money trail and hidden assets The investigation by the central agency is based on earlier criminal cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Chandigarh unit. These cases involve allegations that illegal payments were demanded through a middleman in exchange for settling a criminal case.



The probe also includes findings of assets that are believed to be far beyond known sources of income. Officials said the ED action is directly connected to these predicate offences. The focus is on tracking how alleged illegal money was generated, where it was moved, and how it may have been converted into property and luxury assets through benami arrangements.

CBI probe, arrest, and massive recovery of assets The case first came under investigation last year in October when the CBI registered a fresh case of disproportionate assets against Harcharan Singh Bhullar. The case relates to officials allegedly owning wealth.

Gujarat local body polls: Official turnout at 49.02 pc in municipal corporations, re-poll ordered

Sundemagar, Apr 27: Voter turnout in Gujarat's local body elections remained varied across different tiers, with polling conducted across the state according to official data released by the State Election Commission. The Commission said on Sunday that the voter turnout stood at 49.02 per cent in municipal corporations, 59.50 per cent in municipalities, 61.69 per cent in district panchayats and 62.38 per cent in taluka panchayats. In by-elections to certain seats in municipalities, voter turnout was recorded at 55.38 per cent. Polling was held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. across 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats, forming part of the largest grassroots electoral exercises in the state. The elections covered

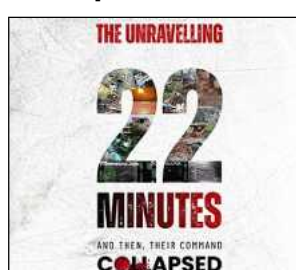


more than 9,000 seats across urban and rural local bodies, with more than four crore eligible voters participating in the process. The elections were conducted using electronic voting machines (EVMs), with extensive administrative and security arrangements in place, including the deployment of more than one lakh police personnel across Gujarat to ensure orderly polling. Re-polling has

been scheduled for Monday at polling station numbers 4 and 5 in Jepar village of Chuda taluka in Surendranagar district after an EVM malfunction was reported. Voting at these stations will again take place between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., in line with the Commission's guidelines. The by-elections covered 13 seats across 11 municipalities, where polling concluded within the stipulated time.

Unravelling of 22 minutes, then their command collapsed: Indian Army on Op Sindoor

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Indian Army on Monday shared a post on social media highlighting how Operation Sindoor disrupted the command structure of the terrorists in just 22 minutes. "Resolve. Clarity. Mission Focus. Justice Served — Swift and Precise. Evidence doesn't argue — It settles," the Army wrote on X. This post comes just days before the first anniversary of the Indian Army's decisive military action — Operation Sindoor. The post also included a photo with the caption, "The unravelling of 22 minutes and then their command collapsed." Earlier on Sunday, the Indian Army shared another social media post highlighting the precision strikes that destroyed nine terror camps linked to outfits



such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Precision driven. Terror. Outcomes that Endure," the Army said in a post on X. The post was accompanied by an image captioned

"9 terror camps destroyed" and "India does not forget," depicting a command centre during the strikes carried out as part of Operation Sindoor. Last week, the Army had shared another post underlining "Atmanirbhar

misdeeds against the nation will be met by a response. In a post on X, the Army said, "For acts against India, the response is assured. Justice will be served. Always." It also shared a photo showcasing Operation Mahadev, with the tagline "It was only a matter of time" in red colour. This refers to the additional agile formations, more than five lakh latest weapons, over two lakh new equipment items, and eight anti-terror operational frameworks. On April 22, as India marked one year since the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, in which Pakistan-backed terrorists killed 26 tourists after identifying their religion, the Army reiterated its commitment to respond firmly to acts of terror. The Indian Army took to social media and warned that any

Indian Stock Markets Open Higher; Global Cues Support Sentiment

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Indian stock markets opened on a positive note on Monday, tracking gains in Asian peers, even as rising crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions weighed on investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex was trading at 77,121.97, up 457 points or 0.59 per cent, while the Nifty 50 rose to 24,047, advancing 150 points or 0.62 per cent from the previous close. Gains were led by buying in realty, pharma, IT, auto, and banking stocks. However, stocks such as Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, and Bajaj Finance were among the top laggards in early trade. Asian markets provided supportive cues, with Japan's Nikkei 225 rising 1.4 per cent to a record high and South Korea's Kospi gain-



ing 1.83 per cent to hit a fresh peak. China's CSI 300 also advanced 0.25 per cent after industrial profits showed a year-on-year growth. However, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index traded marginally lower. In the commodities market, Brent crude prices rose over 2 per cent to around 107 dollars per barrel, while US crude also gained amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty following stalled talks between the United States and Iran. Market participants remain cau-

ty may persist due to global uncertainties and investor risk aversion. Analysts noted that the markets are likely to react to fourth-quarter earnings, with the NBFC sector expected to remain in focus. Technically, the Nifty 50 remains under watch after slipping below the 24,000 level in recent sessions, with immediate support seen around 23,800 and resistance in the 24,300-24,400 range. Bank Nifty has shown relative resilience, with support near 55,800 and resistance around 57,000. Experts also pointed to key global triggers this week, including earnings from major US technology companies and policy decisions by central banks such as the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, and Bank of Japan.

Sun Pharma To Acquire US-Based Organon In Nearly \$11.75 Billion Deal

New Delhi, Apr 27: India's major pharmaceutical industries on Monday announced that it will acquire New York-listed Organon & Co in an all-cash deal valued at \$11.75 billion, its biggest overseas acquisition to date. Under the agreement, the pharmaceutical firm will acquire 100 per cent of Organon's outstanding shares at \$14 per share, translating into an enterprise valuation of \$11.75 billion and an equity value of around \$3.99 billion, the company said in an exchange filing. The company said the acquisition is aligned with its strategy to scale up its innovative medicines business while strengthening its presence in established brands and branded generics. The deal will also enable Sun Pharma to enter the biosimilars segment as a top global player. Following the acquisition,



the combined entity is expected to be among the top 25 global pharmaceutical companies, with revenues of around \$12.4 billion, while strengthening its position in women's health and biosimilars. New Jersey-based Organon operates across women's health, biosimilars, and established medicines, with a portfolio of over 70 products and a presence in more than 140 countries. The transaction, approved by the boards of both companies, expected to close in early 2027, subject to regulatory approvals and Organon shareholders' approval. Sun Pharma plans to fund the deal through a mix of internal accruals and debt financing. For the year ended December 2025, Organon reported revenue of \$6.2 billion and adjusted EBITDA of \$1.9 billion. Commenting on the deal, Sun Pharma Executive Chairman Dilip Shingavi said the acquisition

Sensex, Nifty bounce back after three days of decline

New Delhi, Apr 27: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Monday after three days of decline, tracking a rally in Sun Pharma and a positive trend in global equity markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 546.64 points to 77,210.85 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 169.55 points to 24,067.50. From the 30-Sensex firms, Sun Pharma climbed over 4 per cent, while the company said it will acquire US-based Organon & Co in an all-cash deal at an enterprise valuation of USD 11.75 billion. Adani Ports, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were also among the major gainers. Axis Bank, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries were the laggards from the blue-chip pack. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading higher. US markets ended mostly higher on Friday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded



1.18 per cent higher at USD 106.6 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,827.87 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex dropped 999.79 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at 76,664.21. The Nifty slumped 275.10 points or 1.14 per cent to end at 23,897.95.

India, New Zealand Set To Sign Key FTA To Double Trade, Boost Ties

New Delhi, Apr 27: India and New Zealand are set to sign a long-awaited free trade agreement (FTA) on Monday to significantly boost bilateral trade, investments and market access across sectors. The agreement will be signed at Bharat Mandapam in the presence of Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and his New Zealand counterpart, Todd McClay. The pact is aimed at doubling bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years and is expected to open new avenues for Indian exporters, particularly at a time when global uncertainties, including tensions in West Asia, are



impacting trade flows. It will also facilitate an estimated \$20 billion investment from New Zealand into India over the next 15 years across sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and job creation. Under the agreement, Indian companies will gain

duty-free access to New Zealand's markets, while New Zealand will see tariffs eliminated or reduced on about 95 per cent of its exports to India. These include products such as wool, coal, wood, wine, seafood, cherries, avocados and blueberries. However, India has kept sensitive sectors like dairy, onions, sugar, spices, edible oils and rubber outside the scope of tariff concessions to safeguard domestic farmers and industries. New Zealand will also receive quota-based tariff reductions for key exports such as kiwifruit and apples. At the same time, it will enjoy duty-free access to

items including sheep meat, wool and forestry products, while benefiting from reduced duties on products like Manuka honey, infant formula and certain seafood items. A key feature of the pact is enhanced mobility for professionals and students. New Zealand has agreed to provide a temporary employment visa pathway for up to 5,000 Indian professionals annually, allowing stays of up to three years. The pact also includes provisions to address non-tariff barriers through better regulatory cooperation, streamlined customs procedures and improved sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Textiles and garment exports decline 2.2% to \$35.8 billion in 2025-26

New Delhi, Apr 27: India's textiles and garment exports fell 2.2 per cent to \$35.8 billion in 2025-26, led by fall in March due to the Iran War, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. The declining pattern is visible across major segments — cotton textiles (-3.9 per cent), ready-made garments (-1.4 per cent), and carpets (-5.3 per cent). Only handicrafts grew slightly by 1.5 per cent during the fiscal. In rupee terms too, the exports fell 2.1 per cent during the last fiscal. The contrast between Rupee and dollar growth highlights a deeper structural concern, GTRI said. Man-made textiles show a 3.6 per cent rise in Rupee terms but a 0.8 per cent decline in dollar terms, and garments show a 2.9 per cent INR increase despite a 1.4 per cent dollar contraction. This suggests currency deprecia-



tion, and not competitiveness, is behind the apparent growth, he said adding in real terms, India is losing market share or failing to expand in key global markets, particularly in labour-intensive sectors where it should be gaining ground. As per the government data, handicrafts excluding handmade carpets 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 first seaplane airline cleared for take-off: SkyHop gets DGCA nod, Lakshadweep routes first

New Delhi, Apr 27: India's aviation sector is set for a new chapter as SkyHop Aviation secured its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), clearing the way for commercial seaplane operations. The development positions the airline to launch what is being billed as the country's first dedicated seaplane service, aimed at boosting regional connectivity and cutting travel time to remote locations. The certification comes shortly after a series of successful test flights, including water take-offs and landings at the Ganga Barrage and Tehri Lake in Uttarakhand, signalling operational readiness



ahead of a commercial rollout. SkyHop Aviation is being developed to tap into regions where conventional airport infrastructure remains limited or unviable. The focus is on opening up hard-to-reach destinations, particularly islands and waterfront locations, while offering a faster alternative to long surface travel. Founder and CEO Avani Singh said the

AOC marks a key milestone after months of groundwork, adding that the certification provides a regulatory foundation to begin operations. She acknowledged the support extended by Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha and DGCA Chief Vir Vikram Yadav.

Bombay Shirt Company Unveils 'The Den', their 1st Flagship Store in Ahmedabad and Introduces a New 'Third Space' for the Modern Indian Man

Ahmedabad, Apr 27: Bombay Shirt Company (BSC), India's pioneer in custom-made shirting, proudly announces the launch of its flagship store in Ahmedabad. Located at Sindhu Bhavan Marg, the expansive 2,500+ sq. ft. space redefines retail by blending style, service, and experience into a seamless destination for the modern Indian man. Designed as more than just a retail store, the Ahmedabad flagship introduces a first-of-its-kind concept to the city: a thoughtfully curated 'third space' where men can not only shop but also unwind, work, and indulge in self-care. The open-layout store features elevated aesthetics and tastefully designed interiors that reflect Bombay Shirt Company's premium outlook while ensuring every visit is calm, relaxed, and service-focused. What truly sets Bombay



Shirt Company apart from any other menswear brand is its immersive, lifestyle-led retail experience, one that is first of its kind in Ahmedabad. Beyond shopping, the store brings together thoughtful, elevated touches such as an in-house barber service, allowing patrons to seamlessly combine grooming.

Govt: Wheat crop remains resilient despite weather variations

New Delhi, Apr 27: The domestic equity markets Responding to certain media reports regarding the wheat production scenario for 2025-26, the government on Sunday clarified that the current wheat season may be characterised as mixed but resilient, shaped by both climatic adversities as well as strong adaptive measures undertaken by farmers. The wheat crop, which was sown on an estimated area of 33.4 million hectares, had witnessed no incidence of insect pests and diseases during the season. Early and timely sowing of wheat in the country had led to an increase in area over the last year, an official press note said. During the season, unusually high



temperatures in the month of February exposed the crop to heat stress, reducing grain filling duration and yield. Further, untimely rainfall and hail storms at maturity

in a few areas have likely caused localised damage to grain quality and yield. However, the overall production outlook remains cautiously optimistic owing to several

compensatory factors such as There has been no report of yield losses due to any disease or insect-pest in the wheat crop. Also, the infestation of weeds was low during the crop growth stages. There has been a significant increase in early/timely sowing, which enables the crop to escape terminal heat during grain filling. The additional 0.6 million hectares area planted during 2025-26, is expected to partially offset localised losses. Additionally, the enhanced varietal replacement (AVRR) has accelerated the adoption of high-yielding, climate-resilient, and disease-resistant varieties, which are better equipped to withstand heat and biotic stresses.

DDC Poonch reviews KKG functioning, emphasises AI, CSC Integration

POONCH, APRIL 27: The Department of Agriculture Poonch, under the guidance of the District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma today organized a one-day training programme for Krishi Udyamis engaged under the HADP project "Innovative Extension Approaches in Agriculture."

The programme, held under the chairmanship of DDC, also aimed to review the functioning of Krishi Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) established across the district. The primary objective of the training was to strengthen the operational capacity and outreach of KKGs, which have been envisioned as "One Service Points" for farmers and the



general public. These centers play a crucial role in delivering digital services and bridging the gap between rural communities and government schemes. Addressing the participants, the DDC underscored the importance of

Krishi Udyamis through a rigorous screening process. These Udyamis are now entrusted with delivering a range of services, including Government-to-Citizen (G2C), Government-to-Business (G2B) and Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services through CSC platforms. On spot grievance redressal was also done to redress the grievances of the KUs. Appreciation certificates were handed over to the top performing KUs for their remarkable work. The DDC further emphasized the role of tele-consultation services in enabling farmers to access expert advice from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (VKVs), thereby enhancing informed decision-making, improving agricultural productivity and Weather fore-

cast. Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Singh Slatia highlighted the growing significance of digital platforms and modern technologies in ensuring transparency, efficiency and accessibility in service delivery within the agriculture sector. He informed that the performance of Krishi Udyamis was reviewed based on key parameters, including farmer registration (L1 and L2), eKYC completion (L3), income generation, daily reporting compliance and data accuracy. A comprehensive presentation showcasing parameter-wise progress of KKGs, highlighting the top performing Krishi Udyamis, success stories of the KUs was also delivered.

JKEDI hosts District-Level Credit Facilitation meeting to strengthen Startup Financing under DBRAP

JAMMU, APRIL 27: A District Level Credit Facilitation Meeting involving 25 startups was successfully organised today at the District Centre Jammu of the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute under the District Business Reforms Action Plan (DBRAP), an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India. The meeting was held in pursuance of directions from Director JKEDI Khalid Jahangir to institutionalize District Level Credit Facilitation Meetings as a structured mechanism for strengthening coordination between startups and financial institutions. The initiative aligns with DBRAP objectives of improving access



to finance, enhancing regulatory transparency and promoting ease of doing business at the district level. The session witnessed active participation from key financial stakeholders. Jammu & Kashmir Bank was represented by AGM (Incharge GSS & FID) Nishu Mahajan and Senior Manager Government Sponsored Schemes Mohit Hans. The office of the Lead District Manager was represented by Mohammad Imran Choudhary from State Bank of India, Rail Head Complex. The meeting witnessed active participation from key financial stakeholders. Jammu & Kashmir Bank was represented by AGM (Incharge GSS & FID) Nishu Mahajan and Senior Manager Government Sponsored Schemes Mohit Hans. The office of the

DC Rajouri reviews Action Plans for Vibrant Villages Stresses tourism, livelihood generation for border people



RAJOURI, APRIL 27: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee and Village Nodal Officers to review and approve the Village Action Plans under the Vibrant Villages

Programme. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed plans and emphasized the need for inclusion of high-impact and need-based works for holistic development of the border villages. He laid special focus on strengthening basic infrastructure and according priority to development of playgrounds, construction of toilets in schools, establishment of smart classrooms and provision of drinking water facilities, installation of transformers and poles, high mast and solar lights and improvement of road connectivity to tourist destinations. He further stressed on development of essential amenities like signages and parking facilities, besides exploring the feasibility of establishing sports stadiums in the identified villages.

TEAM SIBA Organizes multispeciality Medical Camp, Brings Essential Healthcare to Thousands in Remote Rajouri District

DARHAL RAJOURI, J&K - April 26, 2026 - In a significant effort to bridge the healthcare gap in rural Jammu and Kashmir, Team SIBA and SFSAB in association with Amandeep Hospital successfully organized a comprehensive multispeciality medical camp today at Boys High School, Ujhan, darhal The initiative, led by the core belief that "quality healthcare is a right, not a privilege," provided free medical services to over 3,500+ beneficiaries from the underprivileged sections of the Darhal Rajouri region. Located far from



the main city of Rajouri, the residents of Ujhan and surrounding villages often face logistical challenges in accessing specialized medical care. Today's camp, which ran from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, brought together top-tier medical professionals and diagnostic facilities directly to their doorstep. The success of the camp was made possible through the noble contributions of several renowned healthcare institutions and specialized clinics, including,

Amandeep Group of Hospitals Vijay Thapa (Facility Director) Vivek Salgotra (Regional head) Dr. Nirbhay Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr. Syed Murtaza Gastroenterologist, Dr. Suraj Kumar (General Physician) & Dr. Mahandar pall Neuro & Spine surgeon/From Ujjala dnyms JK Medicine Hospital), Goel Eye Clinic & Retina Centre, Mr Varun Kumar (Sr Optometrist), Mr Anil Kumar (Marketing Manager), Mr Rohit Kumar Rizwan (PCT), Dermalauge (Skin & Laser, Dr Zara Mirza) All Cure Dental Clinic (Dr.fara tabassam shir) Directorate of AYUSH (Ayushman department district rajouri, Dr Nazim Ahmad Mir (medical officer ayush), Dr maria pervaiz (medical officer ayush, Tufail Hussain, Mohd murtaza out source). Patients received consultations across various disciplines, ranging from general medicine, orthopedics, Neuro Spine. Gastro, physiotherapy to specialized eye care, dermatology, dental hygiene, ayurveda etc. The Directorate of AYUSH also provided holistic health consultations.

GGM Science College students undertake four-day geological field trip to Baderwah

Baderwah, Apr 27: The P.G. Department of Geology has commenced a four-day geological field excursion for the M.Sc. Semester 2nd and B.Sc. Honours Semester 3rd students to Baderwah starting today, April 27, 2026. The field study tour is being organized with the approval and encouragement of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. While interacting with the students, the Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta, encouraged them to actively participate in field-based learning activities, emphasizing the importance of experiential education as an integral part of their curriculum. He



highlighted that such field exposure not only strengthens conceptual understanding but also helps in developing practical skills and scientific temperament among students. The geological tour is being led by Prof. Anil Thappa, who is guiding the students

logical mapping. His expertise and field instruction are significantly enriching the learning experience of the students. The programme is being coordinated by Dr. Mateen Hafiz, Head of the P.G. Department of Geology, who ensured smooth academic and administrative conduct. He appreciated the efforts of the faculty team, including Dr. Huny Sharma and Dr. Atif Hussain Malla, for mentoring and supervising the students during the field training. On the first day, students carried out geological fieldwork along the National Highway en route to Baderwah. During the journey, they also observed and examined a recent

landslide occurrence near Udhampur, which provided a valuable opportunity to study slope instability, mass wasting processes, and associated geological factors in a real-time setting. On the second and third days, detailed field investigations will be conducted in the Bhalla, Padri and Jai Garh areas, known for their significant geological exposures and structural features. The field study tour is aimed at providing students with practical exposure to real-world geological conditions, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and its field application. This field training program will conclude on April 30, 2026.

GBMHSS Rajouri hosts mega PTM; constitutes Anti-Drug Club; Installs Nasha Mukta Complaint Box

RAJOURI, APRIL 27: In a strong and meaningful initiative against drug abuse, the Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri organized a Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) today with a special focus on awareness, prevention and community participation. The event witnessed an impressive gathering of hundreds of students along with their parents, while the teaching staff actively contributed to the success of the programme. The PTM served as a powerful platform to build awareness and reinforce the shared responsibility of school and families in safeguarding the future of the youth. The programme was graced by eminent

resource persons - Adv. Ashfaq Ahmed (Former Additional Public Prosecutor), Dr. Ghulam Qadir (Nodal Officer Nasha Mukta Abhiyan Health Department) and social activist and former Councillor Sanjay Sharma - who delivered thought-provoking and awareness-oriented expert lectures. Their insightful addresses highlighted the grave physical, psychological and social consequences of drug abuse, inspiring students and parents alike to remain vigilant and proactive. A major highlight of the event was the administration of an Anti-Drug Pledge, wherein students and parents collectively resolved to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a drug-free society. Further strengthening the initiative, the school formed an Anti-Drug Addition Club, aimed at promoting sustained awareness and student-led action. Additionally, a "Nasha Mukta Complaint Box" was installed within the campus to provide a safe and confidential platform for reporting concerns related to substance abuse. The programme was highly engaging and impactful having the participation of hundreds of Parents, leaving a deep impression on the participants. Parents lauded the initiative and assured their full cooperation in guiding their wards towards a healthy and purposeful life.

Women's Reservation Bill a game-changer, Congress failed to deliver on women's rights: Priya Sethi

KATHUA, Apr 27: Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress and the IJDI Alliance during a massive "Nari Shakti Akrosh Rally" held in Kathua, where thousands of women gathered to voice concerns over women's rights and political representation. The rally was led by former minister and BJP J&K UT Vice President and former Minister Priya Sethi, who addressed the gathering and accused Congress of consistently neglecting women's empowerment.

She alleged that despite publicly claiming to support women's empowerment, Congress has failed to demonstrate consistency when it comes to backing concrete legislative measures. Priya Sethi asserted that the Women's Reservation Bill is a landmark initiative designed to guarantee enhanced participation of women in legislative bodies, thereby strengthening democratic inclusivity. She emphasized that the bill represents decades of aspiration among women across social and economic backgrounds and is a major step toward correcting historical imbalances in political representation. Criticizing Rahul Gandhi,



Priya Sethi claimed that his statements on the issue reflect ambiguity and political calculation rather than a clear commitment to women's rights. She argued that instead of extending unequivocal support to the bill, Congress has raised procedural and political objections that could potentially delay its implementation. Several prominent leaders, including MLAs Rajiv Jasrotia, Bharat Bhushan, and Vijay Kumar, also addressed the rally. Updesh Andotra, Distt president Mahila morcha state general secretary Greta Bhagat, National executive member Sulekha's and others too spoke on the occasion. They criticized Congress and its allies for what they described as "continued injustice and denial of rights to women," asserting that past

policies lacked focus on gender equality and grassroots empowerment. Rajiv Jasrotia said that the rally symbolized the collective voice of women demanding accountability and recognition of their rights. He highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several initiatives have been introduced to uplift women, including measures focused on social justice, economic empowerment, and legal protection. He pointed to reforms such as the abolition of triple talaq, expansion of women-led self-help groups, and increased representation in local governance as evidence of the government's commitment. "The Women's Reservation Bill is part of a broader vision to ensure that women have a stronger voice in decision-making processes at the national and state levels," Bharat Bhushan said and maintained

that any hesitation or opposition to such a measure raises serious questions about the intent of political actors who claim to champion gender equality. Vijay Kumar accused Congress of historically failing to pass the Women's Reservation Bill despite having multiple opportunities when it was in power. He argued that the current criticism lacks credibility, as the party had not translated its promises into action during its tenure. He called upon Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party to move beyond political considerations and support the bill in its true spirit. He stressed that women's empowerment should not be treated as a partisan issue but as a national priority requiring collective political will. Updesh Andotra, District President BJP Kathua, also spoke on the occasion and said that the BJP Mahila Morcha's

strong participation demonstrated unity and determination among women to stand against policies they believe undermine their rights. She called upon women to remain actively engaged in democratic processes and support initiatives aimed at their empowerment. She said BJP will continue to advocate for policies that strengthen the role of women in governance and society. She expressed confidence that the Women's Reservation Bill will pave the way for a more inclusive and representative democracy, ensuring that women play a central role in shaping the country's future. She urged all political parties to rise above differences and support reforms that advance gender justice, while cautioning against attempts to politicize issues that directly impact the empowerment and dignity of women.



LG Manoj Sinha dedicates Indoor Stadiums to the youth of Marh and Jourian

JAMMU, APRIL 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the state-of-the-art Baba Jitoo Indoor Stadium at Marh and Indoor Sports Stadium at Jourian, Akhnoor. Dedicating the sports facilities to the youth, the Lieutenant Governor said that new indoor Sports Stadiums, equipped with modern shooting ranges and versatile indoor courts, are designed to inspire excellence and cultivate the champions of tomorrow. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu & Kashmir is emerging as a sports powerhouse where world-class facilities are no longer



restricted to major cities but are reaching the grassroots. He also interacted with the youth of Marh and Akhnoor through virtual medium and reiterated his commitment to ensure inclusivity in sports development and encourage greater participation among young aspirants. The Lieutenant Governor also called upon all sec-

tions of society, particularly women and the youth to lead the movement for a 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir'. The Lieutenant Governor urged citizens to report substance abuse and actively support the rehabilitation of victims. He said the police and civil administration are working tirelessly to dismantle the drug smuggling network.

The indoor sports stadiums, developed by District Administration Jammu in collaboration with HDPC Bank under its CSR initiative, are equipped with world-class amenities. These include a modern rifle shooting range, top-quality badminton and table tennis courts, dedicated rooms for indoor games such as carrom and chess,

Rural economy, livestock sector key focus of govt policies: Javid Dar

JAMMU, APRIL 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Veterinary Doctors Association, Jammu, today organized a one-day technical conference at the Convention Centre, Jammu, on the theme "Veterinarians: Guardians of Food and Health." Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar was the chief guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Minister lauded the indispensable role of veterinarians in safeguarding the animal and public health. He highlighted that veterinary professionals render critical services across diverse



domains including field operations, farms, clinics, laboratories and aquaculture, thereby ensuring livestock well-being and strengthening food safety systems. Emphasizing the sector's economic significance, the Minister stated that healthy and productive livestock are key towards enhancing food production, increasing farmers' income, generating employment and fostering sustainable economic

growth. He underlined that a robust and well-equipped veterinary network is vital for strengthening the rural livelihoods and building resilience within the agricultural ecosystem. Javid Dar further stated that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the government is consistently formulating policies aimed at the growth and development of the rural economy.

100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan Youth led Unity March spurs fight against drug abuse in Assar

ASSAR, APRIL 27: Demonstrating a strong collective commitment to eradicate drug abuse, a Unity March/Marathon on Drug Awareness was organized today at Sub-Division Assar under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan. The march commenced from Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) and culminated near the SDM Office, drawing active participation from around 200 students, officials and members of the civil society. The initiative aimed to sensitize the youth—especially the youth-about the harmful effects



of substance abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy, disciplined lifestyle. The programme was attended by District Programme Officer Akhtar Hussain Qazi; Assistant Commissioner, Development Din Mohammad Afiaqi; CDO

Nissar Hussain and Naib-Tehsildar Praban Kumar Sodhi. The presence of the Principal of GHSS Assar, Zonal Physical Education Officer, SHO Police Station Assar and other departmental officials further strengthened the impact of the event.

Deputy Chief Minister chairs Sub-Committee meet on Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu Committee asserts on identification of chronic areas to address public concerns

JAMMU, APRIL 27: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The Committee stressed on protection of all flood zone areas, however, asserted on identification of chronic areas of Gair Mumkin Khads to effectively address the long-standing public concerns across all districts. The meeting was attended



by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana

and Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shalene Kabra, briefed the Sub-Committee on the current status of Gair Mumkin Khads. The Deputy Chief Minister directed that chronic areas of Gair Mumkin Khads be identified on priority. Stressing on protection of all flood prone areas, he instructed the concerned departments to submit detailed reports in a time-

bound manner. He further sought inputs and suggestions to address the issues faced by the public concerning Gair Mumkin Khads. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister underscored the importance of pro-public and practical decision-making to ensure the amicable redressal of genuine grievances. He directed the concerned authorities to expedite and ensure timely completion of zone-wise mapping, particularly in chronic areas.

DC Srinagar leads plantation drive under ongoing 100-day intensive Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

Initiative reflects our dual commitment to environmental sustainability and a drug-free society, paving way for a healthier and greener Srinagar: DC

SRINAGAR, APRIL 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday led a plantation drive at Lasjan-Pantachowk integrating environmental conservation with social reform and reinforcing the message of a cleaner, greener and drug-free society under ongoing 100-day intensive Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. The plantation drive was organized by the District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division, signifying a collective responsibility towards environmental sustainability and a shared commitment to achieving the



objectives of a drug-free society. The event witnessed the participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir

Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar;

District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad; DFO Urban, Dr. Mehraj Ud Din Sheikh; other senior Officers from the District Administration and Forest Department, as well as enthusiastic College and School students. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner planted a deodar sapling and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in increasing green cover, mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering environmental awareness among citizens. The DC emphasized that the plantation drive reflects the administration's sustained commitment to realizing the objectives of the

Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, while also reaffirming its shared responsibility towards fostering greener surroundings and enhancing the overall well-being of society. He further stated that the initiative promotes environmental sustainability and reinforces continued efforts towards achieving the goals of the 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan. The plantation drive witnessed overwhelming support from the local community, environmental volunteers and social activists, who joined hands with officials at the venue, adding a spirit of collective responsibility and public enthusiasm to achieve.

J&K Relief Organisation rebuts news regarding ration distribution among migrants

JAMMU, APRIL 27: The Relief Organisation, J&K government, has strongly refuted the news item published in a local daily on April 26, 2026, regarding the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants. "The report presents an incomplete picture and creates an unwarranted propaganda regarding implementation of the scheme," clarified the organisation while issuing an official rebuttal in this regard. The organisation further clarified that ration distribution is being carried out by the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department in accordance with the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants notified vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05.03.2026. From all 32 designated ration depots in Jammu district, including Mini Township Jagti which houses 5,252 migrant families. All Relief Ration Card holders, whether PHH, NPHH, or Special Category, continue to receive 11 kg of free ration per person per month along with 1 kg of sugar, while migrants under the non-relief category such as pensioners, categorized as NPHH, are entitled to ration at government-

approved NFSA rates. The Government of J&K, through S.O. 392 and S.O. 393 of 2024 dated 13.08.2024, has amended the Targeted Public Distribution (Control) Order, 2023 to integrate migrant ration cards into the NFSA database, thereby enabling the migrants to avail benefits of various social sector schemes. Further, Government Order No. 27-JK(DMRRR) of 2025 dated 16.05.2025 has clarified that the existing scale of ration distribution and norms for inclusion, deletion, bifurcation, conversion and corrections will continue under the Relief Organisation without change. These clarifications have been widely communicated through public notices and information campaigns and approximately 450 migrant families have already availed benefits of social security and welfare schemes after this integration. The department reiterated that the integration of migrant ration cards on the NFSA database scheme is being done in compliance with the relevant Government Orders and rules and the concerns raised in the said article are unfounded, misleading and contrary to facts, published without obtaining official version.

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DLSA team inspects District Jail Amphalla Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 27: In furtherance of its mandate to provide free and competent legal services to the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Jammu undertook a visit to the District Jail, Amphalla. The visit was led by the Learned Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma, who was

accompanied by the Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), Jammu Anil Sharma. The primary objective of the visit was to assess the conditions of under-trial prisoners, assess pending legal aid cases and facilitate timely legal assistance to eligible inmates. During the visit, the Learned Secretary also visited the Prison Legal

Aid Clinic, where she reviewed its operations and issued specific directions to the Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) to enhance case tracking, expedite legal aid applications and conduct regular awareness sessions for inmates. She further checked the barracks to assess living conditions firsthand. Additionally, she inspected the teaching

classes for inmates, appreciating the ongoing educational initiatives and directing enhancements to promote rehabilitation and skill development. A detailed interaction was held with the prisoners, including under-trial and women inmates. The DLSA team, along with the LADC, scrutinized jail records, identified cases

requiring immediate legal intervention and ascertained the status of pending bail applications and trial proceedings. Special emphasis was laid on under-trial prisoners who had been detained beyond the prescribed statutory period. The Authority also reviewed the availability of basic amenities, medical

facilities and legal literacy access to justice for all, particularly for those from economically weaker sections of society. She emphasized that such jail visits form an integral part of DLSA Jammu's efforts to decongest jails, expedite trials and safeguard the fundamental rights of prisoners. The visit concluded with a meeting with the jail authorities, during which

cooperation was reaffirmed for the effective implementation of legal aid measures and the promotion of humane and dignified incarceration practices. The DLSA Jammu shall continue to conduct jail visits and awareness programmes to strengthen the mechanism of legal aid delivery within correctional institutions.

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