

North in News

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India's farm output hits record 357 million tonnes in 2024-25: LG

JAMMU, APR 28: India is leading the fight against climate challenges, with the country's agriculture production touching 357 million tonnes in 2024-25, up 25 million tonnes from 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday. Sinha inaugurated the national summit on 'Sustainable & Climate Resilient Agroecosystems: Innovations and Policy Framework' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of



Agricultural Sciences and Technology in Jammu, and urged scientists, innovators and other stakeholders to

work on building climate resilience and transform sustainable agro-ecosystems. "The scientists, innovators and other stakeholders should come together to build climate resilience and transform sustainable agro-ecosystems," he said. Sinha said the time has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation. "Policies must champion climate-resilient crops. We must close the divide between laboratory and farmland, and researchers should make the creation of climate-adapted varieties their highest priority," the lieutenant governor said. He said farms are the bedrock of civilisation, the backbone of economies and the promise of tomorrow. "Every policy, every intervention must respect that our fields and farmers have carried humanity through centuries of turmoil. Now the threat of climate change reaches far beyond

Will leave no stone unturned to ensure women's reservation in legislatures implemented: PM Modi

VARANASI (UP), APRIL 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), TMC and DMK on Tuesday for stalling the women's reservation bill in Parliament and assured women that he will leave no stone unturned to ensure that their right to reservation in legislative bodies is implemented. Addressing a women's conference in his Lok Sabha constituency here in Uttar Pradesh, Modi said the plan to make India a developed nation is progressing smoothly and whenever he speaks of a 'Viksit Bharat', its strongest pillar is the



women of the country. "I have come to this programme to seek blessings from all women for the beginning of a mahayuga," he said. "As the parliamentarian from Kashi, as the prime minister of the country, I need your blessings to achieve a major goal in the national interest -- implementing reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies," he said. Modi said just a few days ago, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) efforts in Parliament in this regard were unsuccessful due to parties like the SP and the

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At SCO meet, Rajnath Singh cites Op Sindoor to warn against state-sponsored terrorism



NEW DELHI, APRIL 28: Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that "terror epicentres" are no longer immune to "justifiable punishment", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, in remarks widely seen as a warning to Pakistan over cross-border terrorism. In an address at a conclave of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) in Bishkek, Singh also called on the "influential grouping to not lose sight of "state-sponsored" cross-border terrorism and that there should not be any place for any "double standards" in combating the menace. Delving into ongoing conflicts and geopolitical upheavals, Singh said that the "real test of power" is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves. There is a need to focus on global consensus where "co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict", he said. The defence minister emphasised that the SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who "abet, shelter and provide safe havens" to terrorists. "We must not lose

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Jammu Kashmir seminary declared unlawful under UAPA after 17 alumni join terrorist ranks

SRINAGAR, APR 28: Authorities declared Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom an unlawful under the UAPA after its 17 alumni allegedly joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, a police official said on Tuesday. "As many as 17 former students of the institution joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, indicating a consistent pattern of indoctrination and recruitment," said the official, who wished to remain anonymous. On April 24, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, issued a two-page order based on a dossier presented by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, pointing to the alleged illegal activities at Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom at Imam Sahib in Shopian. According to the Garg order, there was "credible

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'Not Wrong In Calling You Mama': CM Omar Abdullah Lauds Shivraj Singh Chouhan

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday heaped praises on Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the launch of new rural development projects at SKICC in Srinagar, calling him a "true friend and well-wisher" of the union territory. Earlier, Chouhan launched 330 new road projects worth Rs 3,550 under the phase IV of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY), aiming to cover 1,600 kilometres in the



region. These roads will benefit 363 remote habitations in Jammu and Kashmir, a government statement said. Referring to Chouhan as "mama", an affectionate tag given by the people of Madhya Pradesh, the chief minister said that his government will ensure that the funds

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BRIEF NEWS

Property of two proclaimed offenders exfiltrated to PoK attached by police

Poonch/Jammu, Apr 28: Police on Tuesday attached immovable property belonging to two proclaimed offenders in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district in connection with a long-pending criminal case, officials said. The property is jointly owned by Mukhti Bi, daughter of Abdul Aziz and wife of Zamana Lone, and Abdul Aziz, who had exfiltrated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and remained absconding for several years, they said. The attached property includes an old residential house built

(Contd on Pg 2)

Case filed after viral video shows pro-Pakistan posters

JAMMU, APR 28: A case was registered on Tuesday after a video showing a man pasting posters containing pro-Pakistan slogans on a bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda went viral on social media, police said. The purported video, which was geo-tagged, showed a location in the Pul Doda area, they said. A senior officer said efforts were underway to identify those involved and maintain public order. "A short clip went viral on social media yesterday, in which a poster was seen being pasted somewhere. It also had geo-tagging enabled," a police officer said. The officer said that

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Witness Safety Above Prior Disclosure: TADA Court Rejects Yasin Malik's Plea in IAF Killing Case

JAMMU, APRIL 28 (JNF): The 3rd Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu, designated as Special Judge under TADA and Section 22 of the NIA Act, has dismissed an application filed by accused Mohd Yasin Malik seeking five days' prior intimation of prosecution witnesses in the 1990 IAF personnel killing case. The application was moved in CBI with Mohd Yasin Malik and others, arising out of FIR RC-01(S)/1990, registered for offences under RPC

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After 32-Year Legal Battle, Anti Corruption Court Acquits Retired XEN Engineer in Jammu Land Allotment Case

JAMMU, APRIL 28 (JNF): In a significant judgment, the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu, Sonia Gupta has dismissed a decades-old challan arising out of FIR No. 48/1994 and honourarily acquitted former Executive Engineer S.C. Verma and Sukhdev Singh in a case alleging illegal allotment of Irrigation Department land at Raipur, Sattwari, Jammu. The case originated in January 3, 2012, while charges were framed on July 18, 2013. During trial, the prosecution examined 19 witnesses out of 24 listed in the charge-sheet. One of the accused, S.K.S.

(Contd on Pg 2)

Div Comm Jammu and IG reviewed the arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026



JAMMU, APRIL 28: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti today reviewed the arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 here at a high level meeting. The

(Contd on Pg 2)

ED Attaches Rs 3,034-Cr Worth Assets In Probe Against Anil Ambani's Reliance Group

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Enforcement Directorate has attached fresh assets worth Rs 3,034 crore as part of its ongoing money laundering probe against the Reliance Anil Ambani Group (RAAG) companies, sources said. The sources said the attached properties belong to Reliance Communications (RCOM) and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. (R-Infra). These include a flat in Mumbai, a farmhouse in Khandala, a hill station in Maharashtra, some land parcels in Sanand (Ahmedabad) and 7.71 crore shares of R-Infra, among others. The central agency issued a provisional attachment order under

(Contd on Pg 2)

LG Approves Appointment Of DCs, SPs In Newly Created Ladakh Districts



LEH, APR 28: Just a day after the formation of five new districts in Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor, Vinal Kumar Saxena, today approved the appointment of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SP) in these districts so that the administrative works commence immediately. With this prompt action, posts of DCs and SPs in all five new districts -- Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass -- have been filled. This decisive move is aimed at ensuring immediate operationalisation of governance structures, strengthening law and order, and bringing administration closer to the people, particularly in remote and

WhatsApp banned 9,400 accounts involved in digital arrest scams: Centre to SC



NEW DELHI, APR 28: A multi-pronged action involving telecom regulators, service providers, the RBI, tech giants and the CBI has been taken to tackle the rising menace of digital arrest scams, besides WhatsApp banning 9,400 accounts involved in such offences, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

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The action was detailed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) which has filed a comprehensive status report in pursuance of the Supreme Court's direc-

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Lieutenant General Balbir Singh Named GOC 15 Corps, To Take Charge May 1



JAMMU, APR 28: Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, an old hand and a highly experienced officer with deep roots in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) operations in Jammu and Kashmir, is set to take over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the strategically vital 15 Corps, also known as the 15th Corps, on May 1. The 15 Corps,

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COMPASSION

India's...

the farmer's field and imperils every life sustained by the agriculture and allied sectors. The urgency of this crisis leaves no room for delay," he said.

The lieutenant governor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's agriculture production hit 357 million tonnes in 2024-25, while horticulture output reached 362 million tonnes, including high-value crop diversification.

"Ahead of others, India launched nationwide soil testing, distributing 25 crore soil health cards. Farmer credit limits rose from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Rs 100 crore has been earmarked for high-productivity seeds under a national mission.

"Pulses procurement at MSP jumped 7,350 per cent and oilseeds 1,500 per cent in 2024-25. However, climate impacts are intensifying, and last year witnessed extreme weather across states," he said.

Sinha called upon scientists and innovators to commit to seven priorities for climate-resilient agriculture: developing farmer-led research partnerships, expansion of climate-responsive insurance, green credit, localised climate advisory, safeguarding traditional seeds, policy integration and transparent evaluation.

He also emphasised precision and regenerative farming, water management, diversification and technology integration.

"Innovations must reflect real-world needs, not remain trapped in seminar rhetoric, and governments must scale protection to shield livelihoods from escalating risks," he said. He also asked banks to prioritise sustainable agricultural financing, conserve heritage varieties as anchors of resilience, align every rupee for climate action, and assess each programme openly for continuous improvement.

The lieutenant governor said scientists and policymakers must recognise that small and marginal farmers contribute most to climate change and are most vulnerable to its impact. Calling for protection of farmers, he said they are not merely producers of grain but custodians of tradition, culture, food security and the promise of a sustainable future.

"Every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance. Every field must be treated as a national asset, safeguarded with care. Our responsibility in agriculture is clear - we need to preserve it for generations. This is our solemn resolve," he said.

Will leave...

Congress. "I once again assure all my sisters that I will leave no stone unturned to ensure that your right to reservation is implemented," he added.

The prime minister hit out at the SP, alleging that it was "difficult for daughters to come out of their houses" during the party's rule in Uttar Pradesh.

He said "parivarwadhi" parties like the Congress, SP, Trinamool Congress (TMC) and DMK have "betrayed women" once again.

"These parivarwadhi parties do not want daughters to reach the Assembly or the Lok Sabha. These parties have applied the brakes on women's reservation for the last 40 years," Modi said.

He said increasing women's participation was also a key consideration behind the cent-seventy new Parliament building and the first major step taken there was to pass the women's reservation law.

"For 40 years, this right of women remained pending. In 2023, we passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in Parliament," Modi said.

He asserted that after a law is enacted, it must be implemented, adding that discussions and legislative measures were brought in Parliament to ensure the timely implementation of the law on women's reservation.

However, he accused parties like the Congress, SP, TMC and DMK of "betraying" women once again.

"These parties, driven by dynastic politics and appeasement, are afraid of women's power," he said, alleging that they do not want women leaders from the grassroots level to enter legislatures as it would challenge their control.

Modi said he is satisfied that women across the country have recognised "these intentions" of opposition parties, citing the high turnout of women voters in the Assembly polls of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

The prime minister said when a woman is empowered within a household, it strengthens the family, the society and the country.

Referring to past challenges, he said women, including those in Varanasi, had to struggle to face numerous social constraints and questions about their capabilities.

Switching briefly to a mix of a regional dialect and Bhojpuri, Modi said women and girls were often told, "What will you achieve by doing all this? You will not be able to do it." At times, he added, they were not even asked but simply told that certain tasks were beyond their capabilities.

The prime minister said such experiences were not limited to Varanasi but were common across the country and were often accepted as normal.

"When I became the chief minister of Gujarat about 25 years ago, I first tried to change such mindsets," he said.

Modi said two major schemes for girls were launched at the time -- one to ensure greater enrolment in schools and prevent dropouts, and another to provide financial assistance through a dedicated fund for their education.

"Since then, women's welfare has remained a top priority in our policies," he said.

The prime minister said after assuming office in 2014, his government has built more than 12 crore toilets across the country, opened over 30 crore bank accounts for women, provided electricity connections to more than 2.5 crore households and ensured tap-water supply to over 12 crore homes.

"Women and daughters have been at the centre of many major schemes," he said.

Modi said two years ago, a major campaign linked to the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was launched in Varanasi, under which around 27,000 bank accounts were opened for girls within a month and an amount of Rs 300 was transferred to each account.

"The scheme is playing a major role in improving girls' education and securing their future. While it has strengthened education, the Pradhan Mantri Madra Yojana has ensured income opportunities," he said.

Modi added that initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Ayushman Bharat, have helped provide healthcare support to women.

The prime minister said along with education, income and healthcare, property ownership in women's names has also been encouraged, with most houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana registered in the names of women.

In a regional expression, Modi said, "Aaj hamara maai-bahin sahi maaynon mein apan ghar ke malik banai hain (our sisters and mothers have now become the true owners of their homes).

At SCO...

sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the very sovereignty of a nation state. There is no place for any double standard. SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists," he said. Singh strongly pitched for a unified front to tackle the "evils" of terrorism, separatism and extremism. "By tackling terrorism, separatism,

and extremism without exception, we (can) transform regional security from a challenge into a cornerstone for peace and prosperity," he said in presence of defence ministers from China, Russia and other member states of the grouping.

The defence minister described terrorism as the "most serious threat" to the emerging world order and noted that counter-terror cooperation has been a "foundational principle" of the SCO.

"On April 22, we remembered the victims of the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The carnage in Pahalgam shook the entire humanity," he said.

"During Operation Sindoor, we demonstrated our firm resolve that terrorism epicentres are no longer immune to justifiable punishment," he added.

Singh also recalled the declaration unveiled at last year's SCO summit in Chinese city of Tianjin saying it brought out firm and collective stance against terrorism.

"It was a testimony to our zero-tolerance outlook towards terrorism and its perpetrators, which was endorsed by this esteemed forum. But the real test of our collective credibility remains in consistency," he said.

"We must not forget that terrorism has no nationality and no theology. No grievance, real or supposed, can become an excuse for terrorism and humanitarian loss," he said.

The defence minister highlighted the significant role being played by the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and responsibility to the joint statement of the Head of State on 'Countering Radicalisation leading to Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism' that was issued during India's chairmanship of the grouping.

He further stated that in view of the present global uncertainties, the SCO holds a "pivotal role".

"Do we need a new world order or a world which is more orderly? We need an order where every citizen of this world is treated with dignity and respect. We need an order where differences do not become disputes and disputes don't precede disasters," he said.

"The real crisis today is not of a non-existent order but a tendency to question the established rule-based world order. We must focus on a global consensus where co-existence, cohabitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict," he said.

Singh noted that it is the responsibility of SCO to ensure regional as well as global peace and stability.

"We should continue to follow the path of dialogue and diplomacy and not of unrelenting force. We should not allow it to become an era of violence and war, but an era of peace and prosperity," he said.

"Let me recall the message of Mahatma Gandhi that an eye for an eye makes everyone blind and before every action, we must remember how that action can make a difference to the life of a poor and needy," he said.

"As people responsible for defence and security, we have the responsibility to uphold the spirit of brotherhood and harmony. The real test of power is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves," he stated.

Singh highlighted India's belief that SCO possesses the requisite strength and resolve to significantly contribute towards peace and stability.

"The ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' embodies this sense of togetherness, overcoming all differences of race and religion, he said.

The defence minister also reiterated India's commitment to contribute constructively to the spirit of the SCO's mandate, advocating that greater cooperation and mutual trust among member states based on equality, mutual respect and deeper understanding can make this organisation a beacon of true peace.

During the meeting, Singh along with his counterparts from other member countries, discussed ways to deal with the challenge of terrorism and radicalisation.

The SCO members emphasised the symbolic significance of 2026, which marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organisation and how its role is becoming more important than ever due to growing unpredictability and uncertainty, according to the defence minister.

Singh landed in the capital city of Kyrgyzstan on Monday. The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

It was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017. Iran joined the grouping in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

Jammu Kashmir...

input and evidence on record to indicated sustained and covert linkages of the institution with Jamaat-e-Islami", which the Centre banned in 2019.

The order stated that individuals affiliated with the banned outfit had de facto control of the institution, including their placement in key administrative and academic positions.

It said the institution, over time, fostered an environment conducive to radicalisation, with many alumni involved in terror activities.

However, Mohammad Shafi Lone, chairman of the institute, said they had no links with Jamaat-e-Islami or any illegal outfit.

"We are a law-abiding institute and have nothing to do with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami. There are 814 students currently enrolled in the school, which is affiliated with the Board of School Education and Kashmir School Federation," Lone told reporters.

He said the institution had received a show-cause notice from the authorities last month, and duly replied.

"If the authorities still have any doubts, they should constitute a committee and investigate the allegations against our institution. If these allegations are found true, we will support the government in whatever action it decides to take," Lone said.

The official said security agencies have, over time, generated adverse reports suggesting the institution's involvement in activities prejudicial to the national security and integrity of the state.

"Input further indicated the existence of a support environment that enabled and encouraged unlawful and anti-national activities. Many close relatives of slain terrorists are holding key positions in the Jamia Sirajul Uloom," he added.

The official said to evade legal action, members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami were operating through proxies and covertly running their agenda. (PTI)

'Not Wrong...'

are used judiciously." Our government has been in power for one and a half years now. You have repeatedly proven that you are not just a friend, but also a well-wisher of Jammu and Kashmir. The people of MP are not wrong in calling you 'mama'. Abdullah said at a function here Abdullah said he does not feel like asking for more funds at the moment, as Jammu and Kashmir were granted projects worth Rs 8,000 crore in the past one year under the PMGSY. "I assure you, we will start work on the approved projects in the next couple of months. When you are satisfied with the works, (deputy chief minister) Surinder Choudhary and I will come back to you for approval of more projects," he added. The chief minister said road connectivity significantly transforms

the lives of people living in remote areas as it helps them to access education, healthcare and jobs. "A journey that used to take hours has now been made easier by having access to a comfortable road. Tourists come here to see the cities and towns, but our hearts beat for the villages," he added. Abdullah said the assistance from the Rural Development ministry will help in realising the dream of 'Viksit Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Viksit Bharat'. "I want to assure you that we will use the funds judiciously so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir reap benefits," he said. Earlier, Choudhary said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre is committed to going beyond announcements and delivering tangible development on the ground. He emphasised that the focus is on ensuring that road, services and other facilities reach even the remotest villages. The minister also underlined that infrastructure development is being viewed as a key driver to further integrate Jammu and Kashmir into the national development mainstream.

Witness...

protection of witnesses. Rejecting the plea, the court held that directing the prosecution to give advance intimation would not be free from risk to witnesses and would run contrary to the object and spirit of Section 16 of the TADA Act. The court noted that the case relates to a serious terrorist act in which four Air Force officers were killed and several others injured.

The court further observed that the case is 36 years old and the advocates as well as parties are well aware of the case and the role of each witness. It directed the defence counsel to cross-examine the witnesses present in court, failing which the right to cross-examine would be deemed closed. Accordingly, the application was dismissed as being without merit.

Div Comm...

pilgrims can get their e-KYC done before departing for the Holy Pilgrimage from Bhagwati Nagar Yatra Camp. It was informed that this year Token Centres for on-the-spot/Tatkal registration shall be set up at the Tawi River Front relieving the pilgrims from large queues and traffic jams near Railway Station. The Divisional Commissioner directed for ensuring proper arrangements of Drinking water, Langar facility and Sanitation at the venue of Token Centres. Reviewing the arrangements for Base camp at Bhagwati Nagar, the Divisional Commissioner directed the stakeholder departments for timely starting and completion of all the works. It was informed that tenders have been floated for repair and renovation works at Bhagwati Nagar. The Base Camp from where the yatra convoy leaves under proper security and regulation for Pahalgam and Baital Base camps. The Divisional Commissioner directed for ensuring all the works to be completed by June 10, 2026, including the facelifting, White wash, establishment of stalls for Bus ticket booking, Langar setup, Cloak room facilities along with proper arrangements for accommodation, washroom, power and lighting arrangements inside and outside the Bhagwati Nagar camp. Directions were also issued for setting up of convenience store by the Cooperative Department inside the Bhagwati Nagar camp, provision of prepaid signs and installation of German hangars for pilgrims. Threadbare discussion was held on the subject to discuss the arrangements for smooth conduct of the holy pilgrimage from the Bhagwati Nagar. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Fire and Emergency Services for conducting a thorough audit of fire safety and to set up blackening of fire extinguishers near and around Bhagwati Nagar camp. PDD was asked for proper illumination along with provision of backup generator sets for uninterrupted power supply. The Divisional Commissioner directed the review of the centres to be established in Lodgment centres in districts falling on the Yatra route - Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban. The Deputy Commissioners were directed to review the provision of civic amenities like water supply, electricity, etc. in the respective districts, including power, water, langar and CCTV cameras. IGP Jammu reviewed the arrangements for deployment of security forces. He emphasized on proper illumination at each lodgment centre and adherence to yatra cut off timings. Transport department was asked to ensure enforcement measures to check overcharging by public transport operators, while ferrying the pilgrims in Jammu city. The Divisional Commissioner directed the JKRTC to keep provision of buses for sightseeing and visit of pilgrims to the tourist destinations around Jammu city. Director Food, Civil Supplies was asked to ensure availability of LPG and other commodities for Langars, while Deputy Controller, Food Safety was instructed for proper checking of Langar sites. The Divisional Commissioner further directed all the departments for appointing a nodal officer who shall be available in the Control Room will be set up at Bhagwati Nagar Base camp for smooth operations of all the works. The meeting was attended by IG CRPF, IG BSF, IG Traffic, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi and Ramban, Director Information, Director Tourism, Transport Commissioner, HODs and officers from Rural Sanitation, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, JKRTC, PWD, JAI Shakti, JPDC, Fire and Emergency Services, NHAI, Jammu Airtel, ITO, RTO, Jammu, Deputy Controller Food Safety Jammu.

WhatsApp...

including digital arrests, had issued a slew of directions to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and others to jointly hold a meeting to come up with a framework for providing compensation in digital arrest cases.

The fresh status report, filed through Attorney General R Venkataraman, detailed the enforcement actions taken by tech giant WhatsApp in the last 12 weeks since January this year.

In direct response to concerns raised by IAC, MEITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) and DoT, WhatsApp in January 2026 launched a structured, multi-week dedicated investigation specifically focused on digital arrests and targeting of Indian users. This investigation followed a rigorous methodology: identify seed signals map networks enforce against the entire network build scaled automated defenses," it said, adding 9,400 accounts have been banned for targeting Indian users. Tourist arresters. To further protect users, WhatsApp is deploying several "enforcement innovations", including logo detection where systems to identify and remove accounts using official police or government insignia in display pictures, the status report said.

WhatsApp is contemplating introducing a new feature to warn users when they receive a call from a "newly created" contact. The feature will scan the display picture and profile, the status report said, adding that process to automatically hide profile pictures of suspicious unknown callers to prevent scammers from using visual cues of authority will also be introduced.

The DoT and the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have committed to a strict new timeline for neutralising fraudulent SIM cards, including the fact that the committee is working towards a plan to block suspicious SIM cards within 2 to 3 hours of identification, it said.

The report said the CBI has set a Rs 10 crore loss threshold for taking over digital arrest investigations.

Currently, the CBI has re-registered three major cases, including two cases from Gujarat involving massive financial frauds and a high-profile Delhi case where a single victim was defrauded of Rs 22.92 crore, it said.

The report said a high-level Inter-Departmental Committee chaired by senior officials held its third meeting on March 12, bringing together stakeholders, including telecom operators, financial regulators, and digital platforms. One of the key central proposals is the rollout of a Biometric Identity Verification System (BIVS) to enable real-time, cross-network monitoring of SIM card issuance, it said.

The DoT has been tasked with implementing this system by December 2026, it added.

The report said WhatsApp has committed to several safeguards, including implementation of SIM-binding mechanisms within four to six. The SIM binding is a security mandate requiring the active, KYC-verified SIM card to be physically present and active in the phone for the app to function. If the SIM is removed, swapped, or inactive, the app will stop working. The RBI, as per the report, has finalised a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) directing banks to place temporary holds on suspicious transactions to curb money mule activities. Urging the top court to take on record the report, the MHA sought issuance of appropriate directions to DoT to implement measures identified by Inter-Departmental Committee by requiring the use of BIVS and ensuring their cooperation towards expediting notification and implementation of "Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules and Biometric Identity Verification System (BIVS) for national level visibility of SIM issuance". It also sought direction to evolve a mechanism for expeditious blocking of suspicious or fraudulent SIM cards used in cybercrime cases, including digital arrest scams. "MeitI is advised to secure compliance by WhatsApp, to ensure timely implementation of the safeguards and commitments made before the Inter-Departmental Committee, including implementation of the SIM binding mechanism in compliance with the DoT circular..." it said.

Ulati, died during the pendency of the proceedings.

After appreciating the evidence, the court observed that the prosecution failed to establish any concrete evidence or constructive link showing involvement of the accused in the alleged offence. The court held that none of the charges levelled against the accused had been proved.

The court also noted serious shortcomings in the investigation. One investigating officer admitted that original records were not obtained and stated that if original records are not secured, the investigation remains incomplete and charges cannot be established. He further complained of non-response by the Irrigation Department and Municipality was not verified during investigation.

Special Judge Sonia Gupta, while dismissing the challan, held that the investigation had "inseparably become" in any case against the accused. The court accordingly honourably acquitted S.C. Verma and Sukhdev Singh of all charges, discharged their bail bonds and directed that the record be returned to the department under rules. (JN)

After 32-Year...

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ED Attaches...

the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach these assets.

According to sources, the total attachment of properties in the cases against the Reliance Ail Ambani Group now stands at Rs 19,344 crore. The Group is being investigated by the ED on charges of bank fraud and diversion of funds.

Lieutenant...

headquartered in Srinagar, is responsible for safeguarding the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and overseeing internal security operations across the Valley. Lt Gen Balbir Singh's appointment comes at a time when the Union Territory continues to focus on maintaining stability following significant counter-terror operations in recent years. He was presently Major General Staff (MGS) Northern Command and later was a group captain in the Corps. Lt Gen Balbir Singh brings vast operational experience in Kashmir, particularly in anti-terror operations. He is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun. His early career included a key posting at the 8 Sector headquarters in Luleah, Kupwara, where he was directly involved in planning and overseeing operations. He later commanded 1 Sector Rashtriya Rifles (RR) during 2018-2019, a critical role in counter-insurgency grid management. In 2023, as a Major General, he served as GOC of Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Victor in mid-2023 (during the third week of June), relieving the then Maj Gen Prashant Srivastava. He held the Victor Force command, based in Awantipora and responsible for operations in south Kashmir, demonstrated strong leadership in CICT districts. During his tenure, he collaborated closely with senior formations, including the Chinar Corps and Northern Command, on multiple operations and security review.

Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, from the Parachute Regiment, had a distinguished tenure as GOC 15 Corps after assuming charge on October 5, 2024, succeeding Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai. His period as Corps Commander was marked by robust security operations, including Operation Sindoor (a precision strike across the LoC targeting terror infrastructure in response to escalating threats) and Operation Mahadev.

The latter was a joint operation involving the Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police, and CRPF that successfully neutralised three terrorists. These individuals were directly linked to the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack (also referred to as the Pahalgam massacre), which claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists.

Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava has now been appointed as the new Quarter Master General (QMG) at Army Headquarters in New Delhi, a key logistical and administrative role. His move reflects the Army's policy of rotational higher command appointments. During his stint in Kashmir, he emphasized synergy among security forces and engagement with civil society to foster lasting peace.

Property of...

on land measuring two kanal and five marlas in the Chamber Kamari area of Mandi tehsil.

Police said the accused were booked in 2002 at Mandi police station under provisions of the Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance Act and were later declared proclaimed offenders after fleeing to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Despite repeated efforts by police to secure their arrest, they remained absconding. Acting on court directions, police carried out the attachment in coordination with the revenue department after completing legal formalities.

Case filed...

some objectionable words were written on the poster, which could create panic among the public. "We have started an investigation into this matter," he said.

The officer said that it would be known only after the probe whether the clip was original or AI-generated. "That is all part of the investigation. At present, nothing can be said about its authenticity," he added.

University of Jammu Organizes 5-km Run & Walk Marathon under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (100-Day Campaign)

Jammu, April 28: The Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu, under the leadership of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, successfully organized a 5-km Run and Walk Marathon on April 28, 2026, within the University campus under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (100-Day Campaign).

The event was supervised by Dr. Vimal Kishore, Assistant Professor, and was conducted as part of a broader initiative inspired by the visionary efforts of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society across the Union Territory.

The marathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from nearly 300 individuals, including students, faculty members, non-teaching staff, and members of civil society. The large turnout reflected the growing awareness and collective resolve of the community to stand united against the menace of drug addiction.



The primary objective of the event was to sensitize people, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to encourage the adoption of a disciplined, healthy, and active lifestyle through sports and physical activities. Participants displayed great vigor and commitment as they actively took part in the run, symbolizing their support for the cause of a drug-free society.

The initiative aligns with the ongoing efforts of the administration of Jammu & Kashmir, which has been taking strong and consistent measures to curb drug abuse through awareness campaigns, community engagement, and youth-oriented programmes. Events like this marathon serve as an effective platform to channel the energy of young individuals towards constructive activities and to reinforce positive behavioural change. In addition to the marathon, a powerful Natak (street play) was presented by the students of the Directorate, clearly portraying the harsh reali-

ties of drug addiction and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and society. Through impactful dialogues and expressive performances, the students highlighted how individuals get trapped in substance abuse and the difficulties faced in overcoming addiction. The performance deeply resonated with the audience and served as a strong medium to spread awareness, leaving a lasting impression about the importance of staying away from drugs.

The event concluded with a message of unity, responsibility, and collective action, emphasizing that the fight against drugs requires sustained efforts from every section of society.

Among those present at the event were Dr. Mandeep Singh, Dr. Samita Wadhwa, Sh. Raj Kumar Bakshi, Sh. Ravish Vaid, Sh. Vikas Karlopiya, Sh. Gagan Kumar, S. Padam Dev Singh, Sh. Jai Bharat, Dr. Indereet Singh, Dr. Mahak, S. Haninderpal Singh, Mr. Rishiv Sharma, and Ms. Richa Mandla.

PNB Hosted Mega MSME Outreach Programme across 200 plus locations

Jammu, 28 April 2026: Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of nation's leading public sector banks, hosted its Mega MSME Outreach Programme across 200 plus locations nationwide. The programme aimed to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with accessible, customized, and competitively priced financial solutions, further strengthening the Bank's commitment to entrepreneurship and economic growth. Designed to facilitate meaningful engagement and enable MSMEs to explore the right financing options for their growth, the programme brought together business owners, industry participants, and banking experts on a single platform. Aligned with the theme "Where Opportunities Begin and Businesses Thrive", the outreach programme focused on simplifying access to credit and delivering tailored financial solutions that help MSMEs scale operations and improve productivity. Speaking on the programme, Shri Firoz Hasnain, CGM, PNB said: "MSMEs are powerful engines of innovation, employment, and inclusive growth. Through this Mega Outreach Programme, we are committed to bringing timely credit, seamless digital access, and tailored financial solutions closer to entrepreneurs,



even at the grassroots-level. Our focus is on simplifying banking, accelerating decision-making, and empowering businesses to scale with confidence, thereby contributing meaningfully to the nation's GDP." With this initiative, PNB further strengthens its commitment to customer-centric innovation and reinforces its legacy of being a trusted financial partner to millions across the country.

BSP Welcomes Rs.3,550 Crore Rural Road Project in J&K

Jammu, Apr 28: Darshan Rana, President of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Jammu & Kashmir UT, has welcomed the Central Government's decision to launch a ₹3,550 crore rural road project in the Union Territory. "Poor road connectivity has been a long-standing and serious problem for our rural areas. For years, villagers have faced immense hardships in accessing basic services. This project is a much-needed and welcome step that will greatly improve the lives of people living in remote regions," said Darshan Rana. He strongly emphasized that mere announcements are not enough. "The real test lies in effective, transparent, and time-bound implementation on the ground. People of Jammu & Kashmir are eagerly waiting for visible progress. Quality execution without delays must be ensured so that the benefits actually reach the grassroots level." *Improved connectivity will play a transformative role by enhancing access to education, healthcare, markets for agricultural produce, and employment opportunities, thereby boosting the rural economy.** He added. At the same time, Darshan Rana drew attention to the long-pending dues under MGNREGA. "Along with the new road project, the government must also clear the pending material component payments of approximately ₹400 crore for development works executed under MGNREGA during 2016-17 and 2017-18. These delayed payments are causing serious hardship to local contractors, workers, and suppliers. BSP demands that the Central Government release these pending dues at the earliest," he urged. BSP supports this important rural infrastructure initiative and hopes the government will accord it high priority, ensure speedy and quality implementation, and simultaneously address the pending MGNREGA liabilities so that the people of Jammu & Kashmir receive timely relief and development benefits.

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Jhiri Indoor Stadium inaugurated, demand to name it after Baba Jitto gains recognition

Samiti thanks to the LG, the MLA, and the DC for acknowledging the sentiments associated with Baba Jitto Ji and for giving importance to the demand

JAMMU, APRIL 28

The Indoor Stadium at Jhiri was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, in a ceremony attended by local representatives and officials. The event also brought attention to a long-standing public demand to associate the stadium with the name of Baba Jitto Ji. During the programme, Marh MLA Surinder Bhagat referred to the facility as the "Baba Jitto Indoor Stadium" in his address, acknowledging the sentiment attached to the name. Although he noted that the official naming process follows due procedure, his reference was seen by many as recognition of the public



demand. President of the Shaheed Kisan Baba Jitto Sangharsh Samiti, Partap Singh Janwal welcomed the development and expressed appreciation for the

administration's response. The Samiti had been raising the issue for some time and had also taken it up with the district administration and elected representatives.

Jammu Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas and other officials were also present on the occasion. Representatives of the Samiti conveyed their thanks to the Lieutenant Governor, the MLA, and the district administration for acknowledging the sentiments associated with Baba Jitto Ji and for giving importance to the demand.

The Samiti stated that Baba Jitto Ji holds an important place in local history and culture, and efforts to preserve and promote this legacy are significant for future generations. It described the development as a reflection of collective public sentiment and community engagement.

JMC Issues Directions to Prevent Pollution of Water Bodies, Floating Trash Boom Barriers Introduced

Jammu, Apr 28: Acting on the directions of Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has initiated concrete measures to curb pollution in the city's water channels and drainage networks through the installation of Floating Trash Boom Barriers.

The Commissioner has issued strict instructions to residents not to dump garbage, plastic waste, construction material, or any other refuse into drains, canals, and natural water bodies. He emphasized that such practices lead to choking of drainage systems, environmental degradation, and increased risk of water logging, particularly during the monsoon season.



He further directed citizens to adopt responsible waste disposal practices and extend full cooperation to the municipal authorities in maintaining the cleanliness

of water bodies. Stressing the importance of environmental stewardship, the Commissioner underlined that keeping these water channels clean is essential for public health, ecological balance, and efficient

urban infrastructure. As part of these measures, JMC has commenced the installation of Floating Trash Boom Barriers at identified locations to intercept floating waste and prevent it from spread-

ing downstream. The initiative is presently in its initial phase under the aegis of JMC, and based on its effectiveness, it will be expanded to additional locations across the city. The Commissioner has also directed that, in subsequent phases, these Floating Trash Boom Barriers will be extended to the Tawi River, also revered as the Suryaputri Tawi, to further strengthen pollution control efforts in major water bodies. Reiterating the need for collective responsibility, the Commissioner called upon the public to actively support these initiatives and ensure that the city's water bodies remain clean and free from pollution.

Babu Rampal Calls for United Fight Against Drug Addiction, Emphasizes Role of Parents

Jammu, April 28: Former Minister and Zonal President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Babu Rampal, today stressed the urgent need for a collective fight against the growing menace of drug addiction, describing it as a serious threat to the future of society. Addressing a meeting, he said that drug abuse is destroying the youth and weakening the social fabric. He emphasized that it is the collective responsibility of every citizen to stand firmly against this evil. He urged people from all walks of life to come forward and actively participate in the fight against drug addiction to safeguard future generations.

Rampal particularly highlighted the crucial role of parents, stating that they have a significant responsibility in guiding and monitoring their children. "Parents must remain vigilant, maintain open communication with their children, and ensure they are protected from falling into the trap of substance abuse," he said.

The former minister further appealed to society to spread awareness, promote healthy lifestyles, and support those struggling with addiction so they can reintegrate into society with dignity.

He reiterated that only through collective efforts, awareness, and a strong sense of social responsibility can the menace of drug addiction be effectively eradicated. He also urged social organizations, political parties, and civil society to come forward and take concrete steps to eliminate social evils from Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, he called upon law enforcement agencies, especially the local police and security forces, to play a more effective role in safeguarding the future of the nation. He also appreciated the actions taken by the police and civil administration in accordance with the rule of law. He concluded by emphasizing that parents should educate and motivate their children to stay away from drugs and lead a healthy and responsible life.

NHPC provided two school buses under its CSR scheme.



Jammu, Apr 28: Shri Ram Swaroop, Executive Director, NHPC Regional Office, Jammu handed over two school buses to the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Educational Trust, Jammu on 28th April 2026, under NHPC Corporate Social Responsibility initiative. The school buses were handed over to Shri Charanjit Singh Khalsa, Chairman, The Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Educational Trust, during a ceremony organised at the NHPC Regional Office, Narwal, Jammu. On this occasion, Shri Ram Swaroop, Executive Director, stated that the buses would help facilitate

the provision of education to students in border and remote areas. NHPC fulfills its social responsibilities with utmost diligence. NHPC is undertaking numerous CSR-related initiatives in this region. Shri Charanjit Singh Khalsa thanked NHPC for providing school buses and stated that these buses would help to provide better education to the students in border and remote areas where transportation facilities are highly limited. On this occasion, Shri Guru Dutt, GM (F), Shri Satnam Singh GM(C), Shri R.P. Maurya, GM(HR), Shri Ravinder Singh

Yudhvir Sethi honours handball player Anuj Langer for winning bronze medal at Asian Championship

JAMMU, Apr 28: MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi honoured young handball player from Jammu, Anuj Langer for his outstanding achievement of winning a bronze medal at the Central Asian Handball Championship held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from March 30 to April 5, 2026. A resident of Sehgal Gali, Anuj Langer has brought laurels to Jammu and the nation through his dedication, hard work, and consistent performance on the international stage. While felicitating him at his residence, Yudhvir Sethi praised the young athlete's determination and commitment, stating that such achievements serve as an

inspiration for the youth to urse excellence in sports. Yudhvir Sethi was accompanied by Arun Sethi District President OBC, Morcha, Chaman East Mandla, Secretary, Raman Gupta, Suraj Anand, Kamlesh Tak, Raman Behal, Suraj Gandral and Vinod Kumar. Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the importance of promoting sports culture in Jammu and Kashmir and assured continued support to talented players who represent the region at national and international levels. Sethi added that Anuj's success reflects the growing potential of youth in the Union Territory.

CUJ Organizes Insightful Session on "Get Noticed and Get Hired" for MBA Students

Jammu, 28 April 2026: The Central University of Jammu, under the patronage of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, today successfully organized an engaging and informative session for MBA students titled "Get Noticed and Get Hired". The session aimed to equip students with practical insights into industry expectations and enhance their employability skills. The session featured distinguished HR professionals from leading organizations, including Varun Baskotra (Head, Berg Technologies), Silvi Gupta (HR, Viens), and Kannika Bangroo (HR, Talla Jewellers). The speakers shared valuable perspectives



on the importance of aligning academic learning with industry requirements and highlighted strategies for students to effectively position themselves for career opportunities. The event was graciously honoured by the presence of the Dean of Management, Neelika Astora, along with esteemed faculty members, whose support added immense value to the occasion. During the session, the speakers emphasized

Interactive Session at School of Business, SMVDU on 'Driving Success with Data Analytics'

Katra, Apr 28: The School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, hosted an interactive session for management students with Mr. Prashant Mudgal, Head of Insights (Analytics and Data Science) at Redington Limited. The session focused on the transformative power of data analytics in shaping decision-making in the contemporary world. The event witnessed active participation from over 150 students of the management programme, who engaged enthusiastically with the speaker through insightful questions and discussions. Mr. Mudgal emphasized that data analytics forms the backbone of digital transformation and highlighted that it is increasingly indispensable for success in the corporate world.



He further noted that analytics is emerging as a core competency, enabling evidence-based governance, informed policy formulation, and interdisciplinary research. He encouraged students to integrate analytical tools into their academic projects to enhance rigor and impact. Discussing career prospects, the expert from the corporate underscored

the growing demand for professionals capable of translating data into actionable insights across sectors such as business intelligence, finance, healthcare, and governance. He also stressed the importance of adaptability, ethical responsibility, and continuous learning as key attributes for thriving in this dynamic field. His insights reinforced the importance of aligning academic learn-

ing with evolving industry requirements and global challenges. This enriching session was made possible under the visionary leadership of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, whose commitment to strengthening industry-academia collaboration continues to benefit the university community. The event also benefited from the academic guidance of Prof. Ashutosh Vashishth, Dean, Faculty of Management, and Dr. Arti Maini, Head, School of Business, who emphasized the need to equip students with contemporary analytical competencies. The session was successfully organized through the dedicated efforts of Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Professor, School of Business, along with Dr. Ritu Rana and Dr. Ketan Bhatt, whose coordinated involvement ensured a meaningful and enriching experience for the students. The session concluded with Mr. Mudgal encouraging students to view data analytics not only as an academic tool but also as a powerful career accelerator, bridging the gap between knowledge creation and real-world problem-solving.

Governance should be guided by Vedic principles: Swami Ramswaroop

Calls for justice, equality and welfare-oriented leadership based on teachings of Rigveda

Kathua: During the ongoing 78-day religious programme dedicated to the four Vedas at Ved Mandir in Yol, noted Vedic scholar and Yoga Acharya Swami Ramswaroop delivered an insightful discourse, highlighting the relevance of Vedic teachings in modern governance and social order. Addressing devotees, Swami Ramswaroop referred to a mantra from the Rigveda (4/25/6), explaining that a ruler elected by the people must ensure that there is no shortage of food, wealth, or essential resources within the state. He emphasized that the foremost duty of a ruler is to eradicate injustice, poverty, and insecurity so that citizens can live with dignity and prosperity. He further stated that an



ideal leader must safeguard virtuous individuals, maintain equality between the rich and the poor, and impose strict punishment on wrongdoers. According to Vedic philosophy, a well-disciplined administration that respects and protects scholars leads to a stable and harmonious society free from suffering. Swami Ramswaroop underscored that govern-

ance should be guided by Vedic principles, describing the Almighty as the supreme ruler and the four Vedas as a divine constitution meant to guide human conduct and administration. The discourse left a deep impact on the audience, reaffirming the timeless relevance of Vedic wisdom in shaping a just, balanced, and welfare-oriented society.

Indian Army organised awam meet at Marhote

Poonch, Apr 28: An Awam Meet was organised by the Indian Army at Marhote on 28 April 2026. The event witnessed the participation of Sarpanches, Numberdars, Chowkidars and Maulvis from Mundomar. A total of 20 civilians attended the interaction. The meeting provided an open platform to discuss matters of mutual cooperation, developmental concerns and ways to further enhance civil-military synergy in the region. The exchange of views reflected a shared commitment towards peace, security and overall progress of the area. Following the inter-



action, a tea session was organised, which further strengthened the rapport between the Army and the local community, fostering an atmosphere of trust, goodwill and partnership. The Indian Army remains

committed to continuous engagement with the Awam, working collectively towards maintaining harmony, addressing local issues and promoting a secure and progressive environment in the region.

Raman Suri asks JMC to make defunct water coolers operational

Jammu, April 28: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Raman Suri has expressed serious concern over the large number of dysfunctional water coolers across Jammu city, urging the administration particularly the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Smart City Limited to take immediate corrective measures so that people could find some relief in coming scorching heat. In a statement issued here today, Raman Suri said that weather reports clearly indicate that the coming days will witness peak summer conditions, making access to clean drinking water a basic necessity for the public. "At a time when temperatures are set to soar, it is unfortunate that a majority of public water coolers installed across the city are lying defunct



due to sheer negligence," he said. He pointed out that water coolers located outside schools, colleges, and busy public areas including fashion street on Apsara Road and other prominent locations are not functional. This, he said, is causing immense inconvenience to the public, particularly children, elderly citizens, daily wage workers, and passersby who depend on these facilities for drinking water.

Raman Suri urged the authorities to take action on a war footing and ensure that all such water coolers estimated to be over 500 in number are repaired and made operational without further delay. He emphasized that access to drinking water is not a luxury but a basic civic requirement, especially during extreme summer conditions. He further advised the government not to keep water coolers caged or inaccessible and instead create user-friendly arrangements so that people can drink water comfortably. If required, the administration should install new and modern drinking water dispensers and fountains for public convenience which could be easy to maintain and stay operational round the clock. Highlighting modern solutions, Suri suggested the installa-

tion of advanced systems such as bottle-filling stations, bubbler fountains, sensor-based or touchless fountains, and outdoor vandal-resistant taps. He noted that touchless and motion-sensor-based systems can also help maintain hygiene and reduce the spread of germs. "By all means, the existing water coolers across Jammu city and its peripheral areas must be either repaired or replaced. The government must act responsibly and ensure that no citizen suffers due to lack of drinking water in scorching heat," he added. Raman Suri reiterated that timely action in this regard will not only provide relief to the public but also reflect the administration's commitment to basic civic amenities and public welfare.

Google Breaks Ground on India AI Hub, Launching a National Industrial Ecosystem Alongside India's Digital Infrastructure Milestone

Jammu, Apr 28: Today, Google officially broke ground on its landmark AI hub in Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh. This marks the start of construction on the company's largest investment in India's digital future to date, as well as reinforces Google's commitment to being a long-term partner and catalyst for India's economic and environmental resilience. The groundbreaking ceremony, celebrated together with AdaniConneX and Nxtm by Airtel, took place at Tarlavada, Andhra Pradesh, with key dignitaries: Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Government



of India: Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; Shri Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, RTG and HRD, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Shri Bikash Koley, Vice President, Google Cloud; Shri Karan Adani, Director, Adani Group; Shri Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Group; and Shri

Rakesh Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises; Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble IT Minister, Government of India; "The groundbreaking ceremony of India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam reflects Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision of making India a global leader in technology. Thanks to the support and commitment of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu

Naidu Ji, in realising this vision. The India AI Hub and three subsea cables landing in Visakhapatnam will become very important infrastructure for the country's journey forward, you Google for your continued trust in India." Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; "Andhra Pradesh is emerging as India's premier investment destination, powered by speed, trust, and ease of

doing business. Google's AI hub in Visakhapatnam will be a cornerstone of our growing tech corridor, driving innovation, creating high-value opportunities for our youth, and strengthening our position in the global digital economy. Our vision goes beyond attracting investment - we want local talent, startups, and enterprises to become active partners in this technology-driven growth story. With the strong support of the Central Government and in line with the vision of a developed India, this partnership with Google reflects our commitment to combining cutting-edge innovation with inclusive growth, ensuring opportunities reach every community across Andhra Pradesh."

Lecture on 'Substance abuse, its link to Cancer' organized at Govt. Commerce College

JAMMU, APRIL 28: An awareness lecture on substance abuse and its link to cancer was organized today at Government SPMR College of Commerce by the Nasha Mukta Abhayan Committee in collaboration with the BBA Department. The programme aimed to spread awareness and encourage healthy lifestyle among students and participants. The session was conducted by Dr. Abdul Aziz Choudhary and Dr. Surbhi Kudiyar, along with members of the Diva International Foundation. The speakers elaborated on the causes, types and treatment options for cancer, while emphasizing substance abuse as a signifi-



cant risk factor. They stressed the importance of early detection, adopting a healthy lifestyle and raising awareness to reduce the growing incidence of cancer. Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Gupta appreciated the initiative and highlighted the need to educate youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse. He

noted that the problem of drug abuse is alarming and there is a need for consistent awareness to wipe out this menace. He emphasized that the institution was fully committed to contribute to the 100 day campaign started by LG Sh. Manoj Sinha to eradicate this problem. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Monika

Unity March for a Drug-Free India Held at GGM Science College

Jammu, Apr 28: A Unity March promoting a Drug-Free India was successfully organized at GGM Science College, a constituent college of Cluster University, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 150 students, cadets, and volunteers. The march was led by Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta and saw active involvement from distinguished faculty members including Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Neha Sharma, Dr. Shafia Saleem, Dr. Davinder Sharma and Dr. Rozy Bomba. The event was conducted under the collaborative efforts of



NSS, ANCORD, NCC, and the Red Ribbon Club. The march was formally flagged off by the Principal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, who also addressed the participants. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in combating drug abuse and creating awareness among

young. He briefed the participants about the ongoing 100-day mission of the JK Government under the "Nasha Mukta Abhayan," which is being closely monitored by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor. The rally aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage.

Parent Teacher Meet organised at GDC Ramban on Nasha Mukta Abhyan

Ramban, Apr 28: To combat the drug abuse and mobilize the community towards a healthier future, Govt. Degree College Ramban successfully organised a Special Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) focusing on sensitising parents and students about the dangers of substance abuse under the overall supervision of Principal - Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri. As part of the ongoing "100 Days Campaign on Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhayan" (Drug Free India Campaign), The initiative



aimed at fostering a healthy, drug free environment for young adults, involved interactive sessions and a collective pledge. The programme

commenced with a highly insightful and motivating address by the Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri. In his address he sensitized the gathering about the

grave consequences of drug abuse on students and society, emphasizing the vital role of awareness, self-discipline and positive engagement in shaping youth. His thought provoking and inspiring words significantly enriched the programme and left a lasting impact on the gathering, reinforcing the collective commitment towards a drug free future. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Anuj Gupta, the resource person of the event said that the drug abuse is not just a police problem or medical



DC Budgam, SSP chair 46th NCORD Meeting DC Calls for Whole-of-Society fight against Drugs

BUDGAM, APRIL 28: The 46th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee meeting was held today at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan. SSP Budgam, Hari Prasad KK was also present during the meeting. At the outset, the committee reviewed action taken on previous NCORD decisions. The meeting reviewed ongoing anti-drug measures and charted a strengthened roadmap for a drug-free Budgam. The DC stressed that drug abuse is not merely a law enforcement issue but a grave social challenge impacting families and communities. He underscored that the administration



will remain firm and uncompromising against peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while extending full support, treatment, and rehabilitation to victims of addiction. On the occasion, the DC directed all line departments to intensify efforts against narcotics cultivation and peddling. He

emphasised ensuring that roadsides, embankments, and other vulnerable areas remain free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated action. The DC reiterated that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) must be ensured in all chemist

shops, with regular inspections and strict action against violations. The Drug Inspector was directed to ensure availability of CCTV footage and billing records, while the Excise Department was asked to work in close coordination with Police, Revenue, and Agriculture departments for destruction of illicit

crops and registration of special Gram Sabhas. To strengthen community participation, SDMs were directed to engage religious scholars and local stakeholders to promote anti-drug messaging and "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats." The Rural Development Department will organise CCTVTV footage and billing records, while the Excise Department was asked to work in close coordination with Police, Revenue, and Agriculture departments for destruction of illicit

SMVDU NCC Cadet Excels in Adventure Course at Pahalgam

Pahalgam, Apr 28: NCC cadet from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, has brought laurels to the institution by successfully completing a prestigious Adventure Course organized at Pahalgam. Cadet Anuj Kumar Bharti represented the university in this intensive training program and demonstrated commendable enthusiasm, discipline, and endurance throughout the course. During the program, the cadet underwent rigorous hands-on training in a wide range of adventure activities, including rock climbing, rappelling, river crossing, trekking, and survival in mountainous terrain, along with several other field-based exercises. Notably, Cadet Anuj Kumar Bharti delivered an outstanding performance



and secured a position among the top five climbers and rappellers in the course, highlighting his exceptional skill and determination. Lieut. (Dr) Varun Dutta, NCCCOO at SMVDU, congratulated the cadet on his successful completion of the course and appreciated his dedication and commitment. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of

SMVDU, Prof. (Dr) Pragati Kumar, along with Registrar Sh. Anvay Kumar Sharma, conveyed their best wishes and congratulated the cadet for his remarkable achievement. They stated that such accomplishments bring pride to the university and motivate other students to actively participate in NCC activities.

3-Day Skill Development Programme under HADP, Silk Samagra-2 commences at Bandipora



BANDIPORA, APRIL 28: Sericulture Development Department Bandipora today kick started a three-day Skill Development Training Programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Silk Samagra-2 for the year 2026-27. The programme aims to strengthen the sericulture sector and enhance the income of farmers through capacity building and adoption of modern practices. A total of 60 farmers, including participants from General and

Tribal categories, are attending the training. Notably, a significant number of women farmers are participating, reflecting growing inclusivity in the sector. During the inaugural session, silkworm rearing appliances including pruning scissors and black cloth were distributed among the participants to support scientific rearing practices. The programme is being supervised by District Sericulture Officer Bandipora, Dr. Inayat Saleem Fazili, while technical sessions are being conducted by expert resource persons from Kupwara and the concerned Zonal In-charge of the district. It was given out that, over the three days, participants will receive training on improved mulberry cultivation, advanced silkworm rearing techniques, and disease management practices to enhance cocoon productivity and quality. Speaking on the occasion, the District Sericulture Officer highlighted that the initiative is aimed at equipping farmers with modern technologies and scientific knowledge to boost production and ensure better economic returns.

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Indo-US trade could adversely impact J&K agriculture: Bharat Priye

Flags risks to local farmers, calls for region-specific safeguards and policy intervention

Anantnag: Raising serious concerns over the implications of Indo-US trade arrangements on the agrarian economy of Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman of the Kissan Congress Bharat Priye on Tuesday cautioned that such agreements could expose local farmers to economic vulnerability and market instability. He was addressing a well-attended Kissan Congress meeting at Khannabal in Anantnag, organised by District Kissan Congress President Mohd Abdullah Bhat and his team. Directly contesting the claims made by Union Agriculture Minister Shri Singh Chouhan that Indo-US trade would have no adverse impact, Bharat Priye asserted that the ground realities in



J&KUT are vastly different from other regions of the country. He argued that the entry of cheaper, subsidised agricultural imports could severely affect local produce, particularly horticulture, which forms the backbone of the region's rural economy. Elaborating further, he pointed out that J&K's farmers largely depend on small landholdings and traditional farming practices, making them less competitive in a liberalised trade environment. "When global markets open without adequate safeguards, local farmers are pushed into price competition with large-scale international producers. This can lead to falling returns for crops like apples, saffron, and other high-value produce unique to the region," he said. Bharat Priye also highlighted that J&K farmers already face multiple structural challenges, including

high transportation costs, lack of cold storage facilities, limited access to modern technology, and vulnerability to climate change. He warned that any additional pressure from international trade without protective mechanisms could destabilise the already fragile agrarian sector. He stressed the need for a comprehensive, region-specific policy framework that prioritises the interests of farmers in sensitive areas like Jammu and Kashmir. "Before entering into any major trade agreement, the government must consult stakeholders at the grassroots level and ensure that adequate safeguards, subsidies, and market protection are put in place," he added. The Kissan Congress

leader also called for strengthening local agricultural infrastructure, including better storage, processing units, and market linkages, to enhance the competitiveness of J&K produce. He urged the government to ensure fair minimum support prices and introduce insurance and compensation mechanisms to protect farmers from market shocks. Among those present on the occasion were District Congress President Anantnag Ferooz Ahmed Bhat, former General Secretary Shaheen Neda, Danish Khan of the Pahari Cell, Khalid Muzaffar Dar, Gul Muhammad, President Congress Seva Dal, and a large number of farmers who actively participated in the discussion.

NMBA@100: Ganderbal unrolls Mat against Drugs by convening Mass Yoga session at Mini-Secretariat Lawns

Yoga sessions also held across schools, colleges & public spaces throughout the district

GANDERBAL, APRIL 28: District Administration Ganderbal today organised a large-scale yoga session at the DC Office Lawns, bringing together students, government employees, and residents in a united stand against drug abuse. The event was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bhaqui, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Principal, Government College of Physical Education; Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqrs; and other officers and officials at the Mini-Secretariat Lawns, with parallel sessions held simultaneously across schools, colleges, and public spaces throughout the district. The initiative is part of the Nasha Mukh Abhiyan (NMBA@100), a structured 100 day campaign being



implemented under the vision of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to make the Union Territory drug-free. Ganderbal's administration has drawn up a dedicated 100-day district calendar anchoring health awareness at the centre of this mission. On the occasion, trained yoga instructors led the participants through a series of structured yoga sessions, guiding them step by step

through postures and breathing exercises aimed at promoting physical fitness and mental calm. Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said that yoga activity has dual impact as it builds physical resilience while also strengthening mental well-being, both of which are recognised as key protective factors against substance dependency. He said the administration believes that nurturing healthy daily habits, particularly among

young people, is among the most sustainable ways to keep communities drug-free. "Today's yoga drive, however, is only one component of a broader and coordinated district-wide effort. On the enforcement front, authorities are carrying out sustained action against drug peddlers and supply networks operating across the district. Alongside this, the administration is running sports competitions, public awareness marches, and door-to-door outreach campaigns to engage communities directly," Bhaqui said. He added that schools and colleges are also at the heart of this effort, with targeted educational programmes designed to reach young people before substance abuse takes hold.

DJMC IUSTR holds academic outreach program at Amar Singh College

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: As part of its ongoing Academic Outreach Initiative, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUSTR), visited Amar Singh College here on Tuesday. The programme aimed to generate awareness about the scope of media studies and saw enthusiastic participation from the media students of the college. It served as an engaging platform where faculty members, research scholars and students from DJMC interacted with the college students. In her introductory remarks, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC IUSTR, gave



an overview of the department and its course curriculum. "The beauty of our Master's programme is the specialisation that is offered in different areas of media. Students are taught basics of all the subjects in first two semesters, and then they are provided with an opportunity to excel in

one of them," she said. Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Amar Singh College, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, said, such interactions are a must for students to shape their career, as these aware them about the career opportunities they have. He also praised IUSTR for its vibrant academic activities.

Unity March Rally against Drug Abuse held in Srinagar under NMBA

Witnesses strong participation of students, faculty and officials

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: Department of Physical Education and College Well-Being And Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) of Government College of Education (LASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, and the District Administration Srinagar, organized a Unity March Rally under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against substance abuse and promote a sense of collective social responsibility among students and the general public. On the occasion, Prof.



(Dr.) Seema Naz highlighted the objectives of the rally, stressing the crucial role of youth in building a drug-free society. She said such initiatives are aimed

at sensitizing students about the ill effects of substance abuse and strengthening community participation in prevention efforts.

MY Bharat MoYAS Volunteers Felicitated at Chintan Shivir in SKICC, Srinagar

SRINAGAR: MY Bharat MoYAS volunteers were felicitated with Certificates of Appreciation during the three-day Chintan Shivir organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports at the Sheri-Kashmir International Convention Centre. Among those honoured, Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary of Nations Development Association (NDA), registered with NITI Aayog and affiliated with MY Bharat, was recognized for his valuable contribution as a volunteer. Certificates were also awarded to Aman Zari, Athar Gulzar, Athar Ni Nisa, Faizan Salmami, Shah Nawaz, Sajid Mustafa, and Arbeen for their dedicated service and active participation. The Shivir was led by Dr. Mansukh



Mandaviva, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, along with Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports. Senior officials, including

Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, and Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary (Youth Affairs), were also present. The certificates were presented

by Dr. Priyanka Shukla, CEO, MY Bharat, and Prashant Priya Gautam, Director, MY Bharat, acknowledging the volunteers' commitment to youth engagement initiatives under the MY Bharat mission. The event witnessed participation from State Directors, Deputy Directors, and District Youth Officers from across States and Union Territories. Held from April 24 to April 26, 2026, the Shivir provided a platform for discussions on youth policy, collaboration, and national development. The programme concluded with the message "Viksit Yuva for Viksit Bharat," underlining the pivotal role of youth in nation-building.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan: Revival of distracted youth and action on drug nexus

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan is a mission that seeks to address the growing crisis of drug abuse by combining two equally urgent goals. Revival of distracted youth who have fallen into addiction and strict action on the drug nexus that profits from their vulnerability, and the need for this dual approach has become clear because drugs are no longer limited to metros or border districts, they have entered schools, colleges, small towns, and even villages. The most affected are adolescents and young adults who are at a stage of life where curiosity, peer pressure, unemployment, family stress, and easy access to synthetic substances create a dangerous mix, and once a young person starts using drugs his attention, health, relationships, and future begin to collapse. The family suffers silently due to stigma and lack of help, and at the same time the supply chain keeps adapting with new routes. The Nasha Mukht Abhiyan links recovered youth to education and livelihood programmes like PMKVY, apprenticeships, and self employment loans, so that they have purpose and income. And sports and cultural activities are promoted under Khelo India and Yuva Utsav to give youth a natural high and a positive peer group, and religious and community leaders are involved to spread the message that addiction is a disease and not a moral failure. This reduces stigma and brings more families forward for help, and on the supply side the Abhiyan pushes for professional policing and inter agency coordination. The drug nexus is organised, tech savvy, and interstate, and local police alone cannot break it, so Narcotics Control Bureau, state police, customs, postal department, and cyber cells share intelligence and conduct joint operations, and the focus is on catching the source and the financier rather than only the small peddler, and controlled deliveries. The results of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan are being tracked through data like number of people screened, number admitted for treatment, number who completed one year without relapse, number of FIRs against traffickers, quantity of drugs seized, and percentage of schools with active clubs, and districts that show improvement are rewarded, and those that lag are given extra support. In Jammu and Kashmir, where the problem is acute the Abhiyan has been intensified the message is clear that revival of distracted youth needs compassion, medical help, and opportunity, while action on the drug nexus needs intelligence, technology, and legal strength, and one cannot succeed without the other, because if you only treat users but do not stop supply the pond will keep filling, and if you only arrest peddlers but do not heal users the demand will find new sellers, and therefore Nasha Mukht Abhiyan brings police, health, education, social welfare, youth services, and civil society on one platform. This is why Nasha Mukht Abhiyan calls for action today, so that the youth who are the power of the country remain free, focused, and ready to build the future.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Coloring Economies Orange: Tribal Art, Crafts and Livelihoods



SMT. RANJANA CHOPRA

Worshang Khaiyar, sustains himself and his family by hand-crafting pots and pans made of clay and serpentine stone available in his village Longpi in Ukhrul district of Manipur. The traditional craft believed to be graced by Goddess Parthoibi by the local Tangkhul Naga tribals is today a major source of their incomes and has put the tiny village on the global map. Similarly, Northy Kuttan, inhabiting the tiny village of PagalkodMand in the district of Udhamgamandam in Tamil Nadu, is making a livelihood out of the traditional art of embroidery used by Toda tribal group settled in the verdant forests of Nilgiris. This GI tagged craft celebrates nature and community bonding and has been very aesthetically placed on table mats, runners, jackets, etc and popularized in contemporary usage. Both Khaiyar and Kuttan earn around Rs. 6-8 lakhs annually from practicing an elevated form of their traditional tribal artforms.

Tribal livelihoods, have long been grounded in knowledge-based and traditional practices, where creativity is embedded across crafts, traditions, textiles, music, dance, storytelling and languages. These are not mere products or services but a livelihood heritage of knowledge, transmitted across generations. The creative assets possessed by tribal communities holds significant economic value, which, when tapped in a sustainable manner while being sensitive to tradition, can fuel-angeenopromy, and create income-generating activities within their ecosystem.

Widely used to indicate creative economy, orange economy as per UNCTAD (UN Trade and Development) estimates, ranges between \$2 trillion to \$2.25 trillion constituting about 3.1% of global GDP. In India, while robust data exists for handloom and handicrafts sector, data for tribal crafts and livelihoods is poor. However, the strategic implication is unambiguous: tribal art and craft are among the few rural livelihoods that can plug directly into global creative goods demand if authenticity, logistics, and quality systems are in place.

India's Scheduled Tribe population is estimated at 104 million and constitute approximately 8.6% of its population. Around 700 distinct tribal communities are distributed across different ecological zones: forests, hills, plains and frontier regions. This diversity has direct economic connect. It predicts craft specialization by ecology, such as bamboo and cane in forested belts, metal and clay in mineral regions and textile traditions in weaving corridors. As a result, tribal regions in India have a multi-pleomplexities really rather than a single "tribal crafts sector." Hence, policy design has to be regionally differentiated and not "one craft scheme fits all" and cognizant of raw material constraints, design and quality issues and market linkages.

Currently, the tribal art/craft livelihood ecosystem is shaped by overlapping mandates across ministries and institutions. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the anchor and works on improving infrastructure critical to growth and provides market linkages through TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited) which functions as a key market operator. TRIFED supports Van Dhan Vikas Kendras

(VDVKs) which are grassroots units for generation to the other and for does retail marketing through TRIBES India outlets and aadima-hotsavs/haats to connect producers with buyers and institutional partners. Ministry of Textiles promotes craft through National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and cluster infrastructure through Comprehensive Handloom/Handicrafts Cluster Development Schemes (CHCDS) and maintains the database of artisans. Ministry of MSME supports cluster regeneration and marketability through Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), explicitly shifting from supply-driven to market-driven models and emphasizing e-commerce as a channel.

Experience shows that rural livelihoods value-chain is challenged as these are weak, artisans are not directly linked to markets and heavy dependence on middlemen. These factors reduce margins and poor warehousing and aggregation inhibits economies of scale. If we were to further drill analytics down to the level of artisan households, then the pattern that is visible is that of a mixed economy. The artisans treat craft work as supplementary or part-time employment, particularly where agriculture is seasonal or inadequate to meet the needs of the family. In this scenario, poor credit worthiness and enterprise development, lack of marketing linkages and dependence on traders create inconsistent income stream.

However, crafts can be produced at home with low capital with a potential for high returns. Craft interventions are often interventions in women's employment, income, and bargaining power. Rough estimates tell us that women constitute 56% to over 70% of the 7 million+ artisans and 72.29% of weavers under the handloom sector. Skill transmission is informal

and usually passed on from one generation to the other and for tribal art forms, where cultural meaning is embedded in technique and narrative, transmission is both economic (skills) and cultural (authenticity).

Three existing models under Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide pathways to robust linkages: producer collectives like VDVKS which provide shared infrastructure and aggregation; Tribes India stores for connect with the buyer and cooperative institutions at the State level for development of clusters and skill upgradation. For e.g., in Odisha 150 VDVKS are operational with cumulative sales of 72,459.91 lakh and integrating about 40,000 tribal producers. Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation, an apex level cooperative body, anchors the marketing and branding of forest and non forest based commodities generated by tribal producers.

This underlines a core strategic recommendation for India: tribal art/craft within the orange economy requires better sector accounting, enforceable authenticity/ethical trade infrastructure, and stronger producer-owned distribution to reduce intermediary capture. In the short term, festivals like Bharat Tribes Fest have to be treated as procurement pipelines, standardization and digitalization of the product catalogue and integration of credit support through National ST Finance Development Corporation and schemes like PM Vishwakarma with buyer orders. However, in the long term government will have to consider building a tribal creative economy satellite account, build export grade compliance and brand architecture and structure an India-appropriate ethical trade code for tribal art. Through these measures, tribal orange economy will rise from the hinterlands and join the journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

Jammu Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Wow! From Drugs to Dust

OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is so good and apt that the LG of the J&K UT has made it clear that drug smugglers, drug cartels and the nexus of drug smugglers will not be tolerated at any cost. The LG administration has started crackdown on drug mafia, drug smugglers and has been chocking the finances of these anti-social and anti-national elements hell bent to destroy the health and well-being of our youth by way of making drugs easily available and making them drug addicts. The LG is determined to eliminate drug abuse and addiction from Jammu and Kashmir. This time it is no rhetoric and loud as well as high and shallow and hollow declarations but actions currently going on the drug mafias and their nexus with terrorists is being carried out to cleanse J&K from the scourge. The civil society, NGOs, schools, other educational institutions, health department and voluntary organisations plus religious bodies and should cooperate with the government and work towards eliminating drug abuse from the society. LG and his administration deserve all kudos for taking direct action against drug pedlars, cartels, drug smugglers and those who take drugs.

The "Drugs to Dust" crackdown in Jammu & Kashmir refers to an intense, multi-phased operation launched by the administration under LG Manoj Sinha, starting April 11, 2026, aimed at completely dismantling the drug mafia's economic and physical infrastructure. This campaign, often referred to under the banner of the "100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan" and Operation Sanjeevani, focuses on targeting the financial assets of drug smugglers, resulting in the demolition of houses and the attachment of properties built on drug money. This time drug empires are being dismantled to give a severe blow to drug cartels and smugglers and action on the drug abusers is being taken and is ongoing. Drug smugglers and cartels are more dangerous than terrorists and the government is determined to eliminate drug mafia from Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Aspects of the Crackdown [As

of April 2026] ---
 1]- "Drugs to Dust" initiative Authorities are using bulldozers to demolish the residential houses of notified drug peddlers, such as those in Jammu's Nikki Tawi and Belicharanna areas, symbolizing that drug wealth will be reduced to "dust." The Jammu administration initiated a bulldozer justice approach, demolishing illegal residential and commercial structures of high-profile drug peddlers.
 2]- Asset Seizure and Financial Choke: The government is attaching immovable properties, freezing bank accounts, and seizing vehicles belonging to drug smugglers and their associates under the NDPS Act.
 3]- Severe Penalties --- New Standard Operating Procedures [SOPs] have been implemented, targeting smugglers with the revocation of passports, driving licenses, and Aadhaar cards, along with the issuance of Look Out Circulars for absconders.
 4]- Massive Arrests and Seizures --- In just five days (April 11 - 15, 2026), Jammu and Kashmir Police registered over 45 FIRs, arrested 63 smugglers, and seized large quantities of drugs, including charras, heroin, and cannabis.
 5]- High-Level Coordination --- The campaign involves a "whole-of-government" approach, including police, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force [ANTF], and civilian administration to target both cross-border narco-links and local peddlers.
 6]- Destruction of Narcotics --- Police have destroyed large quantities of seized drugs such as the 1084.89 kilograms of narcotics [poppy straw, charras, fukki, ganja] destroyed in Anantnag, to send a strong message.
 7]- 100 "Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan" --- A mass movement launched on April 11, 2026, aimed at crushing narcotic networks within 100 days through aggressive enforcement and public participation.
 8]- Targeting Assets & Documentation --- Authorities are attaching properties, freezing bank accounts, and initiating financial investigation under the NDPS Act. Stringent measures also include

revoking passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar cards, and arms licences of smugglers.
 9]- Targeting Kingpins --- The campaign has apprehended long-absconding kingpins, including Gulzar Ahmed alias Lau Gujjar, who had ties to cross-border narco-smuggling.
 Objectives of the Campaign --- The primary goal is to ensure a "Drug-free Jammu and Kashmir" by targeting the root of the illicit narcotics trade rather than just making petty arrests. The administration has identified 14 "drug hot spots" in Jammu alone and is actively monitoring school and pharmacies for misuse.
 Recent Notable Actions [April 2026] ---
 1]- Demolition Drive --- The residential structure of drug peddler Shamp Din in Jammu was razed, followed by the property of Mohd Hamid alias Hamidu in Nikki Tawi.
 2]- Property Attachment --- Police in Shopian and Anantnag attached properties worth lakhs, including residential houses and land owned by drug peddlers.
 3]- Anti-Narcotics Task Force [ANTF] Breakthroughs --- The ANTF recently intercepted an inter-state syndicate, arresting four smugglers with 10 kilograms of high-grade charras on the national highway.
 The Lieutenant Governor has emphasized that the crackdown will continue relentlessly, aiming to protect the youth from addiction and "cross-border smuggling" aimed at poisoning society.

Strategies for Eradication ---
 1]- Intelligence-Driven Policing --- The LG directed that lists of "top drug peddlers" be prepared at every police station and networks dismantled within 30 days.
 2]- Cross-Border Focus --- The administration has identified drug trafficking as an "international conspiracy" by neighboring countries to fund terrorism and destroy local youth.
 3]- Rehabilitation --- While taking strict action against traffickers, the government is strengthening de-addiction centres and implementing the J&K Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Counselling and Rehabilitation Centres Rules, 2026.

The crackdown is a "Zero-tolerance" policy intended to create panic among drug traffickers, with officials affirming that those destroying society will face total annihilation of their empires. In fact "Drugs to Dust" campaign is an intensified, relentless crackdown by the Jammu and Kashmir Police under the leadership of LG Manoj Sinha, aimed at dismantling the narcotics trade by targeting both smugglers and their illegal infrastructure. The initiative, characterised as an "all-out war" or "bulldoze justice," attaches or demolishes properties and freezes bank accounts of those in narcotics involved turning their sites into dust. Big crackdown against drug smugglers in J&K in less than a week's time has met a success.

Recent Operational Successes [2026] ---
 1]- Anantnag --- Over 1,000 kg of narcotics, including charras, ganja, and poppy straw, was destroyed in April.
 2]- Srinagar /Shopian --- Several arrests in April 2026 involving heavy heroin [Chhita] and cannabis recovery.
 3]- Jammu [Q1 2026] --- In the first quarter of 2026, 88 FIRs were registered, and 127 drug peddlers were arrested in Jammu district.

The policy, summarized by LG Sinha as "Don't Touch the Innocent & Don't Spare the Culprit" is designed to completely dismantle the drug supply chain through aggressive enforcement and community participation. To sum up it can be said that the policy of Drugs to Dust is commendable initiative of J&K administration and LG Manoj Sinha deserves all praise for directing the police and other stakeholders to take concrete action against drug cartels and smugglers, and at the same time asking the police and other agencies to take action against those involved in drug addiction and abuse. LG's planning has been matched by implementation. So, this time, there are no shallow and hollow pledges but action on the ground to dismantle drug peddlers and save the youth of J&K from ruin.

The author is a columnist, social, KP Activist & Freelancer

IN THE COURT OF MUNSIFF RAMBAN

J.O Code: JK00343
1. Mohd Lateef S/O Faqir Din R/O Village Dhalwas, Tehsil and District Ramban.

VS
(Applicant/Plaintiff)
1. Block Development Officer Batote. (Defendants)

In the matter of:-
Civil Original Suit for Declaration declaring the date of the birth of plaintiff Children's namely:
1) Mohd Irfan who was born on 20/11/2013 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 10/11/2016 in the record of BDO Batote.
2) Shaifa Bano who was born on 05/03/2015 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 05/04/2019.
3) Insha Bano who was born on 12/08/2018 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 13/08/2021 in the record of defendant which is issued and maintained by the defendant.

PROCLAMATION

Civil Original Suit for Declaration declaring to effect that the date of birth of plaintiff Children's namely:
1) Mohd Irfan who was born on 20/11/2013 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 10/11/2016 in the record of BDO Batote.
2) Shaifa Bano who was born on 05/03/2015 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 05/04/2019.
3) Insha Bano who was born on 12/08/2018 which is true and correct and whose date of birth is wrongly recorded as 13/08/2021 in the record of defendant which is issued and maintained by the defendant.
Therefore, by virtue of this proclamation public in general is hereby informed that if any person has any objection in respect of the above-mentioned suit, he/she may appear in this court either personally or through Counsel and file his/her objections within 07 days of this publication, failing which the said suit orders shall be passed in the matter and after that no objection will be entertained. If the date fixed turns to be a holiday, the matter shall be taken up on next working day; next date is fixed for 07.05.2026
Issued under my hand and seal of this Court today 27/04/2026.
Munsiif Ramban

IN THE COURT OF LD. EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BILLAWAR

Shashi Devi D/O Hem Raj R/O Kohag Tehsil Billawar District Kathua J&K UT.

Versus
(Applicant)
1 BDO Duggain
2 Chowkidar Concerned.

In the matter of :- Application u/s 13 (3) of Birth and Death Act 1969 for the issuance of direction to SHO P/S Billawar to register the date of Death of applicant father Hem Raj Who was Death on 20/08/1964.

The applicant most respectfully submits as under:-
1) That the applicant father namely Hem Raj was death on 20/08/1964 at village Kohag Tehsil Billawar District Kathua but the same could not be registered in chowkidar concerned birth/death register due to the reason that at the time of birth/death of said the applicant informed chowkidar but he forget to register the same.
a. That the applicant is now in need of birth/death certificate of said applicant but without registration of birth/death it is not possible to get birth certificate said at such the applicant prays for issuance of direction to BDO Duggain to register the date of birth/death of said in concerned birth/death register.
b. That the detail particulars of said applicant is as under:-
Applicant father Name Father Name Mother Name Date of Birth Sex Hem Raj Diya Ram Kesri Devi
20/08/1964 male
Place of birth is residential house at village Kohag Tehsil Billawar District Kathua

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BILLAWAR

Meenu Devi D/o Sh. Onkar Chand R/O Ward no 4 Sather Tehsil Billawar Dist Kathua.

V/S
1. B.D.O Baggan
2. Chowkidar Concerned

IN THE MATTER OF: Application under section 13(3) Birth and Death Registration Act 1969 with the prayer of directing B.D.O Baggan to register and issue date of birth certificate of applicant namely Meenu Devi born on 06-11-2002 at my residential house at Sather Tehsil Billawar.

The applicant submits as under:
1. That applicant namely Meenu Devi born on 06-11-2002 at my residential house at Sather Tehsil Billawar but her date of birth has not been registered in birth register.
1. That the applicant has required date of birth certificate for getting Adhaar Correction and the date of birth of applicant shall be registered with the following particulars:-
Name of Applicant
Name of father
Name of mother D.O.B
Place of Birth
Meenu Devi
Onkar Chand
Reva Devi
06-11-2002.

NOTICE

PANKAJ KUMAR S/O NOHINDER PAUL R/OCHIRDI UDR/UDHAMPUR, Jammu and Kashmir have Lost my original Number plate Vehicle bearing No JK14C 5625 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I Shabana Akhter W/o Sh. javid Iqbal R/o Machhedhi Tehsil Lohai Malhar Distt. Kathua J&K U.T. That the Date of Birth Certificate of my son Asim Malik has been issued by the Registrar Birth and Death Station House Officer Billawar on 20/05/2015 under registration No.964/15-A in which his name is inadvertently written AS Sahr Malik instead of Asim Malik. Now I am applying for correction of his name in DOB certificate as Asim Malik instead of Sahr Malik in the office of Registrar BDO Office Lohai Malhar. objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

SBI RSETI Ramban launches Soft Toys Making Training Program at Dharmound

RAMBAN, APRIL 28: SBI RSETI Ramban today inaugurated a Soft Toys Making Training Program at Dharmound, continuing its push toward practical skill development and self-employment generation. The inauguration was attended by the Lead District Manager (LDM) Davinder Singh as the Chief Guest along with Cluster Coordinator NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) Ajay Kumar, reflecting institutional backing-but the real test will be what participants actually build from this training, not just attendance on day one. The program is being conducted under the overall supervision of Director RSETI S Harvinder Singh, ensuring structured delivery and alignment with entrepreneurship goals rather than just skill exposure.

Lifesaving Skills Training: CPR & First Aid Workshop Conducted for Police Personnel at DPL Poonch

POONCH, APRIL 28: A workshop on CPR and First Aid Responder Training for police personnel was organized today at District Police Lines (DPL) Poonch by Diva International Foundation. Around 70 police personnel participated in the programme. The session comprised both lectures and practical demonstrations conducted by a team of doctors, including Dr. Puneet Kak and Dr. Anubhav Khajuria. The participants actively engaged in the hands-



on demonstrations and listened attentively to the lectures, displaying keen interest in acquiring life-saving skills. Shri Shashi Kant Raina, DySP DAR Poonch, also addressed the gathering on the occasion. He appreciated the initiative taken by Diva International Foundation and emphasized the importance of such trainings for police personnel, who often act as first responders in emergency situations. District Police Poonch expressed gratitude.

IN THE COURT LD. EMIC LOHAI MALHAR

Smt. Kamlo Devi W/o Sh. Lekh Raj R/o Sadruta, Tehsil Lohai Malhar, District Kathua M&K UT (Applicant)

Versus
1. Block Development Officer, Duggain.
2. Chowkidar Concerned

In the matter of Application u/s 13 (3) of Birth and death registration Act, 1969 for seeking direction to IC Block Development Officer, Duggain to register the date of birth of applicant's daughter namely Sunilka Devi in concern birth registers, was born on 08-08-2023.

AFFIDAVIT
1. Kamlo Devi W/o Sh. Lekh Raj R/o Sadruta, Tehsil Lohai Malhar, District Kathua J&K UT do hereby solemnly declare on oath as under:-
1. That the contents of application accompanying the affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed.
2. That the contents are not reproduced in order to avoid repetition.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in General that the following Persons had filed their petitions before this Court (Tehsil Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.
S. No. Name Of applicant's Child
1. Banni
Father's Name Asho Din
Mother's Sex Name Rajo
Date of Birth (as stated by the applicant)
Fe-Male 01-01-2004
Place of birth (as stated by the applicant)
R/o Village Sadruta Teh. Lohai Malhar Distt. Kathua.
Therefore, through the medium of this notice, public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above-mentioned details of the petitioners / applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this newspaper.
No.-JC/TLM/2026-27/38
Dtd: 28/04/2026
Sd/ Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Ist Class Lohai-Malhar HQ Machhedhi

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that the following persons had filed their petitions before this court (Tehsil Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.
S.no. Applicant Name Father's Name Mother's Sex Name Date of birth (as stated by the applicant) Place of birth (as stated by the applicant) Rekha Devi Nand Lal 1. Satya Devi Female 17/05/2005 At Village Machhedhi Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua UT Jammu And Kashmir
Therefore, through the medium of this notice, public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this news paper.
No.-JC/TLM/2026-27/36 Dated: 28/04/2026
Sd/- Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Lohai Malhar HQ Machhedhi

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS LOHAI MALHAR PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that the following persons had filed their petitions before this court (Tehsil Lohai Malhar) for seeking directions regarding registration of birth records.
S.no. Applicant's child Name Father's Name Mother's Sex Name Date of birth (as stated by the applicant) 15/01/2019 Place of birth (as stated by the applicant) At Home Nandu Machhedhi Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua UT Jammu And Kashmir
Therefore, through the medium of this notice, public at large is informed that if any person has any objection in respect to the above mentioned details of the petitioners/applicant, he/she shall appear in this court either personally or through a counsel to file his/her objections within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in this news paper.
No.-JC/TLM/2026-27/37
JEET
Dated: 28/04/2026
Sd/- Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Lohai Malhar HQ Machhedhi

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING SHORTER E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/07/2026-27 Dated:- 28-04-2026
Executive Engineer PCD PHQJ&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on **Percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Repair and Up-gradation of Admi at PTS Marigan Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	39.55 lacs	2000/-	79100/-	90 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B"
2	Repair and Up-gradation of Old G.O. block at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	31.94 lacs	2000/-	63880/-	90 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B"
3	Repair and Up-gradation of Lower Law block Equipment Store at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	24.70 lacs	2000/-	177190/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B" & "C"
4	Repair and M I Room at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	5.66 lacs	300/-	11300/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
5	Repair/ renovation of G.O's Hostel at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	11.26 lacs	1000/-	22520/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
6	Repair/ renovation of MTO block at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	7.12 lacs	500/-	14240/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
7	Repair/ renovation of Library block at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	4.55 lacs	300/-	9100/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
8	Repair/ renovation of Dry Canteen at PTS Mangam Gandarbal under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	1.89 lacs	200/-	3760/-	60 working days	09-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"

- Date of Publishing 29-04-2026 at 1400 hours.
 - The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1430 hours on 29-04-2026.
 - The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-04-2026 to 08-05-2026 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 09-05-2026 online.
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
 - Technical bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 09-05-2026 at 1100 Hrs.
 - The lowest bidder i.e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
 - In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A242(017)/651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. DCS/ Revenue (others).
 - Treasury challan/ receipt indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. & date favouring Executive Engineer PCD PHQ by crediting to M.H. 0055/Revenue issued after the issuance of advertisement e-NIT No. & date and upload the same.
 - Earnest Money**- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.
(The date of Treasury challan/ EMD should be between the date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date).
 - Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
 - The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
 - Financial Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar, if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 - The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- Sd/- Executive Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ, J&K, Jmu/Sgr.*
- No:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2026-27/3244-57
Dated: 28-04-2026.
DIP/J-1229/26

Bhuvneshwar Kumar's Stunning IPL Stat Proves Selectors Are Wrong To Ignore Him

New Delhi, Apr 28:

While the national selection committee appears to have moved on from Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the T20 format, the Indian 'Swing King' is currently staging a statistical rebellion in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Against the Delhi Capitals, he has breathed fire with the new ball, picking up three wickets in his first three overs. While Bhuvneshwar last played for India in 2022, his numbers in the last 3-4 years suggest that, despite being 36, he remains the most lethal Powerplay weapon in Indian cricket. The eye-opening metric of Bhuvneshwar's value is his dominance in the first six overs. Since the start of 2023, no bowler has been more effective in the Indian Premier League at providing early breakthroughs. This season, he has already picked up 14 wickets in 8 matches, striking in the powerplay



regularly for RCB. Equalling Trent Boult, a player widely regarded as the world's best new-ball bowler, is no small feat. What makes this even more impressive is that Bhuvneshwar has maintained this strike rate while playing at surfaces that are batting paradises, be it the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in

Bengaluru or the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Bhuvneshwar isn't just about recent form; he is a statistical outlier in the history of the tournament. He now has 20 three-wicket hauls in IPL history, trailing only Jasprit Bumrah (25). In fact, Bhuvneshwar also holds the all-

time record for the most dot balls in IPL history. He recently became the first Indian pacer to cross the 200-wicket mark in the IPL, currently sitting at 212 wickets. Critics often pointed to a dip in pace as the reason for his T20I 'snub' after the 2022 World Cup. However, his 2026 season stats tell a story of a master craftsman who has adapted:

In a format where the 'Impact Player' rule has enabled teams to score over 200 runs on a regular basis, a bowler who can guarantee Powerplay wickets and an economy rate under 8.00 is invaluable. With India often searching for a specialist to partner with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar's current form isn't just a statement but a demand for reconsideration. If the selectors are looking for 'impact,' the numbers suggest they need look no further than the man spearheading Bengaluru's attack.

KKR batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi penalised for IPL code breach

New Delhi, Apr 28:

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during their match against Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow on Sunday. The IPL confirmed the penalty on Monday and also added that he has been given one Demerit Point. The incident happened in the fifth over when Raghuvanshi was dismissed in an unusual manner. He was given out for obstructing the field, becoming only the fourth batter in IPL history to be dismissed this way. After the decision was made, the 21-year-old showed his frustration. He struck the boundary cushion with his bat in anger and then threw his helmet towards the dugout in a similar manner.



Raghuvanshi, who was out for just nine runs, was clearly unhappy with the decision. He even had a brief argument with the on-field umpires before eventually accepting the call and walking back to the pavilion. Later, the IPL released a statement explaining the reason for the punishment. "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 league said in a statement. "... Raghuvanshi struck the boundary cushion with his bat in an aggressive manner and subsequently threw his helmet into the dugout in a similar manner. Raghuvanshi admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction." The league further clarified the penalty in its official communication. "Angkrish Raghuvanshi, batter & wicket-keeper, Kolkata Knight Riders, has been fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated.

Shreyas Iyer Reveals Taunt That Forced Him To Change

New Delhi, Apr 28:

Already seen as one of the most consistent batters in one-day cricket for India, Shreyas Iyer has reached another level of consistency in T20s. The middle-order batter has truly transformed his game and his career in the shortest format. Iyer has not just become a dependable batter for the Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), but also a finisher and a captain who has led his team to multiple victories this season. However, behind this transformation are taunts that irked Iyer, leading him to decide to "prove people wrong". Speaking on JioStar's 'Believe', the Punjab Kings



perceived weakness against bouncers, even hit a stunning six against Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah, arguably the finest pacer in the world, silencing those who questioned his deficiencies. Speaking on JioStar's 'Believe', the Punjab Kings

captain explained how he drove himself to prove naysayers wrong. "I have people around me who say that in this situation, you can't do it. It's impossible. I don't like hearing that. As a cricketer playing at the highest level, I just can't accept it.

"This Is Going To Be Awkward": Virat Kohli's Speech At DPS RK Puram Can't Be Missed

New Delhi, Apr 28:

Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli delivered an inspirational message at the inauguration ceremony of a cricket academy at DPS (Delhi Public School) RK Puram on Tuesday, urging students to respect their learning environment and pursue their dreams with honesty and commitment. Speaking to students during the event, Kohli said he was not accustomed to addressing school gatherings but connected deeply with the audience, having once been in the same stage of life. Reflecting on his own journey, he highlighted how his priorities shifted early as he chose cricket as his career path. "Thank you for having me. I'm not used to speaking in schools, so this is going to be a bit awkward for me because I moved away from the



school setup long ago for cricket, and that's what I'm going to talk about. I understand the environment of a school. I've been through the same process and stage that all you kids are a part of right now. And I can just share from my own experience how my focus and priority changed very early on in my

life," Kohli said. The 37-year-old added, "What I want to say is, a school is a place where you come to learn, you come to grow, you become better people." The great cricketer further emphasised the role of educators in shaping character and ability, noting that they dedicate a significant part of their

lives to guiding students. "Have respect and regard for that environment first. For your teachers, for the people who are teaching you. They are giving you a part of their lives.

It's very important to give them that respect and the focus and attention that's required," Kohli added. Sharing insights from his own life decisions, Kohli spoke about his early commitment to cricket and the importance of clarity in one's goals. "I chose sport very early on in my life, but that came from a very honest place. I was very sure that I wanted to go ahead and pursue cricket, and I had to be honest with myself, my family, and also my teachers to convey to them that this is the path I want to take," the former Indian captain said.

TUC 2026: Indian men blank Australia to seal quarterfinal berth

New Delhi, Apr 28:

Former champions India blanked Australia 5-0 in the men's Group A clash to assure themselves of a quarterfinal berth in the Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark, on Monday. India had defeated Canada 4-1 in their open group tie and will next face top seeds China to decide the group winners. China had defeated Australia 5-0 and got the better of Canada 4-1 on Monday. Aware that a victory against Australia will guarantee them a last eight spot, India made just one change to the team that defeated Canada with HS Prannoy getting a match in place of Kidambi Srikanth. Lakshya Sen began the team's march with a 2-1, 2-1, 2-1 win over Ephraim Stephen Sam and Asian



Champions silver medalists Ayush Shetty made it 2-0 by defeating Shrey Dhand 21-8, 21-6 in just 26 minutes.

Former Asian Champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then put the result beyond doubt, beating Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16. Prannoy and men's doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun then rounded off the scoreline with convincing victories.

Result: Men: India beat Australia 5-0 (Lakshya Sen bt Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-14, 21-16; Ayush Shetty bt Shrey Dhand 21-8, 21-6; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty bt Rizky Hidayat/Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16; HS Prannoy bt Rishi Honda Boopathy 21-11, 21-17; Hariharan Amsakarunan/MR Arjun bt Andika Ramadiansyah/Sam 21-12, 21-10).

Axar Patel Delivers Shell-Shocked Statement As Delhi Capitals Get Bowled Out For 75 vs RCB

New Delhi, Apr 28:

Axar Patel didn't have much to answer when Delhi Capitals failed to defend 264 against Punjab Kings on Saturday and looked even more perplexed after his team crumbled to 75 versus Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their second straight IPL surrender within a space of 48 hours. Delhi Capitals were reduced to 9 for 6 inside Powerplay overs with Bhuvneshwar Kumar getting appreciable swing and Josh Hazlewood executing short ball tactics to perfection. The result was season's lowest score and RCB catered to a nine-wicket win. "Even I don't know what



happened. That's why they say you have to be on your toes in cricket. We have to move on from this match," Axar said at post match presentation ceremony. The single that David Miller refused in a one-run defeat against Gujarat Titans did affect the tournament momentum for DC

and Karun Nair dropping dummies against Punjab Kings only made matters worse. "From today's point of view, you can say it did affect, but you can look back, if the catches were taken (Nair) or had we taken the single against GT, then momentum would have been with us.

Delhi Capitals' Coach Hemang Badani Told To "Shut Up" After Old Dhoni-Fleming Dig Resurfaces

New Delhi, Apr 28:

With the Delhi Capitals languishing in the 7th spot of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, coach Hemang Badani has become one of the prime targets for critics. Badani, who had previously questioned Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming's role at the franchise, has been left re-faced by his team's perfor-



mances in the ongoing campaign. Badani, who had questioned Fleming's impact at Chennai, saying what the franchise achieved was because of MS Dhoni, has now been targeted by former India cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth. Srikkanth, who remains an outspoken critic on the internet, said that he wasn't happy to see Hemang Badani go after

Stephen Fleming. For the future, Srikkanth advised Badani to be mindful of what he says. Srikkanth's criticism came after DC were bowled out for a score of 75 runs against RCB on Monday. "On top of all this, Hemang Badani went after Stephen Fleming," Srikkanth slammed the DC coach in a video on his YouTube channel. "Hey Hemang, First, take care of yourself before talking about others. I have always said this: 'in life, don't talk too much'. He spoke too much. Now, he has to shut up and watch stuff happening." "Everybody is bringing this up and slamming him. Why talk about others? You should have been mindful of your job.

Why A 'Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Question' To Manu Bhaker Has Created A Social Media Storm

New Delhi, Apr 28:

It was a question about a young achiever to another young achiever. Manu Bhaker, the first Indian woman shooter to win an Olympic medal, was on Monday asked about 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. However, it has generated a strong response from social media. Speaking on the sidelines of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) 75th anniversary celebrations in Delhi, Manu spoke about Sooryavanshi. "I would say that if the mentorship is good, the company around him is good, and the people around are good, then age is just a number. And there is no age for talent. Great things happen at 60, they happen at six. So if the people around him mentor him well and guide him properly, then I am sure he will be the next big star," the 24-year-old shooter was quoted as saying by news agency



Manu Bhaker won two bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics. First, she won a bronze in the 10m pistol event and then another in 10m pistol mixed team, becoming the first Indian to win two medals in a single Olympic Games. Reacting to the question directed at Manu, former KKR team director, Joy Bhattacharjya wrote on X: "Folks, she is an Olympic medalist. To ask her

world of cricket, becoming the youngest player to reach 1,000 T20 runs and the first uncapped player to hit two centuries in the Indian Premier League (IPL), which he achieved recently against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Be it domestic cricket, starting for India U19 by winning the World Cup and ending as the Player of the Tournament, or producing dazzling performances in the world's biggest cricket league, the 15-year-old appears to be on a fast-track during his brief career so far. In the ongoing IPL season, Sooryavanshi has scored 357 runs in eight innings at an average of 44.62 and a strike rate of over 234, including one century and two fifties, with a best score of 103. At the U19 World Cup earlier this year, Sooryavanshi finished as the second-highest run-getter with 439 runs in seven matches at an average of 62.71 and a strike rate of 169.49.

what she thinks of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is unfair to her achievements and her sport. Cricket anyway is the ruling passion of the country; your sports editors do not need another celebrity quote to spin a headline on Sooryavanshi. Optionally, next time ask Vaibhav Sooryavanshi about Manu Bhaker and see the looks you get." Sooryavanshi continues to make headlines in the

Gold, Silver Prices Decline Up To 2 Per Cent As West Asia Conflict Push Crude Above \$110

New Delhi, Apr 28: Gold and silver traded lower on Tuesday, declining by up to 2 per cent amid ongoing tensions between the US and Iran and a rise in crude oil prices, which breached the \$110 mark again. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) witnessed selling pressure. The yellow metal fell to an intraday low of Rs 1,50,450 per 10 grams, down 0.83 per cent or Rs 1,271, while it touched a high of Rs 1,51,802, up 0.05 per cent or Rs 81. At the last count, gold was trading at Rs 1,50,600, down Rs 1,121 or 0.74 per cent. Meanwhile, silver futures (May 5) also remained under pressure during the session. The white metal slipped to an intraday low of Rs 2,36,600 per kg, a



decline of 2.16 per cent or Rs 5,224, while the high was recorded at Rs 2,41,250, down 0.23 per cent or Rs 574. At the last count, silver was trading at Rs 2,37,600, down Rs 4,224 or 1.75 per cent. A commodity market expert said the near-term outlook for precious metals remains cautious amid volatility and geopolitical uncertainty. "MCX Gold is witnessing selling pressure near resistance levels, with Rs 1,52,000 acting as a key hurdle. A sustained move above this level could push prices higher, while a break below Rs 1,51,000 may lead to extended profit booking," the expert said. "For MCX Silver, prices are hovering around Rs 2,40,000, indicating weak buying interest. A sustained move above Rs 2,42,000-Rs 2,44,000 could support recovery, while a break below Rs 2,40,000 may accelerate

and Iran have remained elevated, with peace talks witnessing significant volatility. The US has rejected Iran's proposal, which included reopening the Strait of Hormuz and holding talks on its nuclear programme after the lifting of US maritime restrictions. However, the US is understood to be seeking a comprehensive resolution to both issues simultaneously, indicating continued uncertainty in negotiations. In addition, crude oil prices surged towards their 52-week highs on Tuesday, with Brent crude touching an intraday high of \$111.31 per barrel, up about 3 per cent from the previous close. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude jumped as much as 2.53 per cent to \$98.81.

Global Stocks Steady, Yen Firms After BOJ Holds Rates

New Delhi, Apr 28: Stocks held their ground on Tuesday as investors weighed the geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East, while the yen firmed after the Bank of Japan held rates steady but the split voting underscored worries over inflation because of the war. The BOJ, in an expected move, held short-term rates steady at 0.75% but three on the nine-member board proposed hiking borrowing costs, signalling the central bank's concerns over inflationary pressures from the Middle East conflict. Markets will now focus on comments from Governor Kazuo Ueda for clues on how the protracted Iran war affects the central bank's rate-hike path. The yen strengthened a touch to 159.21 per U.S. dollar, but was near the 160 level that traders have been worried about as a breach



beyond it might spur Tokyo to step in to support the currency. The yen has been straddling 159 since mid-March. Japan's Nikkei was down 0.5% after scaling a fresh peak in the previous session. Markets will now focus on comments from Governor Kazuo Ueda for clues on how the protracted Iran war affects the central bank's rate-hike path. The yen strengthened a touch to 159.21 per U.S. dollar, but was near the 160 level that traders have been worried about as a breach beyond it might spur Tokyo to step in to support the currency. "Still, today's message from the Bank of Japan is that it remains poised to tighten policy sooner than later." **MARKETS AWAIT CLARITY ON US-IRAN TALKS, HORMUZ** In geopolitics, the U.S. was reviewing Tehran's latest proposal to resolve the war in the Middle East but a U.S. official said President Donald Trump was unhappy with the proposal because it did not address Iran's nuclear programme.

China supplies over 30 per cent of India's industrial goods; over-dependence on single nation critical: GTRI

New Delhi, Apr 28: China accounts for around 16 per cent of India's total imports, but its dominance is significantly higher in industrial goods, supplying as much as 30.8 per cent of the country's requirements, think tank GTRI said on Tuesday. The country's imports increased to USD 774.98 billion in 2025-26. Out of this, USD 131.63 billion was from China. Dependence on a single supplier for critical inputs leaves sectors like pharmaceuticals, electronics and clean energy exposed to disruptions, whether geopolitical or commercial, it said. The GTRI analysis said that about 66 per cent of India's imports from China, valued at USD 82.6 billion, are clustered in electronics, machinery,



computers, and organic chemicals. China accounts for 43 per cent of India's electronics imports, 40 per cent of machinery and computer imports, and 44 per cent of organic chemicals. "These are not discretionary purchases but core inputs that feed directly into India's manufacturing ecosystem," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said. He said that the Indian industry relies heavily on Chinese inputs such as electronics parts, EV batteries, solar modules, APIs and specialty chemicals. "As a result, even as India tries to grow exports, its supply chains remain tied to China. This creates clear risks," he added.

Piyush Goyal Chairs Meet With Exporters After India-NZ FTA, Pushes For \$2 Trillion Export Target By 2030

New Delhi, Apr 28: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday chaired a meeting with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and industry bodies at Bharat Mandapam to chart the next steps for strengthening India's export ecosystem following the India-New Zealand free trade agreement. According to an official statement, representatives from 30 EPCs and leading industry chambers attended the meeting, along with senior officials from the Department of Commerce and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Addressing the gathering, Goyal said India's total



merchandise and services exports touched a record \$860.09 billion in FY 2025-26, marking a 4.22% year-on-year growth. He highlighted that sectors such as engineering goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, gems and jewellery, and agri-based

agreements with developed economies to expand market access, boost outbound shipments, and generate employment. During the meeting, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade presented a detailed export reform framework, including sectoral performance reviews, a KPI-based evaluation system for EPCs, promotion of e-commerce exports, and the Districts as Export Hubs initiative. It also outlined plans for a Digital Trade Academy, measures to address disruptions arising from the West Asia crisis, and steps to expedite the Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC) process. The DGFT stressed the need for EPCs to act as equal partners with the government in diversifying markets, onboarding more MSMEs into the export ecosystem, and driving technology adoption to ensure measures come. Industry representatives raised concerns over compliance costs, testing requirements, and challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing global markets. Goyal assured continued government support through facilitation measures and targeted interventions aimed at reducing entry barriers and improving ease of doing business.

Nifty, Sensex Slip In Opening Session Amid FII Selling, West Asia Uncertainty

New Delhi, Apr 28: The share markets in the country opened on a cautious note on Tuesday, with benchmark indices witnessing marginal declines amid continued foreign institutional investor (FII) selling, elevated crude oil prices, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia. The Nifty 50 index opened at 24,049.90, declining by 42.80 points or 0.18 per cent, while the BSE Sensex started the session at 77,094.79, down by 208.84 points or 0.27 per cent.



Market experts attributed the subdued sentiment to persistent global factors and shifting investor preferences. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, highlighted the underlying reasons behind sustained FII outflows from India.

"It is important to understand the principal reason behind sustained FII selling in India. India underperformed hugely in 2025, and this trend is continuing in 2026, too. S&P 500 set new records this year. Kospi is up 55 per cent YTD while Nifty is down 7.8 per cent YTD. The principal reason behind this

underperformance is the booming AI trade, which began in 2025 and is continuing this year. A few AI stocks are driving this AI trade globally. Bulk of portfolio flows are hot money that chase momentum. So long as this market momentum continues, FIIs are likely to continue selling," he said.

He further noted, "But dominant market trends are temporary. There are strong views that there is a bubble in AI stocks. So there can be a correction in this segment at any time. That can be a trigger for the resumption of portfolio flows into India. Investors should watch out for this trend. When that happens, fairly-valued largecaps will outperform. Till then, the mid and smallcaps which don't have significant FII exposure may continue to outperform."

On the sectoral front, a mixed trend was observed in early trade on the NSE. Pharma and PSU bank stocks remained under pressure, while select sectors showed resilience. Nifty FMCG edged up by 0.11 per cent, Nifty IT gained 0.24 per cent, Nifty Media rose 0.38 per cent, and Nifty Metal advanced 0.27 per cent.

EY-FICCI Report Calls for GST Reduction to 9% for Premium Stays

New Delhi, Apr 28: Ernst & Young LLP (EY India), in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), has proposed a revised Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure for hotel accommodations, recommending a reduction in the higher tariff category from 18% to 9% for room rates above ₹7,500, while retaining the existing 5% slab for tariffs between ₹1,000 and ₹7,500, a targeted intervention aimed at easing the tax burden, enhancing value perception, and better aligning India's hospitality pricing with competing global destinations. "Higher cost of accommodation, transportation and



taxes are the reason India is often perceived as an expensive destination in comparison to countries such as Thailand and Vietnam. India currently levies 5% GST for room tariffs between ₹1,000 and ₹7,000 and 18% for tariffs above ₹7,500. The 18% tax on higher tariff categories impact overall price competitiveness particularly for international travellers. A reduced GST of 9% for

tariffs above ₹7,500 will enhance value perception, improve affordability across segment and better align India with competitive destinations," said the report, which was released at 3-day long GITB 2026 being organized from April 26-28, 2026. The report also identifies key structural challenges constraining India's global competitiveness — fragmented state-level branding.

NITI Aayog Launches Roadmap For Next Phase Of India's Digital Public Infrastructure Journey

New Delhi, Apr 28: NITI Aayog has launched a strategic roadmap that charts the next phase of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) journey as a driver of inclusive, non-linear, and productivity-led growth at scale, followed by DPI 3.0 (2035-2047) to enable broad-based prosperity. The 'DPI@2047 for Viksit Bharat' marks an important evolution in India's digital journey from digital inclusion alone to enabling capability, productivity, and opportunity at scale. According to a NITI Aayog

statement, the roadmap, developed in partnership with EkStep Foundation and Deloitte, sets out a two-phase path for India's digital transformation: DPI 2.0 (2025-2035) to drive livelihood-led growth at scale, followed by DPI 3.0 (2035-2047) to enable broad-based prosperity. The immediate focus is DPI 2.0.

Under DPI 2.0, the roadmap identifies eight sectoral transformations to address structural bottlenecks across MSMEs, agri-



culture, education, and health, while strengthening systemic enablers such as credit, decentralised energy, and benefit delivery. To translate intent into outcomes, it outlines four ex-

ecution imperatives: district-led demand aggregation, scaling technology entrepreneurship, leveraging AI, and deploying cross-sector unlocks through better data use,

digital transactions, stronger human capacity, and the democratisation of AI, said the statement. At its core, DPI 2.0 is about extending India's digital rails beyond entity-

ty, payments, and welfare into the engines of livelihoods, productivity, and market access.

It reflects a larger shift in how growth will be created in the years ahead: not simply by investing new technologies, but by building the connective infrastructure that allows innovation to work together, travel faster, and reach more people. By combining open digital infrastructure with trusted data flows and ecosystem-led innovation, the roadmap creates the

conditions for technologies such as AI to diffuse at scale across citizens and small enterprises.

Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government, highlighted that technology leadership will increasingly be defined by our ability to translate science and innovation into scalable, trusted public outcomes. "India's DPI has demonstrated the power of open, interoperable systems at population scale. The next

phase must build on this foundation, integrating frontier technologies with strong scientific rigour and safeguards. This roadmap

reflects that direction, focusing on responsible deployment and real-world impact. India has the scientific depth and digital foundations to lead by example," he mentioned. Suman Bery, outgoing Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, said the focus has shifted from GDP to productivity. Higher quality employment, stronger.

Harvinder Singh reviews progress of 100 Day J&K Nasha Mukta Abhiyan in Poonch Over 550 activities engage more than 2 lakh people

Poonch, April 28:

In a significant push towards realizing a drug free society, Harvinder Singh, Mentor for District Poonch under the Government's 100 Days J&K Nasha Mukta Abhiyan (NMB), chaired a comprehensive review meeting today at the meeting Hall of the Deputy Commissioner Office. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafiqat Bhat, ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, along with other district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, District Social Welfare Officer Khalil A Bandy delivered a presentation, outlining the action plan



and progress achieved under the campaign across the district. It was informed that District Poonch has conducted more than 550

While reviewing the progress, Harvinder Singh appreciated the concerted efforts of all departments and emphasized the need to sustain momentum, strengthen grassroots level engagement, and ensure impactful awareness initiatives under the ongoing Government campaign.

The DC Ashok Kumar Sharma reiterated the administration's commitment to further intensify the drive by involving youth, educational institutions, and community stakeholders, while the SSP Shafiqat Bhat stressed upon robust enforcement measures alongside awareness drives.

Later, Harvinder Singh visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Poonch, where a painting competition under the

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was being conducted, appreciating the creativity and active participation of students in spreading awareness against drug abuse.

He also visited the Sports Stadium Poonch, where he inaugurated a cricket match organized as part of the campaign, highlighting the importance of sports and youth engagement as powerful tools in promoting a healthy and drug free lifestyle.

The meeting and subsequent visits concluded with a renewed commitment to further scale up activities under the Government's 100 Days J&K Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, ensuring deeper outreach and meaningful societal impact across District Poonch.

Kishtwar admin hosts 3-Day Training Program for Field Trainers

KISHTWAR, APRIL 28:

The District Administration Kishtwar (Principal Census Office, Kishtwar), under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (Principal Census Officer) Pankaj Kumar Sharma and in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations J&K, today commenced a comprehensive three-day training programme for Field Trainers to further train the Field functionaries for the upcoming Census 2027.

The three-day training programme is being conducted with the objective of preparing field functionaries for effective execution of census duties. The training is being imparted to the Field Trainers by officials from the Directorate of Census



Operations J&K including Assistant Director (Census Operations Office Jammu), Balbir Singh; Master Trainer and others. A total of 12 field trainers are participating in the programme and undergoing intensive training. The participants are being acquainted with key aspects of census methodology, data collection techniques, use of digital tools and field-level coordination mechanisms to ensure accurate and efficient enumeration.

3-day training for Field Trainers begins in Udhampur



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 28: District Administration Udhampur (Principal Census Office) in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations J&K today commenced a three-

day training programme for Field Trainers (FTs) for Phase-I of Census 2027 (House Listing and Housing Census). The programme is being conducted under the chair-

manship of Deputy Commissioner (Principal Census Officer) Minga Sherpa. The resource persons from the Directorate of Census Operations J&K including Nodal Officer Nimrat Kour and District Master Trainer Ashish Kumar Sharma and District Coordinator Ajit Raj would impart training to the Field Trainers. Master Trainers are being equipped to effectively train Enumerators and Supervisors for the smooth conduct of Phase-I of the Census 2027 -House Listing and Housing Census.

DC Reasi reviews preparedness for summer season Calls for proactive measures for medical emergencies amid rising temperature

REASI, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting to review preparedness of departments for summer season, particularly effective management of Heatwave amid rising temperatures. A comprehensive assessment of departmental readiness was undertaken, with emphasis on a coordinated and proactive response. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to remain alert, respond promptly to IMD advisories and strengthen mitigation measures including establishment of dedicated cool



rooms in hospitals, equipping ambulances for heat-related emergencies and regulating working hours where necessary. He stressed ensuring uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply, maintaining adequate stocks of ORS

and essential medicines across health facilities and intensifying public awareness on heatstroke prevention, particularly for children and the elderly. He also called for provision of water for livestock, issuance of safety advisories for out-

door workers, organization of awareness camps and strengthening of fire and forest safety measures. The Education Department was advised to regulate school timings and implement safeguards for students during peak heat conditions. The Jal Shakti Department and Municipal Committees were directed to ensure uninterrupted and accessible drinking water facilities, with special focus on tourist locations. The Jal Shakti Department was further tasked with monitoring water supply schemes and preparing contingency plans, including water

tanker deployment, while the Power Development Department was directed to ensure stable power supply during peak hours. The Police Department was directed to maintain strict vigil at checkpoints and ensure availability of fluids to assist persons in distress, particularly during heat wave conditions and cases of heat stroke. The Animal Husbandry Department was instructed to create awareness regarding livestock care during heat wave conditions and ensure availability of veterinary medicines.

DC inaugurates 3-day Mobile Passport Van Service Camp at Ramban

RAMBAN, APRIL 28: The Regional Passport Office (RPO) Jammu, under the Ministry of External Affairs-Government of India, today launched a three-day Mobile Passport Van Service Camp at the District Administrative Complex Ramban.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aiyas Khan inaugurated the camp in the presence of Section Officer Sunil Kher and others. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner advised the public to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to apply for passports at their doorstep, especially benefiting those residing in hilly and remote areas. The camp will con-



clude on April 30, 2026. The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to the Regional Passport Office Jammu and the Ministry of External Affairs for organizing the Mobile Passport

Van Service Camp in the district for the second time. "District Administration will extend full cooperation to ensure smooth conduct of the camp and facilitate maximum public participation," he assured.

Such initiatives, he said, are making public services more accessible, transparent and citizen-centric, particularly for people living in far-flung and mountain-

ous regions. The programme is being coordinated by the Section Officer, who also interacted with the media. He stated that similar camps are being held in other districts of the Jammu province and this is the second such camp organized in District Ramban.

He further added that the camp shall particularly benefit physically challenged individuals, elderly citizens and weaker sections of society. "Biometric capture and document verification are being carried out on the site and after due processing and police verification, passports will be delivered to applicants at their doorsteps" he added.

Chairman DLSA Jammu reviews arrangements for 2nd National Lok Adalat scheduled on May 9, 2026

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu R. N. Watal on Tuesday chaired a meeting in his office chamber to assess the preparations for the 2nd National Lok Adalat scheduled on May 9, 2026.

The meeting, attended by Judicial Officers, focused on ensuring comprehensive arrangements for the successful conduct of the event. Deliberations centered on Case Identification suitable for resolution through the Lok Adalat; logistical arrangements including security of venues, infrastructure availability and manpower.



Stress was laid on awareness and outreach. Promoting the Lok Adalat and its benefits among the public, especially those with pending cases. The Chairman urged all officials to work diligently to make the National Lok

Adalat a resounding success. He emphasized that this significant event provides a vital platform for resolving pending cases through mediation and settlement, thereby promoting access to justice and reducing the burden on courts.

DDC reviews Master Plan for Development of Reasi District

REASI, APRIL 28: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the Master Plan for the overall development of the district. A comprehensive discussion was held on key components of the plan, including urban planning, infrastructure development, traffic management, sanitation and environmental sustainability. The DDC underscored the need for planned and balanced growth to meet the rising demands of the population while maintaining ecological balance.

Officers presented detailed updates on the status of the Master Plan, highlighting progress achieved and challenges encountered in its implementation. The DDC reviewed key



proposals aimed at strengthening civic amenities, improving road connectivity and enhancing public service delivery. He emphasized that these measures are vital for ensuring orderly urban expansion, improving quality of life and promoting sustainable development. Stressing timely exe-

cution of works, the DDC directed concerned departments to ensure close coordination and adherence to prescribed timelines. He also highlighted the importance of adopting modern planning approaches and encouraging public participation to make the Master Plan more inclusive and effective.

Rana reviews flood relief, traffic management, EMRS functioning in Poonch

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting to review the flood relief efforts, traffic management, soil conservation initiatives and key development measures in Poonch district. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kumar Sharma and senior district officers from the concerned departments through video conferencing. Reviewing the status of relief structures for the flood-affected families in Kalaban, Sarhuti and Sangote, the Minister expressed concern over delays and directed the officials to speed up the process without further lapse. Reiterating the government's commitment,



Rana said that relief must reach every affected household and no one should be left behind. The government is fully committed to provide relief to every affected family, he added. Highlighting the need for long-term resilience, he stressed the sustainable rehabilitation measures,

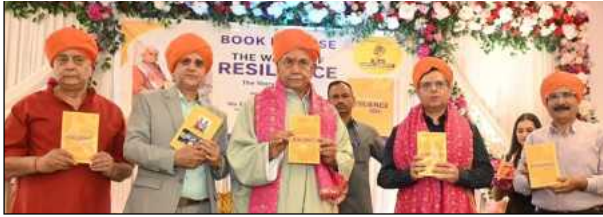
including soil conservation, slope stabilisation, drainage improvement and plantation drives. He directed that these initiatives be carried out in convergence mode with the Forest Department to ensure optimal utilisation of resources. Taking serious notice of traffic con-

gestion caused by improper parking in Mendhar and other areas, the Minister instructed the administration to take immediate corrective steps. He emphasised the regulation of heavy vehicle movement, directing that proper timing schedules be enforced to avoid disruption to school

buses and emergency services, including ambulances. The Minister also directed the officials to involve elected representatives in the planning and implementation of development programmes. He stressed that public representatives play a vital role in reflecting grassroots concerns and should be kept informed and consulted at every stage. Rana reviewed the functioning of the Eklavya Model Residential School, directing that all pending construction works be completed within stipulated timelines. He assessed key aspects such as manpower availability, water supply reliability and infrastructure upgrades, including improvements to the dining hall and hostel facilities for the boys and girls.

Lieutenant Governor Attends the Launch of the Book 'The Waves of Resilience, Story of Radio Sharda'

LG Manoj Sinha Commended Shri Ramesh Hangloo and his team for preserving rich culture and values



JAMMU, APRIL 28: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, today launched the book 'The Waves of Resilience, Story of Radio Sharda' edited by Shri Ramesh Hangloo, the founder of Radio Sharda. The book is a collection of articles written by common listeners, litterateurs and renowned personalities from Kashmiri Pandit Community and highlights the impact of Radio Sharda on the socio-cultural activities of the community.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Ramesh Hangloo and his team for preserving rich culture and values. "Kashmiri Pandit community endured genocide and was uprooted from their ancestral soil. They left behind all material possessions, carrying only light of culture, tradition, faith, education, and language. More than two decades later, in 2011, Ramesh Hangloo transformed it into a beacon of hope and unity through Radio Sharda, connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world to their roots," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that Radio Sharda has preserved songs, stories, and traditions and gave platforms to poets, scholars, and artists, ensuring their voices inspire new generations.

protect and expand rich cultural heritage, breathe new life into traditions, language, music, and rituals. Youth must ensure that Kashmiri Pandit's cultural legacy thrives, evolves, and endures meaningfully for generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that successive generations of Kashmiri Pandits endured profound hardships beyond the genocide, a wound time cannot fully heal. He said initiatives like Radio Sharda provided a vital lifeline, reinforcing community bonds. The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated prominent citizens of the community from diverse fields for their contribution to the society.

DSEJ reviews implementation of Educational Reforms in Division

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Director School Education Jammu today chaired a review meeting attended by Joint Directors and Chief Education Officers of Jammu Division here at the Directorate headquarters Muthi. Personnel Officer Manisha and other officials of the Directorate also attended the meeting.

The meeting, comprehensive in both scope and intent, focused on a wide spectrum of academic, administrative and developmental issues central to the functioning of the School Education Department. At the outset, the Director undertook a detailed review of the recently declared Class 10th and 12th Board Examination results (Winter and Summer Zones). District-wise, zone-wise and institution-wise performance was assessed with emphasis on pass percentage, subject performance and comparative trends. The Director complimented schools, students and the teaching fraternity for the commendable performance recorded this year. He urged institutions fallen short of expectations to introspect and redouble their efforts. Calling for collective resolve, he urged all stakeholders to work in unison to secure even better results in the years ahead. The issue of Masters' Seniority was also discussed at length. Stressing the importance of transparency, fairness and

procedural correctness, the Director directed the concerned officers to expedite all pending matters in accordance with established norms and regulations. Acknowledging the growing importance of digital learning, the meeting deliberated extensively on the preparation of high-quality subject-wise e-content, including detailed video lectures and supplementary academic material. Officers were instructed to ensure that such resources are developed systematically and made accessible to students across all regions, particularly those in remote and underserved areas. A detailed review was also conducted regarding the progress of K-12 schools across Jammu Division. Zone-wise, block-wise and teshil-wise assessments were undertaken to evaluate academic standards, infrastructural development, implementation of innovative practices and overall institutional preparedness. "These schools must evolve into centres of excellence and innovation," the Director emphasized. The Plantation Drive undertaken across schools also came up for review. District-wise Action Taken Reports were examined and officers were directed to ensure not only the completion of plantation targets but also the survival, maintenance and sustained care of the saplings planted.

Anil Gupta Sr Vice President called on LG Manoj Sinha

JAMMU, APR 28: Anil Gupta, senior vice president jammu chamber of commerce and industry called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhawan, Jammu. Gupta congratulated Lieutenant Governor for his wide spread campaign against drugs & expressed his gratitude. Gupta said under the leadership of LG Sinha youth of Jammu and Kashmir will be secured from drug's. Gupta also said all business community & industry fraternity is with Lieutenant Governor in this Nasha Mukht



Abhayan. He also invited Shiv Market opposite Railway Station, Jammu, LG Sahib assured that he will visit Trust shortly.

DC Kathua reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at Lakhanpur

KATHUA, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma and Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh, visited Lakhanpur today to take stock of arrangements being put in place for the smooth transit of pilgrims undertaking the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the buildings earmarked for the Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre to ensure seamless registration, assistance and move-



ment of Yatris entering the district. He reviewed the infrastructure, drinking

water supply, power availability, medical support, security arrangements and

departments to ensure timely completion of all arrangements well before the commencement of the Yatra. He asked officers to maintain high standards of cleanliness, ensure proper deployment of staff, establish adequate help desks and provide round-the-clock essential services for the pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that all arrangements must be pilgrim-friendly and executed with utmost efficiency so that devotees experience a safe, comfortable and hassle-free journey through Kathua district.

traffic management measures being planned at the facilitation point. The DC also visited Guru Teg Bahadur College and Vivekanand College, which have been designated as Yatri Lodgement Centres. He inspected the availability of accommodation facilities, bedding arrangements, sanitation, washrooms, uninterrupted water and electricity supply, cleanliness and other essential amenities for the convenience of pilgrims. Stressing the importance of coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned

ACS Tourism visits Budgam; flags off 'Run for Nasha Mukht JK', participates in plantation drive

BUDGAM, APRIL 28: The district administration Budgam today organized a comprehensive programme under the 100 Day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhayan at Sheikh-ul-Alam Degree College, Budgam, aimed at strengthening the public awareness and collective action against drug abuse.

The programme was graced by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, who is also the district mentor for Budgam.

The event commenced with the flag-off of the "Run for Nasha Mukht JK", symbolizing a united pledge towards a drug-free society. This was followed by a plantation drive, reinforcing the message of sustainable and healthy living.

A signature campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation of the students and stakeholders,



highlighting community commitment to the cause.

In his keynote address, Dr. Verma lauded the district adminis-

tration and participating institutions for their proactive role in implementing the Nasha Mukht Abhayan. The ACS stressed the

need for sustained awareness campaigns, community participation and institutional accountability in curbing the drug abuse.

He directed all the departments to adopt a mission-mode approach, ensure regular outreach in educational institutions and strengthen the counseling and rehabilitation mechanisms. He further emphasized the importance of youth engagement through sports, culture and skill-based initiatives to channel their energies positively. Dr. Verma also underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination, strict enforcement against drug peddling and enhanced vigilance at vulnerable points. He called for leveraging local leadership, including Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society, to amplify the impact of the campaign.

Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhayan "DIPR Cultural Unit Jammu promotes anti-drug campaign among students"

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Continuing its outreach under the "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir - 100 Day Campaign", the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today organised a Symposium-cum-Theme Based Cultural Programme here at Doon International School. The programme was aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and motivating them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Students actively participated in the symposium and shared insightful views on the subject, reflecting awareness towards building a drug-free society. Ashvya Malik secured the first position



for an impressive presentation, whereas Gurveer Singh and Prikshit Singh were adjudged second and third respectively.

The Chief Guest, Vice Principal Dr. Sarita Moza Kaul along with Special Guest Sajjad and Headmistress Shivali Singh, appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to act as ambassadors for spreading awareness against drug abuse. They also acted as Jury for the symposium. The competition was coordinated

by Amardeep Kaur and Avneet Kour, while the proceedings were conducted by Malleena Mushtaq. Adding further impact to the programme, a Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukht was presented by the students of the school, effectively conveying a strong social message.

The artists of the Cultural Unit Jammu also presented theme-based songs in Hindi and Punjabi, which inspired the audience and reinforced the campaign's message.

DC Anantnag reviews SANJY-2026 preparations at Nunwan, Chandanwari Base Camps

Directs seamless arrangements for smooth, successful conduct of Yatra

ANANTNAG, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Yatra Officer, Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited Nunwan Pahalgam to review and assess the preparations being made for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2026. ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, SDM Pahalgam, Amit

Gupta, SE Hydraulics, CAHO, BMO Sallar, Tehsildar Pahalgam, officers from PDA and engineering wings besides other concerned officials accompanied the DC during the visit. On the occasion, the DC took a detailed and comprehensive review of the preparedness and arrangements for the upcoming Yatra. He was

briefed about the logistical facilities including accommodation, tentage, water supply, power supply, health care, sanitation and other essential services that shall be made available to the pilgrims during their journey to the Holy Cave. It was informed that round-the-clock monitoring mechanisms have been planned to ensure

uninterrupted services and promptly address any emergent issues faced by the Yatris. Further, as a novel initiative, "females only kiosks" will be installed at Nunwan Base Camp to cater to the special needs and issues of the female devotees. Expressing satisfaction on the overall progress on SANJY 2026 preparations made so far,

the DC directed that all necessary arrangements including essential services be put in place in a smooth and time bound manner. He instructed for providing adequate facilities to the devotees at all base camps, transit points and other important locations enroute the Holy Cave so they have a seamless and enriching experience

during the entire journey. Dr. Bilal called for collective efforts and sustained coordination by all stakeholder agencies including civil administration, line departments, police, security forces and service providers, so the Yatra is conducted safely and successfully. He further asked the departments to augment the gaps or

loopholes, if any, encountered during last year Yatra and take the effective remedial measures well in advance to facilitate the sacred pilgrimage. Later, the DC visited Chandanwari Camp and inspected the medical facilities, availability of emergency response systems, and preparedness for high-altitude health emergencies.

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

