

# Northin News

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## BJP poised to retain Assam with thumping majority, edge in Bengal

**Exit Polls predict DMK to return in TN, UDF to take Kerala**

**NEW DELHI, APR 29:** Several exit polls on Wednesday predicted a thumping victory for the BJP in Assam and a clear edge for the party over the ruling TMC in West Bengal. Also the exit polls predicted return of the DMK government in Tamil Nadu and a comeback by the Congress-led UDF in Kerala after 10 years. The pollsters also forecast a return to power for the



between 85-95 seats and the Congress and its allies 25-32. The Assam assembly has 126 seats with the magic mark being 64. In Kerala, Axis My India

forecast that the UDF would get 78-90 seats, LDF 40-62 and NDA 0-3. People's Pulse predicted that the Congress-led UDF would get 75-85 seats, the LDF 55-65 and the NDA 0-3. Matrice forecast 60-65 seats for the LDF, 70-75 seats for the UDF and 3-5 seats for the NDA. Kerala Assembly has a total of 140 seats with the magic mark being 71. In West Bengal, the People's Pulse exit poll predicted that the TMC would get 177-187 seats, BJP 95-110. Left

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## LG Sinha reviews security situation preparedness for Amarnath Yatra



**JAMMU, APR 29:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday reviewed the security situation and preparedness for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra at a meeting here. The security review was held ahead of the annual 'Darbar Move'.

with the secretariat scheduled to close in the winter capital Jammu on April 30 and reopen in Srinagar on May 4. The meeting, chaired by Sinha, was attended by senior Army, police, security, intelligence and administrative officials.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, sources privy to the matter said. It focused on law and order management and coordinated security arrangements, they said. The overall security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir was

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## Four teachers suspended in Rajouri over unauthorized absence, poor school functioning

**RAJOURI, APR 29:** The Chief Education Officer Rajouri has placed four teachers of Middle School Namban, Zone Rajouri under suspension following allegations of unauthorized absence and serious administrative lapses in the institution. The action was taken after a complaint regarding frequent absenteeism of teachers prompted the formation of an inquiry committee comprising two lecturers, who conducted a surprise inspection of the school. The committee, in its report, found that out of five teachers posted at the school, only one teacher Abdul Shakoor was present during the inspection, while four others, identified as Ayaz Ahmed, Mohd Jhangeer, Vikram Bali, and Mushtaq Ahmed, were absent without any sanctioned leave. It was further revealed that against an enrollment of 123 students,

only 28 students were present at the time of inspection, reflecting poor academic and administrative functioning. Taking serious note of the findings, the authorities said that the unauthorized absence amounts to gross misconduct and dereliction of duty, adversely affecting students and the overall functioning of the school. Accordingly, the four teachers have been suspended under Rule 31 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, with immediate effect. During the suspension period, Vikram Bali has been attached to PS Jabber Dhara in Zone Doongi, while the remaining three teachers will remain attached to the same school until further arrangements are made. Officials stated that further action will be taken as per

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## Omar's Bani visit cancelled due to bad weather

**JAMMU, APR 29:** Chief minister Omar Abdullah's visit to inaugurate development projects and address a public gathering in Kathua district's Bani area was cancelled on Wednesday due to inclement weather conditions. "Due to bad weather and rain, the Chief Minister's programme had to be cancelled, which has left us quite disappointed. The people are also very disheartened," Bani MLA Dr Rameshwar Singh told reporters. He said the

chief minister, along with Education and Health Minister Sakina Ttoo, was scheduled to visit Bani-Lohimal, where many people had gathered with high expectations. "All of us, along with the entire public of the area, had high hopes for this programme. Many people were very enthusiastic about the chief minister's visit," Singh said. He said many people turned up at the venue despite heavy rain. The MLA said the

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Sacred Piprahwa relics of Buddha arrive in Leh people gather in huge numbers to pay respect

**LEH, APR 29:** The sacred Piprahwa relics of the Buddha were accorded a ceremonial reception on arrival in Leh on Wednesday, as people poured out of their homes and gathered along the roads to pay respect. The religious ceremony, with religious figures and government officials in attendance, witnessed traditional performances, ceremonial honours and sacred rituals, reflecting the region's rich Buddhist heritage. This marks the beginning



of marking a rare and significant spiritual occasion in the Union Territory of Ladakh with an exposition for the public to be held in the first two weeks of May.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena received a ceremonial welcome to the sacred relics at the Technical Area of Leh

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### BRIEF NEWS

**JKP promotes 1,785 personnel across ranks**

**SRINAGAR, APR 29:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday promoted 1,785 personnel to their next ranks, a police spokesman said. A departmental promotion committee, constituted under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V K Birdi, assessed the suitability of eligible head constables, selection grade constables, and constables before approving the promotions, he said. The promoted personnel include 300 head constables, 1020 selection grade constables and 465 constables, who have been elevated to the ranks of assistant sub

(Contd on Pg 2)

**Two habitual offenders detained under PSA in Doda shifted to Udhampur jail**

**JAMMU, APR 29:** Two habitual offenders were detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda on Wednesday and lodged in Udhampur district jail, officials said. Police said that the preventive action was taken to maintain public order and curb criminal activities in the district. One of the accused was identified as Mohd Rafiq of Sekwan Beoli in Doda. He was allegedly involved in several theft and snatching cases, they said. There are four cases against him under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), they said. Another detained person,

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Division Bench Seeks ATR on Healthcare Gaps Across J&K

**JAMMU, APRIL 29 (JNF):** The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has directed the respondent authorities to submit a fresh status report indicating the progress made on the ground in a long-pending Public Interest Litigation concerning healthcare gaps and deficiencies across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Ramesh Oswal passed the direction while hearing connected PILs - PIL No. 2/2018, PIL No.

37/2013 and PIL No. 16/2018 - which seek to address the healthcare crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. The Court noted that the Public Interest Litigation filed by Citizens Forum Jammu has been pending since 2018 and aims to address serious concerns relating to the healthcare system in the Union Territory. It further observed that numerous affidavits have been filed by the respondent authorities from time to time pursuant to earlier orders passed by the Court.

(Contd on Pg 2)

## HC Ensures Women's Voice in Bar Leadership, Seeks Compliance in One Week

**JAMMU, APRIL 29 (JNF):** In a major step towards strengthening women's participation in Bar leadership, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has directed all Bar Associations across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh to ensure 30 percent reservation for women advocates in their governing or executive bodies. The direction has been issued through a circular by the Office of the Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in compliance with the directions passed by the Supreme Court in Deeksha N Amruthesh vs State of Karnataka

& Ors, Special Leave Appeal (C) Nos. 1404 of 2025. As per the circular dated April 29, 2026, all Bar Associations falling within the jurisdiction of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh have been impressed upon to reserve 30 percent of the posts of governing or executive members for women advocates to ensure their adequate representation in Bar bodies. The circular further provides that where women advocates are not available or do not contest elections, the shortfall in representation shall be filled through nominations. Such

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Meteorological services underwent remarkable transformation in last decade: Jitendra Singh

**New Delhi, Apr 29:** Meteorological services have undergone a remarkable transformation over the last decade. Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said, "today, they provide reliable and precise predictions used by a wide spectrum of people". The minister stated that users, including farmers and homemakers, now routinely check weather updates on their mobile phones before stepping out, reflecting the growing trust and reach of India Meteorological Department (IMD) services. He made these comments while speaking at the inauguration of a selfie point, depicting weather radar, at the IMD headquarters on Lodhi Road. "This transformation has been made possible due to the high priority accorded to the sector by the government under the



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading to greater accuracy, accessibility and public trust in forecasts," Singh said. The minister also highlighted the role of doppler weather radar (DWR) technology in

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Ashwini Vaishnaw to flag off extended Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat service from Jammu on Thursday



**JAMMU, APR 29:** Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw will flag off a 20-coach Vande Bharat Express train between Jammu and Srinagar on April 30. "The modern 20-coach Vande Bharat train will commence its maiden journey from Jammu Tawi (JAT), Srinagar on Tuesday from Jammu to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, the officials said. The inaugural Vande Bharat train, equipped with

state-of-the-art amenities and comprising 20 coaches, will cover a total distance of 267 kilometres on Thursday. The train service will operate six days a week from Jammu to Srinagar and Srinagar to Jammu. There will be no train service on this route on Tuesdays. "Constructed using indigenous technology, this Vande Bharat Express will offer passengers a world-class travel experience," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said. "It features amenities such as the 'Kavachi' safety system for passenger security, a GPS-based information system, and comfortable rotating seats. This service will not only reduce travel time but also provide a massive boost to

Govt approves 18% fare hike for public transport across J&K

**JAMMU, APR 29:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved an 18 percent hike in fares for various categories of commercial passenger vehicles across the Union Territory, issuing a fresh notification in this regard. The Transport Department, in a notification issued from Civil Secretariat, has directed the Transport Commissioner, J&K to fix the revised maximum chargeable fares for different categories of vehicles, including stage carriage buses, taxis, maxi cabs and auto-rickshaws. The notification states that the revised fare structure will be applicable over and above the rates notified earlier vide SRC-97 dated

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FROM PAGE ONE

**BJP poised...**

Front 0-1 and the Congress 1-3. Matrizze, however, predicted a BJP edge in the state, and said it is likely to get 146-161 seats. It said the TMC would get 125-140 seats. P-Maqa predicted 150-175 for the BJP and 118-138 to the TMC. West Bengal has a total of 294 seats with the majority mark being 148. In Tamil Nadu, the People's Pulse predicted 125-145 for the DMK-led alliance, 65-80 for AIADMK-BJP and 18-24 for TVK. Matrizze forecast that the DMK-Congress would get 122-132, NDA 87-100 and TVK 10-12. The Tamil Nadu has a total of 234 seats with the magic mark being 118. Most exit polls have had a chequered history and have been off the mark on several occasions in the past. In Puducherry, Axis My India predicted 16-20 seats for the NDA and 6-8 for the DMK-Congress. It said the TVK is likely to get 2-4 seats in the assembly. There are 30 elected seats in Puducherry. The counting of votes for all the five assemblies West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam will be taken up on May 4. Polls were conducted in a single phase in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. West Bengal saw two-phase polling on April 23 and 29. On April 9, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry went to polls. Assam and Puducherry surpassed their highest-ever poll participation by recording a voter turnout of 85.38 per cent and 89.83 per cent respectively. Tamil Nadu went to polls on April 23 along with the first phase of polls in West Bengal. Tamil Nadu with 84.69 per cent recorded their highest-ever voter turnout in Assembly polls since Independence. In the first phase, West Bengal had recorded a record 91.78 per cent voter turnout. While the BJP is seeking to retain power in Assam and Puducherry, where it is in an alliance government with All India N R Congress, the Congress is looking to wrest power from its rival in both these places. In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF is seeking to replace the LDF government that is in power, while in Tamil Nadu, the DMK-led alliance is looking to retain power by thwarting the challenge from AIADMK-BJP and the debutant party - Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam that is led by actor-turned-politician Vijay. The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC is looking to retain West Bengal and thwart the challenge from the BJP.

**LG Sinha...**

reviewed, with particular emphasis on ensuring the safe and smooth conduct of the annual Anant Nath Yatra, a major pilgrimage that draws thousands of devotees every year. Deliberations were also held on maintaining a high degree of alertness, enhancing coordination among security forces and strengthening security measures across the Union territory. The L-G also reviewed the ongoing 100-day-long 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' and stressed the need for intensified action against narcotics along with sustained awareness initiatives, officials said.

**Four teachers...**

rules, while reiterating the department's commitment to ensuring accountability and quality education in government schools.

**Omar's Bani...**

chief minister was scheduled to interact with locals, address a public gathering, lay the foundation stones of several projects, and inaugurate others. He, however, said the cancellation was unavoidable. "This is nature, and there is little we can do about it," he said. Singh said the visit would be rescheduled soon. "In the coming time, another visit of the chief minister to Bani-Lohimatar will be scheduled very soon. We will speak to the chief minister and invite him and Madam Sakina Itoq again shortly," he said. Singh said the chief minister was keen to attend and waited till around 1:30 pm for the weather to improve. "However, no clearance was received by then, and finally the visit had to be cancelled," he said.

**Sacred...**

airport after they were flown in from New Delhi, where they are preserved. The relics were brought to Leh in a special Indian Air Force aircraft by Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche and Khenpo Thinas Choral of Matho Monastery. Several prominent religious and public figures were present on the occasion: Khamiak Rinpoche, Rigyal Rinpoche, Ladakh Gonpa Association president Ven. Dorje Stanzin, Ladakh Buddhist Association president Chering Dorje Lakmk, former MPs Thupstan Chewang and Janyang Tsering Nangyal, former Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill

Development Council, Leh Tashi Gyalsan, and representatives of various social, religious and political organisations.

The Ladakh Police presented a ceremonial guard of honour, while monks offered special prayers. Saxena offered 'khataks' and prayers on behalf of the people of Ladakh. Following the reception, the relics were taken in a grand procession to Jivetsal, the designated venue for public exposition starting May 1 that coincides with Buddha Purnima this year.

As the sacred relics arrived in Leh, men, women and elderly residents stepped out of their homes and gathered along roads. They stood in quiet reverence, many holding bouquets, while others folded their hands in prayer as the procession passed.

With heads slightly bowed and hands joined, devotees offered their respects in silence, creating a deeply spiritual and moving atmosphere across the town. Thousands of devotees from across Ladakh, dressed in traditional attire, lined the route to catch a glimpse of the relics, underscoring widespread faith and unity in the region.

Describing the occasion as highly auspicious, the lieutenant governor said the arrival of the relics has blessed Ladakh. He noted that while the relics have been exhibited internationally in several countries, this is the first time they have been brought out from their original place of preservation for exposition within India.

Saxena also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for choosing Ladakh for the event and highlighted the region's deep-rooted connection with Buddhism. He urged people to participate in large numbers to seek blessings of Lord Buddha. The Piprawha relics have previously been exhibited in countries such as Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Russia, Singapore, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, attracting global attention and devotion, according to an official statement.

In Ladakh, the relics will be open for public veneration at Jivetsal from May 2 to May 10. They will subsequently be taken to Zaskar on May 11 and 12, followed by exposition at the Dharma Centre in Leh from May 13 to May 14, before being returned to Delhi on May 15, it read.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with other Union ministers, ambassadors, chief ministers of Buddhist-majority states and representatives of various Buddhist organisations, is expected to visit Leh during the veneration period.

In view of the expected influx of devotees and tourists, the administration has undertaken extensive preparations across Leh. The LG has directed beautification drives, plantation initiatives, installation of flower pots and city-wide cleanliness campaigns to ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for visitors.

Piprawha relics refers to ancient sacred remains and associated objects linked to Gautama Buddha, discovered at Piprawha, an archaeological site in present-day Uttar Pradesh, India, near the Nepal border.

The relics have gained renewed global significance in recent years, especially after a collection of associated gems and offerings was repatriated to India in July 2025 from a British family and a private collection, ending over a century of colonial possession.

**Division...**

During the hearing, Amicus Curiae Advocate S.S. Ahmed, appearing along with advocates Supriya Chouhan and Zulkamain Chowdhary, drew the attention of the Court to the suggestions and response filed by him in PIL No. 16/2018 in terms of earlier orders dated February 21, 2024 and October 28, 2024.

The suggestions placed before the Court indicated district-wise staff strength of Medical Officers in Jammu Division, besides details regarding non-gazetted and Class-IV employees in Jammu as well as Kashmir province. The Amicus had also submitted multiple suggestions to effectively address the concerns and grievances raised in the petitions.

Appearing for the respondent authorities, counsel sought time to place the latest position before the Court. The Division Bench granted one week's time to file a status report indicating the progress, if any, achieved on the ground so far. The Court also directed that the report must disclose the steps taken by the authorities in terms of the suggestions submitted by the Amicus Curiae for addressing healthcare-related deficiencies in J&K.

The matter has been adjourned and listed for further consideration on May 20, 2026. (JNF)

**Meteorological...**

strengthening India's weather monitoring system. These radars use the doppler effect to track the movement and velocity of weather systems, enabling accurate and timely forecasts. Since 2014, India has significantly expanded its DWR network, increasing from 14 operational units to 50, which now covers about 87 per cent of the country. "The expanding radar network enables continuous monitoring of the atmosphere over large distances and supports early warnings for cyclones, thunderstorms, heavy rainfall and other extreme weather events," Singh said.

**'Parenting...**

framework with enhanced engagement strategies, teacher-led activities and focused psycho-social interventions to support students' emotional, social and academic development.

"Building on this momentum, the CBSE Parenting Calendar 2026-27 further strengthens and expands this vision by institutionalising structured engagement between schools and parents. The current edition introduces enhanced engagement strategies, teacher-led activities and focused psycho-social initiatives to support students' emotional, social, and academic growth, while addressing challenges faced by parents in today's evolving environment," the statement read.

New components have been added to improve its scope, including dedicated sections on inclusion to promote equitable practices for diverse learners, and 'coping with changes' to help parents and students adapt to evolving curriculum and academic expectations.

The parenting workshops section has also been strengthened with a developmental approach, enabling schools to design age-appropriate and context-specific engagement programmes.

According to CBSE, the calendar is designed to foster meaningful parent-child interactions, strengthen the home-school partnership, and serve as a practical guide for parents to actively participate in their child's developmental journey.

"Overall, the initiative aims to create a nurturing, inclusive and supportive ecosystem that promotes the holistic development, well-being and resilience of every learner," it added.

The board said the calendar is available on its official website and urged affiliated schools to adopt and implement it to create a nurturing, inclusive and supportive ecosystem for students. (Agencies)

**HC Ensures...**

nomination will be made by the concerned Administrative Judge in consultation with the concerned District and Sessions Judge, elected office bearers and the senior-most women members of the respective District Bar Associations. It has also been clarified that the tenure of nominated women members shall remain co-terminus with that of the elected members, meaning they will continue only for the same term as the elected executive body.

The J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, Kashmir Advocates Association and All District and Tehsil Bar Associations across J&K and Ladakh have been asked to take immediate steps for implementation of the directions. The High Court has also directed the concerned Bar Associations to submit compliance reports within one week from the date of issuance of the circular. The circular has been issued by order of Registrar General M.K. Sharma and circulated to Principal District and Sessions Judges, Presidents of Bar Associations, Registrars of the High Court, Judicial Academy and other concerned authorities for information and necessary compliance.

**Farooq...**

respecting its citizens, he told PTI. "If you want a strong India, then Bengalis have the right to choose their leadership without being coerced towards any other direction." Abdullah lashed out at the approach of some quarters in the government towards state elections and regional identities, specifically questioning if the people of West Bengal "are being treated as outsiders" within their own country.

Referring to the massive deployment of central police forces and the reshuffling of bureaucrats during the election season in West Bengal, Abdullah questioned the government's approach, saying "...the way even from Jammu and Kashmir forces have been removed in large numbers and sent, saying that they want a peaceful election... officers have been moved from states. What for? Is the Bengal not trusted? Is he (West Bengal) not part of the

nation?"

Abdullah did not mince words regarding the institutional oversight of the electoral processes in West Bengal, expressing his disappointment with the poll body.

"I pity the Election Commission in the way it has handled the situation," he said.

Without naming the BJP, he said, "They have not been successful up to this time. I do not know what the results will hold, but whatever it is, we must not follow such things", suggesting that the methods employed were flawed.

The second and final phase of polling was held in West Bengal on Wednesday, and the results will be announced on May 4.

Speaking about the diminishing space of separatists, Abdullah suggested that the threat of separatism, which has existed since independence, has "gradually reduced to a very minimum number".

Instead, Abdullah termed growing communal tensions in the country as a bigger threat. "Today, it's not the separatism that is worrying us... What is worrying us is the communal tendencies that have now emerged in our nation, where, for political power, you are dividing communities on a religious basis."

He warned that this trend is a danger not just for Jammu and Kashmir but also for the stability of the entire nation. He reminded that India's strength lies in its "unity in diversity," pointing out the vast differences in language and culture among regions from Jammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu.

"We will never become Vishwaguru unless we are united. Danger lies in not being united," he said and stressed that the only thing holding the country together is the collective will to help each other through difficult times.

"Together we can make a strong nation by helping each other in the difficult times that we are going through," he said.

**Ashwini...**

the local economy and tourism," he added. The direct train services between Jammu and Srinagar will reduce the travel time between the twin capitals and boost tourism, besides providing an all-weather surface transport link. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first direct train service between Katra and Srinagar on June 6, 2025. This service is now being extended up to the Jammu Tawi Railway station. Only an eight-coach train was running between Katra and Srinagar. Now, it will be a 20-coach train, which means more passengers will be able to travel.

**Govt...**

March 19, 2021, covering big buses, mini buses, contract carriage taxis such as Sumo, Bolero, Tempo Traveller, as well as medium and premium segment tourist vehicles including Scorpio, Xylo, Innova and Fortuner. It further specifies that auto-rickshaws and Tata Magic vehicles operating as stage carriages will also witness an 18 per cent increase in fares under the revised structure. Meanwhile, the government has separately fixed fares for electric vehicles, stating that e-rickshaws will charge ₹15 per kilometre, while e-autos will charge ₹25 for the first kilometre and ₹20 for each subsequent kilometre.

The order has been issued by the Transport Department under powers conferred by Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, partially modifying the earlier notification, and will come into effect as per the directions of the competent authority.

**JKP promotes...**

inspectors, head constables and selection grade constables, respectively. The IGP congratulated the promoted officials and their families and expressed hope that they would continue to work with dedication to maintain public peace, tranquillity, and law and order in the Union Territory, the spokesperson said.

**Two habitual...**

identified as Din Mohd of Dhar Dashnan, was also allegedly involved in multiple criminal cases, they said. The police said dossiers were prepared against both accused and submitted to the competent authority, which subsequently issued detention orders under the PSA.

A team executed the orders and shifted the two to the district jail in Udhampur, the police said. The police reiterated their resolve to take strict action against habitual offenders and anti-social elements to ensure peace and safety in the district.

**Back to Bachpan spells pure joy, participants relive childhood's timeless magic**

**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** JAMMU, APRIL 29: Under the golden haze of a Jammu afternoon, laughter pierced the chaos of adult life, raw, unfiltered and utterly free. Hundreds converged on the sprawling Dussehra Ground in Gandhi Nagar for "Back to Bachpan," a heartwarming initiative by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K. This event whisked the participants back to the playgrounds of their youth, reigniting forgotten joys. "This programme evoked deep nostalgia for the innocence, simplicity and unbridled fun of childhood," said Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. His eyes sparkled like a child is discovering a cricket ball, as he rallied volunteers, dusted off ancient rules and transformed the field into a living time machine, fueled by his own memories of chasing langris down narrow gullies. Banners fluttered with the message: Back to Bachpan—Where Joy Had No Price Tag. Families poured in—parents with

wide-eyed children, grandparents sharing bubbling tales, young professionals trading briefcases for barefoot sprints. Hundreds of people joined the "Back to Bachpan" event at Dussehra Ground in Gandhi Nagar on Tuesday. Organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, the programme brought families together to play childhood games. People took part in tug of war and hopscotch, with parents, grandparents and young professionals all joining in. A teacher who played hopscotch said she had not played since Class 3. The event aimed to help adults relive simple joys and take a break from busy routines. In the game of Kanche, marbles clinked inside a circle as players placed bets and showed off their skills. Children and adults used their fingers to flick the glass marbles, bringing back the memories of old Jammu bazaars. The egg-and-spoon race made everyone laugh. Five-year-olds and grandfathers tried to balance the wobbling eggs on spoons. When one egg fell and splattered, the crowd cheered loudly.

**Brahma laid foundation of Guru-Shishya tradition: Swami Ram Swarup**

**God bestowed Vedic knowledge upon four Rishis, who then passed it on to Brahma and subsequently, Brahma disseminated this knowledge to world**

**KATHUA, APR 29:** During the ongoing 78-day Yagna based on all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yogi Swami Ram Swarup Ji Yogacharya delivered an enlightening discourse, explaining the divine origin of Vedic knowledge and the significance of the Guru-Shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition in preserving and spreading this wisdom. Elaborating on Rigveda Mantra 10/18/11, Swami Ji stated that at the beginning of creation, by the power of God, the knowledge of the four Vedas is originated in the hearts of four ancient Rishis—Agni, Vayu, Aditya, and Angira. He explained that Brahma served the said four Rishis and thus acquired the complete knowledge of all four Vedas from them. Hence, four Rishis were called the Gunas of Brahma. It was through Brahma that the Guru-Shishya tradition began in the world, a tradition that continues to this day, enabling seekers to gain true knowledge of Vedas through proper guidance. Swami Ji emphasized that knowledge is not attained unless it is given by someone citing the



example of Lord Krishna imparting wisdom to Arjuna. He explained that initially, God bestowed Vedic knowledge upon the four Rishis, who then passed it on to Brahma, and subsequently, Brahma disseminated this knowl-

edge to the world through the established tradition of teaching and learning. Referring further to Rigveda Mantra 1/10/1, Swami Ji highlighted that different seekers, worshipping the one Supreme God in various ways, all rooted in Vedic knowledge. He noted that those skilled in musical rhythms and chants glorify God through the Samaveda, while others recite Vedic mantras in worship.

Those who perform Yajnas and are well-versed in all four Vedas lead virtuous lives and inspire future generations to follow the path of righteousness. Summarizing his discourse, Swami Ram Swarup Ji stated that true worship of God is performed strictly in accordance with the Vedas. He emphasized that the Vedas describe God as unique and incomparable, with no other entity equal to Him. He urged everyone to sing the praises of and worship only the Supreme God as described in the Vedas, reaffirming the timeless relevance of Vedic teachings in guiding humanity towards spiritual enlightenment.



## JMC Kickstarts Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 with Major Fleet Expansion and New Citizen Feedback Initiatives

JAMMU April 29, 2026 Jammu Municipal Corporation took decisive steps towards a cleaner and healthier Jammu today with the official launch of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26. Swachhata Jingle and flagging off the fleet of new garbage collection vehicles and revamping of the Garbage hotspot Challenge initiative and enhancing the Citizen Feedback system in an event held at Town Hall, Jammu in the presence of MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, and MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav and other officers of JMC.

Joint Commissioner (H&S), JMC Abdul Star, welcomed the dignitaries followed by ceremonial flag-off of 16 no. of garbage collection vehicles comprising of 10 No. of door-to-door (DDD) e-waste collection vehicles provided by HDFC Bank under the Parivartan Pariyojana in its CSR initiative, with a significant contribution of



₹1 crore toward the city's sanitation infrastructure. The remaining 06 more no. of vehicles (03 tippers & 03 auto-tippers) approximating to an amount of ₹89 lacs have been procured by Jammu Municipal Corporation. The Garbage Hotspot Challenge, an initiative of Jammu Municipal Corporation wherein quick reaction

teams has been established to dispose off the complaints regarding waste within 24 hours. An official Swachhata Awareness jingle in Dogri language written & designed by renowned Padma Awardee, Shri Balwant Thakur, was launched in the event. The lyrics of the song connect deeply with the cultural roots of Jammu, ensuring the message of a 'Swachh City' resonating in every household through the local mother tongue. In order to integrate social welfare with civic duty, the event also featured a solemn 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' pledge by the participants.

Under the directions and guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta, a plantation awareness and distribution Programme was successfully conducted today, wherein more than 2,000 cucurbit seedlings were distributed among nearly 300 students of Government High School Dandilhar, Government High School Sialna, and Government High School Uchapid. The initiative was carried out with the active involvement of field functionaries, including AEA Pytdanjandhar Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, AEA Sialna Sh. Raman Sharma, AEA Uchapid Sh. Ravi Kumar

## Department of English, CUJ Hosts "Commemorating the Writers' Series: On William Shakespeare"



Jammu, 29th April 2026: The Department of English, Central University of Jammu under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, today organized a literary event titled "Commemorating the Writers' Series: On William Shakespeare". The programme commenced with ceremonial lamp lighting by the Dean, Prof. Vandana Sharma, and the Head of the Department, Dr. K. Rajesh, along with faculty members. Students of B.A. and M.A., along with research scholars, presented a vibrant drama performance, the first segment of which showcased iconic scenes from plays of William Shakespeare. The second seg-

ment featured a comparative presentation of Abhinavakuntalam by Kalidasa and Romeo and Juliet, highlighting Eastern and Western perspectives on love and their cultural nuances. The performances reflected creativity, critical insight, and the spirit of performative learning, and the event witnessed enthusiastic participation and was well received by the audience. In their remarks, the Dean and the Head of the Department appreciated the students' efforts and emphasized the continued relevance of classical literature, and the programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the convener, Dr. Neena Gupta Vij.

## Indian Army conducted a lecture on Anti-Terror awareness at Sarsoti

Sarsoti: 29 Apr 2026

The Indian Army conducted a Lecture on Anti-Terror Awareness at Government High School, Sarsoti, on 29 April 2026. The initiative aimed to sensitize students and staff about the threats posed by terrorism and the importance of vigilance in daily life. During the session, emphasis was laid on the need for unity, national integrity and collective responsibility in maintaining peace and security. Students were educated on identifying suspicious activities, understanding early warning signs and adopting preventive measures. The role of responsible citizens in supporting security forces



and ensuring a safe environment was also highlighted. Special focus was given to the dangers of misinformation, particularly through social media and the importance of verifying information before sharing. The lecture encouraged awareness, critical thinking and responsible digital behavior among the youth. The session was interactive, with students actively participating by asking questions and sharing their views. The programme was well received and contributed significantly towards building awareness, confidence and a sense of responsibility among the participants

## Agriculture Department Conducts Seedling Distribution Drive Among Students

Billawar, 29 April: Under the directions and guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta, a plantation awareness and distribution Programme was successfully conducted today, wherein more than 2,000 cucurbit seedlings were distributed among nearly 300 students of Government High School Dandilhar, Government High School Sialna, and Government High School Uchapid. The initiative was carried out with the active involvement of field functionaries, including AEA Pytdanjandhar Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, AEA Sialna Sh. Raman Sharma, AEA Uchapid Sh. Ravi Kumar



and AEA Salore Sh. Rakesh Kumar, along with Social Worker Sh. Raj Kumar and Sh. Anil Gupta, Incharge Vegetable Nursery Uchapid. All the

seedlings were raised at the Vegetable Nursery, Uchapid. Speaking on the

occasion, Sh. Anil Gupta, Incharge Vegetable Nursery Uchapid, informed that the seedlings were distributed free of cost among the students. He emphasized that the primary objective of the initiative is to motivate the younger generation towards agriculture, encouraging them to develop interest, gain knowledge, and explore agriculture as a viable entrepreneurial opportunity in the future. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff, highlighting the importance of promoting agricultural awareness at the grassroots level.

## Three days Workshop on Molecular Biology and Microbiological tools and Techniques begins at CMB, CU Jammu

Jammu, Apr 29:

The Department of Biotechnology and Bioengineering (Centre for Molecular Biology), Central University of Jammu today inaugurated three days Hands on training Workshop on Molecular Biology and Microbiological tools and Techniques along with the newly established laboratory for molecular and microbiological work by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The inaugural session began with the formal welcome address by the Director of CMB, and convener of the workshop, Dr. Narendra K Bairwa. In his welcome address he high-



lighted the importance of hands-on training in experimental biology training. He also shared with the audience about the events which will take place in the three-day workshop. Dr. Bairwa welcomed more

than 50 participants of the workshop and expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain for his constant support and funding to the department for upgrading the laboratory infrastructure of the department. After formal welcome address the Dean, School of Life Sciences, Prof. Sunil Dhar interacted with the participants and encouraged students to develop scientific curiosity and remain dedicated towards their studies. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, also graced the occasion and appreciated the department efforts in strengthening academic and research infrastructure. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, Centre for Molecular Biology also expressed his happiness about the growth of the centre in the visionary leadership of HVC

Prof. Jain and motivated students to do well in their respective fields and actively take part in academic and research activities. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, expressed his happiness over the progress of the department and appreciated how it is moving forward with well-planned initiatives for students. He emphasized that students and scholars should be well-versed in handling laboratory equipment and make full use of available facilities. He also informed that the laboratory will remain open till late hours to support research work and encouraged students to work hard and remain open to new learning.

## GDC Kunjwani Organized Awareness Rally under 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' as Part of IEC 100 Days Campaign

Kunjwani, Apr 29:

Government Degree College Kunjwani organized an impactful Awareness Rally under the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' as part of the ongoing IEC 100 Days Campaign. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth and general public. The Rally was conducted under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Manisha Sarup Kohli, Principal of the College. It was convened by Prof. Rishi Kumar, and efficiently coordinated by Dr. Seshish Gazal and Dr. Rannik Kour. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 students, faculty members,



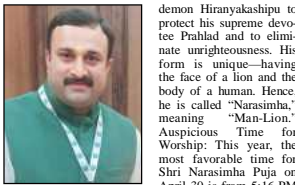
and who actively raised slogans and carried placards highlighting the importance of eradicating substance abuse from society. The participants marched through nearby areas, engaging with the local community and encouraging them to join the movement against drugs. Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Manisha Sarup Kohli emphasized the vital role of educational institutions

in shaping responsible citizens and urged students to act as ambassadors of change in building a drug-free society. Faculty members also interacted with students during the event, highlighting the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction. The rally concluded with a pledge taken by all participants to stay away from drugs and to actively spread awareness in their communities.

## Shri Narasimha (Narsingh) Jayanti to be Observed on April 30 with Proper Rituals: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Jammu, Apr 29:

The appearance day of Lord Shri Narasimha, Shri Narasimha (Narsingh) Jayanti, will be observed this year on Thursday, April 30, with devotion and proper rituals. Mahant Rohit Shastri, Pradhan of the Shri Kalalakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust (Registered), informed that according to the scripture Dharmasindhu, Narasimha Jayanti is observed on the Chaturdashi (14th day) of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Vaishakh, when the Chaturdashi Tithi prevails at sunset.



continues until Thursday, April 30 at 9:12 PM. Since the Chaturdashi Tithi is present at sunset on April 30, the auspicious festival of Shri Narasimha Jayanti will be celebrated on Thursday, April 30. Mahant Rohit Shastri stated that Lord Shri Narasimha is the fourth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, who destroyed the demon Hiranyakashipu to protect his supreme devotee Prahlad and to eliminate unrighteousness. His form is unique—having the face of a lion and the body of a human. Hence, he is called "Narasimha," meaning "Man-Lion." Auspicious Time for Worship: This year, the most favorable time for Shri Narasimha Puja on April 30 is from 5:16 PM to 8:02 PM. During this period, devotees can perform worship vidhipurab and earn spiritual merit. This shubhal of 2 hours and 46 minutes is considered especially fruitful. Fasting and Parana (Breaking the Fast): Devotees who are physically able may observe a fast on this day to receive divine blessings.

## PM Modi-Led Initiatives Drive Major Rural Development Boost in J&K: Rohini Chandan

Says, BJP Govt Accelerates Rural Transformation in J&K

Jammu, April 29, 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohini Chandan today stated that under the dynamic and visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, rural development in Jammu & Kashmir is gaining unprecedented momentum. He warmly welcomed the landmark initiatives announced by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, including the launch of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV, Batch-II, involving a ₹3,550 crore road project

and the release of additional assistance worth ₹4,568 crore under the Decadal Dayodaya 'Jojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Issuing a press note, Rohini Chandan emphasized that these initiatives reflect the Modi government's unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, particularly in the far-flung and remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir. "The launch of 330 new rural roads spanning approximately 1,600 kilometers under PMGSY-IV, Batch-II, at a cost of ₹3,550 crore, will benefit 363 habitations. This massive infrastructure boost



will dramatically improve all-weather connectivity, linking villages to markets, schools, hospitals, and essential services," he said. Chandan added that the ₹4,568.23 crore "Mother Sanction" released under DAY-NRLM for 24 States and Union Territories— including a strong focus on

Jammu & Kashmir— will further strengthen women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs), promote rural entrepreneurship, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities. "These steps are not just about roads and funds; they are about transforming lives, empowering communities, and building a self-reliant rural economy in Jammu & Kashmir," he noted. He highlighted that enhanced connectivity will have a multiplier effect on the rural economy. Better roads will enable farmers to transport produce efficiently, reduce post-harvest losses, and connect them directly with larger mar-

kets, thereby increasing income levels. "This infra-structure push will generate significant employment opportunities in construction, transportation, and allied sectors, while also supporting agri-based industries and tourism-related activities in rural pockets," Chandan observed. He particularly praised the emphasis on women's empowerment through the DAY-NRLM component. By bolstering Self-Help Groups and nurturing "Lakshmi Didi's," the government is ensuring that rural women become active participants in economic decision-making.

**BJP Mahila Morcha holds "Mashal Padyatra", criticizes Congress, INDI alliance on Women's Reservation Bill**

Jammu, April 29: Mahila Morcha of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir led by its President Adv. Neha Mahajan, organized a "Jan Aakrosh Mahila Mashal Padyatra" to register strong protest against the opposition parties over their stance on the proposed 33% Women's Reservation Bill, 2026. The march commenced from Apsara Road, Gandhi Nagar, with women participants carrying mashals (torches), symbolizing collective resolve and political awareness for getting empowerment.

BJP J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma, BJP National Secretary, J&K, MLARS Pura Dr Narinder Singh, J&K BJP Vice Presidents Priya Sethi, and Rekha Mahajan, MLA Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa, MLA East Constituency Yudhveer



Sethi, Ex MLA Bishnah Ashwani Sharma, General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, State Spokespersons Purnima Sharma, and Rajni Sethi, district president and Jammu Rajesh Gupta Jammu South Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Mahila Morcha Prabhari Venu Khanna, Sach-Prabharti Shalija Gupta, General Secretary Mahila Morcha Urvashti Gupta, and

others were amongst the prominent present in the Padyatra. Sat Sharma strongly criticized the opposition for opposing the Bill. He stated that denying adequate representation to women in legislative bodies reflects a lack of genuine commitment toward women empowerment. He emphasized that the BJP remains steadfast in its resolve to

ensure greater political participation of women and urged opposition parties to clarify their position on this crucial issue. Dr. Narinder Singh termed the opposition's resistance as regressive. He remarked that the Women's Reservation Bill is a historic step aimed at strengthening democracy by ensuring inclusive participation. He asserted that

blocking such progressive legislation deprives women of their rightful opportunities in governance. Priya Sethi stressed that women across the nation are increasingly aware of their rights and are demanding equal representation in decision-making processes. She stated that any attempt to hinder this progress is unacceptable and reflects a narrow mindset that undermines women's capabilities and contributions.

Mahila Morcha President Adv. Neha Mahajan described the Mashal Padyatra as a powerful expression of women's collective voice. She said that women are no longer willing to be sidelined and are asserting their rightful place in governance. She added that opposing the Women's Reservation Bill is not only unjust but also indicative of an anti-women approach.

**CMO Doda Inaugurates Truenat Machine Dedicated to PHC Bhagwah**



Doda, April 29: In a significant development aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities in the remote areas of the district, the Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather, today inaugurated a Truenat Machine dedicated to PHC Bhagwah. With the installation of the machine, TB tests will now be conducted at PHC Bhagwah, providing timely diagnostic services to the people of Bhagwah and adjoining areas. Speaking

on the occasion, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather said that the Health Department remains committed to upgrading healthcare infrastructure and ensuring better medical facilities for the public, especially in far-flung and underserved areas. He emphasized that the addition of the Truenat Machine would greatly benefit the local population and strengthen healthcare delivery services. District Epidemiologist Mr Umar

Anayat, Mr. Mashhood Latif, BM&EO Ghat, besides the staff of PHC Bhagwah, were also present on the occasion. The staff of PHC Bhagwah and local residents expressed gratitude to the Chief Medical Officer and the Health Department for this valuable initiative. The inauguration reflects the continued efforts of the Health Department Doda towards modernization and strengthening of healthcare institutions across the district.

**Indian Army conducted a lecture on preventive measures against malaria at Ukharal**

Ramban: 29 Apr 2026 Reinforcing its commitment to community welfare and public health awareness, the Indian Army conducted a lecture on preventive measures against Malaria at Degree College, Ukharal. The initiative aimed to educate students about causes, transmission, early symptoms and effective prevention, promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth. The programme saw active participation from 50 students and 8 teachers, reflecting strong community engagement. Army representatives highlighted malaria transmission through mosquito bites and stressed the importance of timely pre-



vention and control. Emphasis was placed on maintaining hygiene, eliminating stagnant water and using protective measures such as mosquito nets, repellents and appropriate clothing. Students were also educated about early symptoms fever, chills, headache and fatigue and the need for prompt medical attention. The session included real-life examples and interactive discussions, encouraging students to participate in cleanliness drives and awareness campaigns. The programme concluded with an interactive session and a collective pledge to adopt preventive practices and spread awareness.

**NCC and NSS SMVDU, Katra Organised Blood Donation Camp for the Thalassemia Patients**

Katra, Apr 29: NCC and NSS units of SMVDU, Katra, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, successfully organized a blood donation camp at the SMVDU campus. This event united community members in support of a life-saving cause. The camp was organised by Lieut.(Dr.) Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Coordinator, and, supported by Dr. Pallav Sharma from the Medical Aid Centre, SMVDU, the initiative witnessed an impressive turnout. Dr. Rajat from GMC, Jammu, oversaw and provided essential support at a blood donation camp. Many students and staff members from the University generously donated blood during the camp, showcasing acts of kindness



and solidarity. This altruistic gesture holds the potential to significantly impact the lives of numerous individuals combating Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. The events were graced by the presence of Dean Students

Welfare Society, Jammu, emphasized the vital role of regular blood donation camps for Thalassemia patients, highlighting the growing need for blood due to frequent transfusions required by many patients. He urged the community to actively participate in mitigating the sufferings of Thalassemia children and preventing the birth of such children through genetic counseling and proper antenatal advice. Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, commended the organizing team's efforts, emphasizing that blood donation is not merely an act of kindness but a lifeline for those in need. He underscored the profound impact of collective action, illustrating how each donation represents a ray of hope for individuals bravely facing Thalassemia.

**VC SMVDU inaugurates UGC-Sponsored One Month Online Faculty Induction Program at SMVDU**

Katra, Apr 29: A Month-Long (Online) Faculty Induction Programme (FIP) was inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra under the UGC-Mahaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre. This programme has been designed for four weeks from 27th April-25th May, 2026, in line with Guru Dakshta (FIP) modules of UGC. The programme aims to enhance academic, professional and personal competencies of newly recruited faculty members across HEIs. A total around 237 participants from various parts of the country have registered for this programme, reflecting its wide outreach and relevance.

The inaugural ceremony



was graced by Vice Chancellor-SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar as the Chief Guest. The programme began with traditional Saraswati Vandana, invoking blessings for the successful conduct of the event. Prof. Ankush Anand, Director, MMTTC, emphasized on the role and importance of faculty development, academic integrity and continuous learning in higher education ecosystem. The Vice Chancellor, SMVDU stressed upon the urgency of transforming teaching-learning practices in the context of 21st century

challenges, under NEP2020. Prof. Kumar also discussed about various dimensions of recruitment processes, examination systems and academic framework for higher education institutions. He also congratulated the Director, MMTTC-SMVDU and coordinators of this programme, for organising this month-long online faculty induction programme and extended best wishes to all the participants and resource persons of this FIP. The Faculty Induction Programme covers ten comprehensive modules,

including Higher Education Ecosystem, Curriculum Design and Outcome-Based Learning, Teaching-Learning and Assessment, Technology Integration, Personal and Emotional Development, Research and Academic Leadership, Academic Integrity, Constitutional Values, Environmental Sustainability, and Strategic Planning and Management. The sessions by various experts will be conducted in online mode till May 25, 2026. SMVDU remains committed to foster excellence in higher education through such capacity-building initiatives, contributing to the holistic development of faculty members nationwide. Dr. Jatinkumar Soni and Dr. Prabhoo Omer presented the vote of thanks.

**Indian Army intensifies Anti-Drug awareness drive under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan in J&K**

Jammu, Apr 29: The Indian Army conducted a series of awareness programmes under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan across multiple locations in J&K, including Government Primary School, Choura Gursai, Poonch, Modern Public Academy, Dara Dullian, Poonch, Government High School, Dhar Sakri, Rajouri and Nakha Mohalla Primary School, Upper Dogrian, Gran Mohalla & Dewan Mohalla Panchayat) on 28-29 April 2026. At Choura Gursai, a Yoga and Wellness Session was also organised to promote physical fitness, mental well-being and a drug-free lifestyle among students and staff. Awareness lectures at Dara Dullian and Dhar Sakri focused on the harmful effects of substance abuse, its impact on health, families and society and the importance of



making informed and responsible decisions. A total of over 200 students and several faculty members actively participated in these sessions. Similarly, an awareness drive at Upper Dogrian highlighted the long-term risks of drug addiction, including mental health issues, rising crime and social disruption. Participants were encouraged to adopt a disciplined lifestyle and spread awareness within their communities.

Interactive discussions and question-answer sessions enabled participants to openly express concerns and seek guidance. The programmes were well received, with strong community participation. These initiatives reaffirm the Indian Army's commitment to fostering a healthy, responsible and drug-free society while strengthening its bond with the local population.

**Indian Army conducted a medical & veterinary camp**

Ramban: 29 Apr 2026 The Indian Army conducted a Medical and Veterinary Camp at Haribudha on 29 April 2026. This initiative provided vital medical assistance, offering essential healthcare services that would otherwise remain inaccessible to the isolated communities and their livestock in the region. The outreach forms part of the Indian Army's broader mission under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, J&K, aimed at improving the quality of life for people living in remote and underserved areas. By focusing on such villages, the Army ensures that marginalized communities receive



essential healthcare support, reaffirming its commitment to the well-being of the people irrespective of geographical challenges. The primary objective of the camp was to provide

immediate medical care, including basic health check-ups, treatment for common ailments and distribution of necessary medicines. Veterinary services were also extended to live-

stock, which form a crucial part of the local economy. The initiative proved highly beneficial for the local population, especially the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who often face

limited access to healthcare facilities. The camp, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, brought healthcare closer to the people with compassion and care. Preventive healthcare measures were also emphasized through awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, immunization and disease prevention. The response from the local community was overwhelmingly positive. Beyond immediate medical relief, the initiative further strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and the local populace, fostering trust, cooperation and a shared sense of well-being.

**UT Govt of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Electric**  
**Division-I, Parade, JPDC-L-Jammu**  
 Phone/Fax No: 01991-244098

No. ED-1/1031-33  
 Date: 28.04-2026

**CANCELLATION**

The e-nit no.ED-1e-NIT/10 dated 19.02.2026 of 2026-27 for "Fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement/Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433 KV Sub Stations in various Sub Divisions of Electric Division-I Jammu (JPDC) on Turnkey Basis for FY 2026-27" is hereby cancelled and will be retendered.

(Er. Rajeev Kaul)  
 Executive Engineer  
 Electric Division-I JPDC  
 Jammu

**DIP/J-379-P/26**

# J&K Judicial Academy organises special session on "Yoga for Mental Fitness"

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Under the patronage of Arun Palli, Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy today organised a special session titled "Yoga for Mental Fitness" at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar, for the Judicial Officers and staff of Srinagar district, in collaboration with the Isha Foundation.

The session was inaugurated by Naser Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who in his address, underscored the importance of maintaining the physical and mental well-being in the discharge of judicial responsibilities. He observed that the effective administration of justice demands sustained concentration, emotional



balance and resilience and that structured wellness practices such as yoga can significantly contribute towards enhancing the professional efficiency and overall well-being. The programme emphasised yoga as a holistic discipline that

harmonises the body, mind, and breath. The participants were encouraged to incorporate simple yet consistent wellness practices into their daily routines to enhance the clarity of thought, reduce stress and build resilience. The Judicial Academy con-

veyed its sincere appreciation to the Isha Foundation for its collaboration and expert guidance in conducting the session.

The programme witnessed active participation and was widely appreciated by the attendees. The Academy also extended its gratitude to Haq Nawaz Zargar, PDI Srinagar, for his valuable logistic support and cooperation. The Academy reaffirmed its commitment towards organising similar initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of health, well-being, and holistic development within the judicial system.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Tabasum, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, who conveyed her heartfelt appreciation to the Judicial Academy, the Isha Foundation and all the participants for their cooperation and engagement in the successful conduct of the session.

# District Admingoes tough on NDPS Act violators, demolishes illegal properties of drug peddlers built on State Land

ANANTNAG, APRIL 29: In a major operation against NDPS Act violators, the District Administration Anantnag along with the Police, today carried out a massive demolition drive against the illegal properties built by the drug peddlers in Sangam, Bijbehara.



The action was part of the intensified 100 Days Nasha Mukh JK campaign launched recently to eradicate the drug menace from the society. During the crackdown, revenue authorities led by SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, supported by a district police team led by SDPO Bijbehara, identified several commercial structures viz Kashmir Restaurant, Taj Restaurant, and MIR Restaurant that had been illegally raised on State Land and found to be owned

and operated by individuals involved in narcotics trafficking. Several FIRs had already been registered against the accused and by utilizing these unauthorized roadside locations, they were facilitating illegal activities and promoting substance abuse in the area. The Revenue officials also ensured retrieval of the encroached land along NHW-44, while the demolition was executed in coordination with the local police for removal of the structures. This operation

underscored the administration's firm stance that narcotics trade and other associated illegal activities will be dealt with strictly as per law. The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against drug peddling and narcotics business. Local authorities have been directed to maintain a strict vigil, and the public is encouraged to continue supporting the administration in its mission to make the district drug-free.

# 100 Days Nasha Mukh J&K Campaign Seminar on Drug Abuse held at GHSS Shangus



ANANTNAG, APRIL 29: As part of the 100 Days intensified Campaign on Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, Government Higher Secondary School Dethu, Shangus on Tuesday organized a seminar on the theme "How to Safeguard our Society from Drugs" at the school premises. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation

from staff, students, civil society members and local residents. It focused on domestic effects of drugs on individuals, families and society, underscoring the need for collective efforts by all stakeholders in safeguarding youth from this menace. Tehsildar Shangus, Naser Ahmad attended the event as Chief Guest while

Principal of the institute and local civil society members were among speakers. Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the need for coordinated efforts by families, educational institutions, community leaders and law enforcement agencies to disseminate mass awareness on harms associated with drug addiction and the ways to tackle it effectively. They also emphasized the importance of youth engagement, counselling, education and community vigilance in building a healthy and drug-free society. At conclusion, the participants pledged support towards strengthening the ongoing anti-drug campaign and working collectively for a healthier future.

# Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan: Grand Shikara Rally held at Manasbal Lake to raise awareness on Drug Menace

GANDERBAL, APRIL 29: In a vibrant display of community resolve against substance abuse, the District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with Wular Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) today organized a mega Shikara Rally at the iconic Manasbal Lake under the aegis of the 100 Days 'Nasha Mukh Abhiyan'.



The rally was flagged-off by the Chief Executive Officer, Wular Manasbal Development Authority, Ahsanul Haq Chishti in presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal, Dr. Sheikh Salahuddin, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Hqrs), Umer Urfaan, and several other senior officers and officials

besides civil society members and Shikara union members. The Shikara rally saw dozens of boats decorated with banners and placards traversing the lake, carrying the message of 'Say No to Drugs' to locals and tourists alike. The initiative aimed to utilize Ganderbal's tourism potential to amplify social awareness, urging the younger generation to choose healthy lifestyles

over the path of self-destruction. Earlier, the event commenced with an awareness program where students from various educational institutions delivered impactful speeches. They highlighted the devastating ill effects of drug addiction on physical health and cautioned the audience about its corrosive impact on the social fabric of the valley. Addressing the gathering, Chief Executive Officer,

(CEO WMDA), Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti said that a drug-free society cannot be built in a day, it must be a daily commitment. Addiction is not just an individual struggle but a social responsibility, and it is up to all of us, viz. families, schools, and communities to guide our youth away from it and towards the bright future they deserve. Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal, Dr. Sheikh Salahuddin underscored the importance of parental and societal roles, stating that our youth are the asset of our nation, and we cannot allow them to fall prey to this menace. "This rally is a symbol of our collective resolve to clean our society from drugs trap,"

he added. DSP Hqrs, Omer Urfaan called for a collaborative approach, adding the police department is working tirelessly, but public cooperation, especially from the youth and students is the key to breaking the supply chain of narcotics. Following the event, a rally comprising of students, faculty, and WMDA officials commenced from Main Manasbal Park and marched through the local area to Kondabal High School, raising awareness for a drug-free society. The event concluded with a pledge ceremony at Kondabal High School wherein all the participants pledged to transform Ganderbal into a drug-free district.

# 100 Day Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan Series of awareness programmes, Padyatras held in several Panchayats of Rafiabad



BARAMULLA, APRIL 29: As per the scheduled calendar, the 100-day milestone of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan was successfully observed today across several Panchayats of Block Rafiabad, including Halqa Yarbugh, with a series of awareness programmes and padyatras. The activities were led by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Mudasir

Hussain, who spearheaded the padyatra and awareness camps. Officials, PRI members, youth, and locals participated in large numbers, reflecting strong community engagement. Speaking on the occasion, the ACD highlighted the growing threat of substance abuse and emphasized the need for sustained awareness at the grassroots level. He stated that such initiatives, con-

ducted as per the scheduled calendar, are crucial in educating people, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of drugs and in fostering a collective responsibility to eliminate the menace from society. He further urged community members, particularly young people, to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a healthy and progressive society. He also appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders in making the programmes successful. The events concluded with participants taking a pledge to support the vision of a Nasha Mukh Bharat and ensure a safer future for coming generations.

# Census preparedness gathers pace in Urban Srinagar; Training of Field Trainers underway

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Preparations for the forthcoming Census in Urban Srinagar have gained significant momentum, with the administration intensifying efforts to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the nationwide exercise.



The Principal Census Officer Urban Srinagar/Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Fazlul Haseeb, directed to intensify preparedness and the arrangements being put in place for the successful implementation of the Census operations. As part of the preparatory phase, training sessions for Field Trainers are currently underway. The program is designed to equip the train-

ers with the necessary knowledge, technical understanding, and operational guidelines required for effectively conducting the Census process at the grassroots level. Officials associated with the exercise informed that the training focuses on

familiarizing the Field Trainers with census procedures, enumeration protocols, data collection methodologies, and the use of prescribed formats and digital tools to ensure accuracy, reliability, and uniformity in the data collection process.

# MVD Bandipora conducts special Enforcement Drive; Focus on School Bus safety

BANDIPORA, APRIL 29: Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Bandipora today conducted a special enforcement drive across the district on the directions of the Transport Commissioner and under the guidance of the ARTO Bandipora. During the drive, a total of 85 vehicles were thoroughly inspected, out of which 12 vehicles were challaned under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act for violations.



The enforcement drive laid special emphasis on school buses to ensure the safety and security of students. Several school buses were checked for compliance with safety norms, including valid documents, fitness, and prescribed standards. Drivers of school buses were sensitized about the importance of adhering to traffic rules, maintaining discipline on roads, and exercising utmost caution while transporting children. They were also advised to strictly follow safety protocols to prevent any untoward incidents.

The department reiterated its commitment to ensuring road safety and stated that such drives will continue in the future to enforce traffic regulations and safeguard public interest, particularly the safety of school-going children.

# SMC invites Bids for Shops, Office Spaces at Habba-Khatoon Commercial Complex Parimpora

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued a Notice Inviting Offer (NIO No. 01 of 2026) for the allotment of built-up shops and office halls at the Habba-Khatoon Commercial Complex, Parimpora, through an online e-auction on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal.



The auction will be conducted on an "as is where is" basis to facilitate the commercial utilization of municipal property. The premises fall under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988.

As per the notified schedule, online training and help desk support for bidders commenced on April 28, 2026. The pre-qualification submission process will remain open from May

1 to May 8, followed by assessment from May 9 to May 15. The submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is scheduled between May 16 and May 20, while the final online bidding will take place from May 22 to May 23, 2026. Individuals, firms, and companies are eligible to participate in the e-auction, while minors are not permitted. The allotment shall be made for a maximum period of ten years, extendable subject to approval of the competent authority. A mandatory Earnest Money Deposit equivalent to 10% square foot for first floor units is required to be submitted through Demand Draft or FDR pledged in favour of the FA/Chief Accounts Officer, SMC. The minimum bid increment has been fixed at ₹25,000.

The commercial units are available on the ground, first, and second floors, with sizes ranging from approximately 198 square feet to over 600 square feet. The starting prices range between ₹22.28 lakh and ₹49.78 lakh, depending on the size and location of the unit. The rent structure has been fixed at ₹34 per square foot per month for ground floor units, ₹30 per square foot for first floor units, and between ₹28 to ₹33 per square foot for second floor units. The rent will remain fixed for an initial period of three years and will thereafter be revised by 10% for subsequent terms.

# Drug Awareness Marathon Rally held

BARAMULLA, APRIL 29: Zonal Physical Education Office, Zone Pattan on Tuesday organised a Sub-Divisional Level Marathon Rally on drug awareness under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan. The rally commenced from Railway Station Pattan, drawing participation of approximately 935 students from various schools across the zone.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Notice Inviting Tender

By: DEUTER/BL/CH asking for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 2025-26-126. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revoked bids using date 22.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payments modes available on IRETS portal for non-banking, credit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cheque, remittance, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.: 2025-26-126  
Name of work: Supply, installation and commissioning of Thermal Protection in form of mat of WMLC (India) Ltd. Location: Jammu.  
App. Code No.: 1.10.01.02/25  
Cost of tender form: Rs. 0  
Date & time of submission of tender: 22.05.2026, 10:00 Hrs.  
Earnest Money: Rs. 4,17,000/-  
Completion period: 18 Months  
Opening of tender: 22.05.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.  
Website/Particulars: www.mre.gov.in  
No. 226-Gen/ITR/BL/CH/Thermal Protection/2025-26/126. Dated: 28.04.2026. 142926  
E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE: [www.mre.gov.in](http://www.mre.gov.in)



## North in News

## EDITORIAL

## Technological advancement has led to more correct weather predictions

Technological advancement has fundamentally changed the way humans predict the future. Across almost every field the accuracy, speed, and scale of forecasting have improved because modern tools can collect vast amounts of data, process it in real time, and find patterns that were invisible to the human eye a decade ago. The clearest example comes from weather science, where earlier forecasts for three days had large errors and cyclone paths were uncertain, but today five day forecasts are reliable and seven day forecasts are useful because supercomputers run global climate models with millions of data points from satellites, radars, ocean buoys, and aircraft, and machine learning algorithms. In medicine, where wearable devices and electronic health records feed algorithms that can predict a heart attack, diabetic shock, or sepsis several hours before clinical symptoms appear, and hospitals use predictive models to estimate patient load, ICU demand, and medicine stock. In agriculture farmers no longer depend only on tradition and sky watching, because remote sensing, soil sensors, and mobile apps now give hyper local forecasts of rain, pest attack, and yield, and companies use satellite imagery to predict crop output at district level months in advance. This helps government plan procurement and helps traders avoid price shocks, and financial markets have been transformed because high frequency data, news analytics, and sentiment tracking allow models to predict stock movement, loan default, and currency fluctuation with lower error. In disaster management artificial intelligence combines seismic data, social media posts, and infrastructure maps to predict earthquake damage zones and guide rescue teams before they reach the site. During COVID-19 epidemiological models that were updated daily with testing, mobility, and vaccination data gave governments a clearer picture of peaks and hospital needs than anything available in earlier pandemics. In transport the predictions are now minute by minute, because GPS data from phones and vehicles feed traffic models that forecast congestion, arrival time, and accidents, and airlines use engine sensors to predict mechanical failure before takeoff, and logistics firms predict delivery delays due to weather or road blocks and reroute trucks automatically. Technological advancement has led to more correct predictions by turning data into insight and insight into action, and this has reduced loss, saved time, and improved decisions. What we know and what we need to know is closing fast, and that is one of the most important gifts of technology to society.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

## Saying goodbye to pacifism

SANTHOSH MATHEW

Nation that once renounced war now stands at the edge of rewriting its identity. Japan, shaped by the ashes of World War II, based its global reputation on peace, restraint, and constitutional idealism. Today, that foundation is shifting. The winds of change blowing through Tokyo signal more than a policy adjustment. They point to a historic turning point that could redefine Asia's security landscape. Japan's Parliament, the Diet, has moved closer to approving changes to its pacifist Constitution.

Both chambers - the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives - support the move. Public sentiment tells a different story. Surveys conducted by Kyodo News reveal that nearly 80 per cent of Japanese citizens oppose amending the Constitution. A deep divide has emerged between the political leadership and the people. At the centre of this debate stands Article 9, a clause born out of unimaginable destruction. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forced Japan into a moral reckoning. The Constitution that followed rejected war as a sovereign right and ruled out the maintenance of military forces for combat. Article 9 became more than law.

It became a symbol of hope in a war-torn world. Japan's strategic environment has transformed rapidly. The rise of China as a global power has altered regional dynamics.

Maritime disputes in the South China Sea continue to intensify. North Korea keeps the region on edge with missile developments. These realities shape the arguments of those calling for constitutional revision. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and her allies present a clear case. They argue that Japan must build stronger defense capabilities to protect its sovereignty and contribute to regional stability.

Their vision includes transforming Japan's Self-Defense Forces into a more conventional military. The language of deterrence now replaces the language of restraint. A stronger Japanese military presence could trigger an arms race across East and Southeast Asia. Joint military exercises involving Japan, the United States, and the Philippines near Luzon highlight a growing security alignment. The Indo-Pacific region begins to resemble a high-stakes arena where alliances deepen and rivalries sharpen. The phrase "roller coaster relations" captures the uncertainty shaping the region.

Economic factors add another layer to this transformation. Japan once dominated the global economy. In 1994, it accounted for 17.8 per cent of global GDP. That share now stands near 3.4 per cent. China, in contrast, has surged to nearly 19 per cent. This dramatic shift fuels concerns about national decline and global influence. Inside Japan, structural challenges continue to mount. The country faces an aging popula-

tion and a declining birth rate of around 1.2. Public debt exceeds 200 per cent of GDP. Industries struggle to maintain growth. These pressures shape the national mood.

Increased defense spending, now nearing 2 per cent of GDP, places additional strain on public finances. Budget cuts in healthcare, education, and welfare have sparked protests across the country. The alliance with the United States plays a decisive role in Japan's strategic thinking. Washington views a stronger Japan as vital to maintaining balance in the Indo-Pacific. Military cooperation between the two nations continues to expand. American bases across Japan, including those in Okinawa, form a critical part of this partnership. This relationship shapes Japan's evolving defense posture.

A more capable Japanese military supports broader efforts to counterbalance China's growing influence. The Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States depends on reliable regional partners. Japan fits that role with its technological strength and strategic location. The devastation caused by nuclear warfare left scars that have not faded. More than 300,000 people lost their lives in the atomic bombings. Survivors, known as Hibakusha, endured decades of suffering due to radiation exposure. Their stories continue to serve as powerful reminders of war's human cost. The global movement for nuclear disarmament drew inspiration from Japan's experi-

ence.

Thinkers such as Bertrand Russell and scientists like J. Robert Oppenheimer reflected deeply on the consequences of atomic weapons. Oppenheimer's recollection of a verse from the Bhagavad Gita during the first nuclear test captured the enormity of that moment. The decision to allow arms exports marks a significant policy shift. Advanced military equipment, including warships, fighter jets, drones, and missiles, will now be supplied to partner nations. Seventeen countries stand to benefit from these exports in the initial phase. This move reflects Japan's willingness to play a more active role in global security. Countries aligned with Japan welcome its new approach. The Quad grouping - comprising the United States, India, Australia, and Japan - views this shift as strengthening regional stability. China and North Korea interpret it as a sign of containment and respond with caution. Southeast Asia emerges as a potential flashpoint. Territorial disputes, maritime tensions, and military build-ups converge in this region. Japan's growing involvement could influence the balance of power. The next theatre of war may well take shape in these contested waters. One path preserves the spirit of Article 9 and the moral authority it represents. The other embraces a more assertive role in global security. Both paths carry risks and opportunities.

## Jumping Ship

BHOPINDER SINGH

One of India's most influential leaders, YB Chavan, had variously held important positions like that of the Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister, and also the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He had propounded extensively on the unhinged phenomenon of partyswitching as had become rampant in the 1960s and 70s with the "Aya Ram, Gaya Ram" case (Haryana legislator, Gaya Lal, had infamously switched three parties in a single day!).

Chavan had worryingly commented, "Politics is the art of the possible - but defections make it the art of the profitable." This curse of amoral politics was not unique to any one specific national or regional party, but cut across the Indian political culture. Various means from the proverbial "stick" to the "carrot" were dangled to trigger party-hopping. Attempts to fix this were initiated with the introduction of the 52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985), adding the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution. The Anti-Defection Law aimed to prevent political instability, curb "horse trading" and essentially protect the voters' mandate. But stability still eluded Indian politics. The wily politicians became even more creative, brazen, and institutionally organised, to beat the provisions. From mass resignations instead of defections (e.g., Madhya Pradesh in 2020), invoking the 2/3rd merger rule (Karnataka 2019, and most recently in the Rajya Sabha

with AAP MPs), delays by Speakers of the House to disqualify members, re-election via a reset button, voluntarily giving up membership, to even judicial delays - the possibilities to beat the system are seemingly infinite and manageable. This effectively leaves the politicians with the only effective recourse of answering to their own conscience, otherwise the constitutional provisions can practically be overridden.

The wise politician of constitutional morality, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had lamented, "Power without principles is like a body without a soul," whilst musing about opportunistic party-switching. This is not to suggest that the elected representatives need to be "bonded agents" to political persuasions for life. In true democracies they should be able to disagree with their leadership, rethink their views, and change parties if their ideological and personal values are getting compromised. The real tension also ought not to be the debate of individual freedom vs. collective mandate. Shifting parties can logically be construed as violating a mandate under the assumption of a certain partisan flag, but it need not be so, always.

The build-up to the situation, underlying circumstances, timing, and the prima facie optics, are a clear giveaway about a candidate's moral bearing whilst changing parties. This debate has got reignited with the recent end-to-end party by seven MPs in the Rajya Sabha of a party including its youthful and pop-

ular face, a former international cricketer, and other prominent functionaries. While this move is well within the individual rights of the said members and may even comply with the anti-defection law mandate given the fulfilment of the 2/3rd rule, eyebrows are raised nonetheless.

Again, the circumstances leading up to the dramatic change including telling statements in the run-up, certain raids by enforcement agencies, serendipitous timing with looming elections, and stunningly choreographed coordination which led all seven to join a certain rival party (when there were multiple national and regional options), raises credible concerns. This is not to say that the original party of these seven parliamentarians had not seen earlier exits by prominent leaders. Foundational leaders like Dr Yogendra Yadav, Prashant and Shanti Bhushan, Ashutosh, Kumar Vishwas etc., had almost all cited the same reasons as the current bloc of ostensibly disgruntled leaders - centralisation of power.

But these leaders chose not to join parties of the exact opposite ideological anchorage, and instead have remained politically active with their independent status. Some others did join the exact opposite side of the framework - but the optics surrounding the clockwork efficiency, totality of migration, and the singular direction for all seven MPs towards one destination is interesting, to say the least. The fact that none of them thought of leaving and seeking a fresh mandate in the name of

values (supposedly compromised by the leaders of their original parties) but instead found succor in a political persuasion that they were abusing, accusing, and shaming till now, says a lot.

Historically, given the weak penalties enforced by the voters, the narrative flexibility like "party has changed", "I am joining for development" etc., shows that despite the sharp, irrefutable, and extremely contradictory rhetoric earlier, these parliamentarians know that they may not just survive, but also thrive. They know that public outrage comes with a short shelf life. Clearly power and survival outweigh all reputational concerns. Hence the much-banded drop in "following" on social media for the leader of this shifting bloc could be a temporary concern and there are presumably stronger reasons to persist with the move.

This reflects on the individuals and on the parties that they are leaving, as well as on the party that they are joining - put simply, there is no party with a difference, whatever be the tagline. Ram Manohar Lohia had once said, "Principles must guide politics, not convenience." However in the nature of today's politics, upholding principles is perhaps a handicap. It is a fact that some of the shrillest voices in the political set-up are often those who have jumped ships, and ironically, also amongst the more successful ones. The ease with which the one-time language of "threat to democracy" can suddenly become "partner in development" is at one level funny.

## MLA Devyani Rana Leads Road Blockade Against Acute Water Crisis Across Nagrota Constituency



**JAMMU, APR 30:** Devyani Rana, MLA Nagrota, today led a road blockade to protest against the acute and escalating water crisis in the Nagrota constituency, terming it a direct consequence of administrative negligence and failure on the part of the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. "This is a clear case of prolonged negligence, administrative apathy, and systemic failure, which has severely disrupted the water supply and caused immense hardship to the people of Nagrota," she said.

During her visit to Badsoo Panchayat in Nagrota, the MLA staged a warning protest against the department. She highlighted that more than 13 PHE stations and dug wells across the constituency have remained defunct for several months, severely affecting water supply to thousands of residents.

Citing specific instances, she pointed out that the PHE dug wells at Humali and Kah Pohta have been non-functional since August following flood damage, with no meaningful restoration efforts undertaken so far. Expressing serious concern, Ms.

Rana stated that despite substantial allocations in the 2026-27 budget to the PHE sector of ₹3,500 crore along with financial assistance from the Central Government of an additional approximately ₹3,000 crore under SASCI, the UT administration and the department have "miserably failed" to utilize these funds effectively. "It is deeply unfortunate that despite such liberal funding, there is a visible lack of planning, monitoring, and accountability. Resources have not been translated into results," she asserted. Taking strong exception to the functioning of the Mechanical Wing of the PHE department, she said the department has failed to ensure timely repair and maintenance of pump sets and motors. "In many cases, motors are repaired and reinstalled only to get burnt again within days. This clearly points towards standard repair work, lack of technical oversight, and absence of preventive maintenance. Such inefficiency is unacceptable," she said. She further added that over the past six days, the department has been repeatedly repairing and reinstalling motors,

pumps, and transformers at PHE stations in Galali and Gharota, only for them to develop faults or burn out again the very next day. "This recurring failure reflects sheer mismanagement, poor quality control, and a complete lack of accountability within the system," she asserted. She further noted that water tanker services, which had been providing temporary relief, have also been discontinued without any alternative arrangements, aggravating the hardships faced by the people. "At a time when the existing infrastructure is already crippled, stopping tanker services reflects utter insensitivity towards the suffering of the people, especially during peak summer days," she added. Ms. Rana asked the department to act immediately and restore all defunct water supply systems on a war footing. If the authorities continue to remain indifferent, the patience of the people will wear thin. They will have no option but to come out on the streets and protest against this blatant neglect and administrative failure," she warned. She urged the UT administration to intervene at the highest level, fix responsibility, and ensure time-bound restoration of water supply systems. Emphasizing that access to safe and adequate drinking water is a basic right, she stated, "The people of Nagrota deserve better. Their fundamental needs cannot be ignored any longer." "This is not a sudden crisis, but a man-made situation caused by continuous inaction and lack of urgency on the part of the department," she added.

## Anti-Drug Rally at Pahari Girls Hostel Rajouri Strengthens 'Nasha Mukta' Drive

**RAJOURI, APRIL 29:** In a significant push to the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir campaign, an anti-drug awareness rally was organized at Government Girls Pahari Hostel, Rajouri, aimed at sensitizing youth about the dangers of substance abuse and promoting a collective resolve for a drug-free society. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from hostel students, who marched across the campus carrying placards and raising powerful slogans such as "Say No to Drugs," "Healthy Youth, Strong Nation," and "Drugs Destroy Lives." The event created a strong wave of awareness, highlighting the devastating impact of drug



addiction on individuals, families, and society. Addressing the gathering, teachers and organizers elaborated on the far-reaching consequences of drug abuse, stressing that addiction can derail the future of young individuals and lead to serious social and economic challenges. Students were urged to remain vigilant and actively spread awareness within their communities. Officials present on the

occasion underlined that the Nasha Mukta campaign is not merely a government initiative but a mass movement requiring active public participation. They emphasized the pivotal role of young girls and women in driving social change and strengthening such campaigns at the grassroots level.

The program concluded with a pledge ceremony, where participants vowed to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a drug-free society. The rally not only raised awareness but also instilled a strong sense of responsibility among the youth, reinforcing the message that united efforts are key to eradicating the menace of drug abuse.

## INR 1,40,7800/- and 23.59 gms of Heroin recovered by Police in RS Pura, one arrested

**JAMMU, APR 29:** Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substances abuse, R/S Pura Police achieved success by recovering 23.59 grams of Heroin (Chitra) like substance & cash Rs 140,7800/- from the house of drug peddlers from Satowali, Suchetgarh under the jurisdiction of P/S R/S Pura. In this regard an information received at Police Station from reliable sources that persons namely 1. Younis Khan S/o Rashid Ahmed R/o Satowali Near Ground Tehsil Suchetgarh District Jammu 2. Bashir Ahmed S/o Ali Baksh R/o Satowali Near Ground Tehsil Suchetgarh District Jammu both are actively involved in the illegal trade of Heroin like narcotic contraband substances, especially targeting the youth area and supplying the said of Suchetgarh/R/S Pura contraband to them for



wrongful monetary gain. The information further revealed that the said persons are presently illegally selling a large quantity of Heroin-like substance to innocent young youth in his house situated at Satowali near Ground. As per the information, a case FIR No.80/2026 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act registered in this Police Station, one accused person has been arrested another escaped from the spot, contraband along with cash seized and further investigation is going on. Jammu Police reiterates its firm resolve to eradicate the menace of drugs from society and appeals to the public to cooperate by sharing information related to drug trafficking and abuse.

## Operation Sindoor achieved in 25 minutes: Indresh Kumar

Sainik Vijay celebrations from 7th May to 10th May during Laghu Udyog Bharati Foundation Day in Jammu

**JAMMU, APR 29:** Laghu Udyog Bharati Jammu & Kashmir celebrated its Foundation Day at Jammu Club, MA Stadium, Jammu, with great enthusiasm. The programme was attended by industrialists, entrepreneurs and members of various industrial associations from across Jammu & Kashmir. The programme was graced by Indresh Kumar, National Executive Member, RSS, as Main Speaker; Sat Sharma (CA), MP Rajya Sabha and State President BJP J&K, as Chief Guest; Gulam Ali Khatana, MP Rajya Sabha; Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu; Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East; Arvind Dhumal, National Vice President and Prabhan North Zone, Laghu Udyog Bharati; and Parveen Pargal, National Working Committee Member and Prabhati Jammu & Kashmir.

Indresh Kumar, in his keynote address, spoke about self-reliant India, national pride, and the growing strength of the country. He said that India is becoming self-reliant and progressing rapidly. The purchasing capacity of every citizen has increased, and in the last 4 to 5 years, the country is no longer struggling with hunger. This progress has been

possible because both the government and the people have worked together. Referring to the unfortunate incident in Pahalgam, he appealed to the public to celebrate "Sainik Vijay" from 7th May to 10th May under Operation Sindoor in any form. He said that after the shameful incident in Pahalgam, within just 4 days and 25 minutes, Operation Sindoor created a successful story. Everyone present took a pledge, raising both hands, to celebrate this military victory with great enthusiasm. He further said that India is moving ahead with confidence in defence, economy, employment, and global recognition. He appealed to entrepreneurs to think positively, work with self-respect, and prepare a strong economic roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that industrialists are not only running businesses but are also generating employment, supporting families, and contributing to nation building. On the issue of employment, he said that the NC government had made promises, but today the people of Jammu & Kashmir are still waiting to see real results, with only promises visible so far. Through the efforts of

Laghu Udyog Bharati, industrialists have taken a pledge to support the Prime Minister's call of "become job givers, not job seekers." He said that together, industries will be developed that can create up to 10,000 employment opportunities and strengthen the economy of the region. Sat Sharma (CA) appreciated Laghu Udyog Bharati for raising important issues of MSMEs in a disciplined and constructive manner. He said that the industrial sector is the backbone of employment and economic development in Jammu & Kashmir. He assured that all genuine demands of entrepreneurs will be taken up strongly at both Central and State levels. He said that with the collective efforts of MPs, MLAs and industry representatives, issues related to incentives, infrastructure, ease of doing business, payments and policy support will be pursued for early resolution. Gulam Ali Khatana addressed the gathering and assured full support to the industrial fraternity. He said that MSMEs play an important role in balanced development and employment generation, especially in Jammu & Kashmir, and their genuine issues will be raised at the appropriate platforms.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICER/COMMAND AREA**  
**DEVELOPMENTSAMBA, H.Q. JAMMU**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**e-NIT No. 10 of 2026-27 Dated: 27-04-2026**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders invited on **percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, MES and other State/Central Governments for the works mentioned below:-

SN.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rupees in Lacs)	Cost of Document (Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Date and Time of opening of Tender	Class of Contract or
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Name of the Project:- Construction of Plum Concrete Field channel on Dongrookhul</b>							
1.	Construction of Plum Concrete Field channel on Dongrookhul/Areas/Villages to be covered: Dargoo of Tehsil Mohalsand Dist. Doda.	18.19	600/-	2% of the Advertised Cost (Rs. 3638 Lacs)	12 months	11-05-2026, 10:00 Hrs	"B" Class & "C" Class

Position of AAA :- Accredited  
Position of TS :- Accredited  
Major Head of Account :- 4705 Capital Outlay on CAD  
Position of Funds :- CAPEX Budget 2026-27

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, Bill of Materials (BOM), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Departmental Website <http://jtenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	27-04-2026
2.	Period of downloading of Bidding documents	From 28-04-2026 to 09-05-2026, 1700 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission Start Date.	28-04-2026, 10:00 Hrs
4.	Clarification Start Date	28-04-2026
5.	Clarification End Date	07-05-2026 up to 1500 Hrs
6.	Pre-Bid meeting Date	08-05-2026 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Project Officer, CAD Samba, H.Q. Jammu.
7.	Bid Submission End Date	09-05-2026 up to 1500 Hrs
8.	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-05-2026 on or after 10:00 Hrs in the Office of the Project Officer, CAD Samba, H.Q. Jammu
9.	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document (non-refundable) in the shape of e-Challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & Date, e-NIT No. and Name of work duly created to Account Head 6702 covering the Project Officer, Command Area Development Samba, H.Q. Jammu.
- All the Bidders shall have to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/FG in favour of the Project Officer, Command Area Development Samba, H.Q. Jammu. The EMD shall be valid for 45 days beyond the Bid validity period from the date of opening of Technical Bid. The Earnest Money shall be forfeited if:-
  - Any Bidder/Tenderer withdraws his Bid/Tender during the period of Bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the Bid.
  - Failure of successful Bidder to submit the Performance Security within the specified time period after issuance of order of acceptance.
  - Failure of successful Bidder to execute the Agreement after issuance of order of award.
- The Date of Treasury Challan, Earnest Money/Bid Security must be between the Bid Submission Start Date and Bid Submission End Date.
- The 1st Lowest Bidder (L1) has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/FG before award of contract (Issued by the Project Officer, CAD Samba, H.Q. Jammu) as per Circular issued by Finance Department). A copy of Treasury Challan/Performance Security in Original/Receipt, and relevant documents has to be submitted to the Project Officer, CAD Samba, H.Q. Jammu at the time of Award of contract.
- The 2% Earnest Money Deposit (an amount of Rs. 3638 Lacs) on Advertised Cost will be retained in the case of successful Tenderer/Bidder as part of the security for due fulfillment of the contract. In the case of successful Tenderer/Bidder who does not accept work order, the Earnest Money will be forfeited in favour of the Employer/Department. Thereupon the work order shall stand withdrawn.
- The 2% Earnest Money Deposit on Advertised Cost shall be released as and when L-1 submits Performance Security @ 3% of his quoted rates before allotment of contract.
- The Performance Security @ 3% of contract in the shape of CDR/FDR/FG shall be released only after successful completion of works (100%) in case of the successful Bidder.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on the website [www.jtenders.gov.in](http://jtenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail on their submitted e-mail address. The Financial Bids of the Responsive Bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Project Officer, CAD Samba, H.Q. Jammu at the date of which shall be intimated separately.
- The Bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.

Sd/  
Project Officer  
Command Area Development Samba  
H.Q. Jammu.

No.-POCADS/Tend/CAPEX/2026-27/48-51  
Date: 27-04-2026  
**DIP/J-1324/26**

# Sourav Ganguly Namedrops RCB, PBKS As He Picks His Choice For IPL 2026 Title

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said it is difficult to pick a clear favourite in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season, noting that several teams are performing strongly and the tournament remains wide open. Ganguly, along with his wife, Dona Ganguly, on Wednesday cast their votes in the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections. The couple cast their votes at a polling booth in South 24 Parganas amid tight security arrangements and voter participation across the constituency. Polling for the second phase of the West Bengal elections is underway in several constituencies, with long queues of voters seen outside multiple booths since morning.

Authorities have deployed security personnel to ensure peaceful voting, while election officials are closely monitoring turnout and



polling arrangements. The counting of votes will take place on May 4. Speaking to reporters after casting his vote in the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Ganguly also reflected on the competitive nature of the IPL 2026 season. "IPL is going on. There are sev-

eral teams there. It is difficult to choose a favourite, but the Punjab Kings are playing well, and the Rajasthan Royals are good too, and so is the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Half of the tournament is yet to go," Ganguly said. As of the latest update in the ongoing IPL 2026 season, the

points table is shaping up into a tightly contested race, with Punjab Kings leading the standings despite a recent loss to Rajasthan Royals.

They have 13 points from 8 matches, followed closely by Royal Challengers Bengaluru in second place with 12 points from 8 games and an impressive Net Run Rate of 1.919. Rajasthan Royals are placed third with 12 points from 8 matches, while Sunrisers Hyderabad occupy fourth spot with 10 points.

Gujarat Titans sit fifth with 8 points from 8 matches, maintaining a balanced win-loss record. Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals are placed sixth and seventh, respectively, both on 6 points, while Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians occupy the lower half of the table with fewer wins so far in the season. Both are ranked in eighth and ninth places, respectively.

# Gianni Infantino hails PM Modi after Gangtok football session with kids

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Gianni Infantino hailed Narendra Modi for his love for sport after the Indian prime minister was seen playing football with children during his visit to Gangtok.

Modi shared glimpses of the interaction on X, calling it a "lovely Gangtok morning" spent with his "young friends."

The Prime Minister joined children for an impromptu football session, later describing it as an "energising" experience.

"Nothing like playing some football with my young friends in Sikkim on a lovely Gangtok morning!" Modi wrote, alongside images from the session. In a follow-up post, he added, "Clearly, an energising football session with these youngsters!" Infantino, who has long



advocated for football's growth in South Asia, reposted the images on Instagram, writing: "Great to see @narendramodiplay our beautiful sport. Football truly unites the world."

Football holds a deep-rooted presence across India's northeast, often rivaling cricket in popularity in states like Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur and Meghalaya, where the sport is woven into the region's cultural fabric. "This is not the first

interaction between Infantino and Modi. The two leaders have met multiple times on global platforms, including the G20 Summit 2018 and during engagements in Kuwait in 2024. During their 2018 meeting in Argentina, Infantino presented Modi with a personalised FIFA jersey. Reacting to the gesture, Modi had said: "Impossible to come to Argentina and not think about football. Argentinian players are tremendously popular in India."

# FIFA clears Afghan women footballers for international return with landmark rule change

New Delhi, Apr 29:

FIFA has approved a landmark amendment to its governance regulations, paving the way for Afghan women footballers to compete in official international matches once again.

The decision marks a major breakthrough for players who have been sidelined since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, effectively halting the activities of the national women's team. The move aims to ensure athletes are not excluded from international football due to circumstances beyond their control, in line with FIFA's principles of inclusion and non-discrimina-



tion. Announcing the decision, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the amendment would allow Afghan female players, including members of the FIFA-supported Afghan Women United squad, to represent their country in official competitions, in

coordination with the Asian Football Confederation. As part of the transition, the FIFA-backed squad will hold a training camp in New Zealand from June 1 to 9, where they are also scheduled to play matches against the Cook Islands.

# Ferreira, Dubey power Rajasthan Royals to stunning chase of 223, hand Punjab Kings first loss

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Donovan Ferreira and Shubham Dubey delivered a stunning late assault, stitching an unbeaten 77-run stand off just 32 balls to power Rajasthan Royals to a thrilling six-wicket win over Punjab Kings in Match 40 of the Indian Premier League 2026 on Tuesday.

Chasing a daunting 223 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, RR looked under pressure with the required rate climbing beyond 12 after 14 overs. But Ferreira and Dubey flipped the script, tearing into the seamers once the spin threat faded.

Arsheep Singh was taken apart for three boundaries in one over, while Marco Jansen held a four and a six as the duo maintained



relentless pressure. Calm, calculated, and clean in execution, they saw RR home with ease, handing PBKS their first defeat of the season.

Sooryavanshi's whirlwind sets the tone. Earlier, 15-year-old sensation

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi lit up the chase with a breathtaking cameo. After Yashasvi Jaiswal handed him the strike, the youngster countered two pinpoint yorkers from Arsheep with audacious strokes to play, 6, 4, 4, to launch RR with a 15-run opening over.

He didn't slow down, taking on Lockie Ferguson and Jansen with fearless hitting. Sooryavanshi raced to 43 off just 16 balls (3 fours, 5 sixes) before Arsheep deceived him with a change of angle, inducing a miscued slice to Shreyas Iyer. In the process, the prodigy smashed his way to 400 runs in just 167 balls at a staggering strike rate of 238.09, the fastest to the mark in an IPL season. RR stormed past 50 in just 3.2 overs and were 66/1 after four. Jaiswal, initially watchful, shifted gears post-dismissal, hammering Arsheep for 4, 6, 4 en route to a 26-ball fifty. But Yuzvendra Chahal turned the game on its head for PBKS, removing Jaiswal and Rryan Parag (29) in quick succession.

# Babar Azam Equals Virat Kohli, Abhishek Sharma's Big T20 Feat With Blistering Ton In PSL

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Babar Azam smashed yet another century as Peshawar Zalmi defeated Islamabad United in the Qualifier of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 on Tuesday. Batting first, Peshawar posted an imposing total of 221/7, with Babar leading the charge by scoring a brilliant 103 off just 59 balls. In reply, Islamabad United were bowled out for 151, suffering a heavy 70-run defeat. With this comprehensive win, Peshawar Zalmi sealed their place in the final of PSL 2026, scheduled to be played on May 3. Apart from guiding his team into the final, it was a memorable night for Babar, who also etched his name into the record books.

The knock marked Babar's



ninth T20 century as captain, the most by any skipper in the format. He went past South Africa's Faf du Plessis, who previously held the record with eight hundreds. The elite list also includes India's Virat

Kohli, who is fourth with five centuries as captain. Babar also drew level with Kohli and Abhishek Sharma for the most T20 centuries in a single country. While Kohli and

Abhishek have eight T20 hundreds in India, Babar now has eight T20 centuries in Pakistan.

In PSL history, this was Babar's fourth century, joint-most in the tournament alongside Usman Khan. He has now amassed 588 runs in PSL 2026, equalling Fakhar Zaman's record for the most runs in a single PSL season, set in 2022. "I'm starting to feel like I'm getting back to my best. I'm trying to keep things simple, trust my skills, and play according to the situation-what the pitch demands, how to handle different bowlers, and when to attack. The hard part is before the PSL is helping now. Things weren't the same earlier, but they're starting to come back, and I want to keep this consistency going," Babar said after the match.

# Riyan Parag sparks controversy after alleged vaping caught on camera in IPL clash

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Riyan Parag has found himself at the centre of controversy after a viral clip appeared to show him vaping inside the Rajasthan Royals dressing room during their clash against Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League 2026 on Tuesday.

The moment surfaced in the 16th over of the chase, when the broadcast briefly cut to Parag, seemingly holding a vape, shortly after his dismissal for 29 off 16 balls. The footage spread rapidly across social media, triggering widespread debate and calls for disciplinary action. While there is no explicitly stated public rule



on vaping, the Board of Control for Cricket in India enforces strict conduct guidelines within stadium premises. The use of tobacco or similar products in dressing rooms and dugouts is generally prohibited under health and safety protocols, potentially putting Parag under the scanner. The controversy

comes at a challenging time for the 24-year-old, who is leading RR this season following Sanju Samson's move to the Chennai Super Kings. Parag has struggled for consistency, managing just 81 runs in seven innings prior to this game, drawing criticism from fans and experts alike.

# Kumar Sangakkara Praises 'Exceptionally Skillful' Shubham Dubey As RR End PBKS' Winning Streak

New Delhi, Apr 29:

Rajasthan Royals (RR) head coach Kumar Sangakkara heaped praise on finisher Shubham Dubey for his mental strength and match awareness after the left-hander played a match-winning knock of 31 runs, coming as an impact player against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their first defeat of the season. "I thought Dubey, coming in as an impact player, is one



of the hardest things to do, because you don't know if you're playing. So mentally, he is exceptionally skillful to be able to keep that focus and go and bring the game to us. He went in at a tough position," Sangakkara told reporters after the match. "Riyan Parag's small innings was exactly what we needed to bring the momentum back over here. So it was a collective effort," he added. Earlier in the chase, 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi provided a blistering start with 43 off 16 balls, while Yashasvi Jaiswal chipped in with a fluent 51. Despite a brief slowdown triggered by Yuzvendra Chahal's strikes, RR stayed in contention before their finishers took charge.

ing 223, the Rajasthan Royals (RR) were under pressure with the required rate climbing steeply. But Dubey, alongside Donovan Ferreira, turned the game around with an unbeaten 77-run partnership off just 32 balls to seal the chase in 19.2 overs and hand Punjab Kings (PBKS) their first defeat of the season. "I thought Dubey, coming in as an impact player, is one

# Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes 1st To Mega Milestone In IPL 2026, Gets Compared With MS Dhoni

New Delhi, Apr 29:

That Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is an exceptional power-hitter is known to all. But this IPL 2026 season, he has made consistency his hallmark. His scores so far in IPL 2026 are 52, 31, 29, 78, 0, 46, 8, 103 and 43. He currently sits atop the run-getters' list with a tally of 400 runs in nine innings at an average of 44.44 and a strike rate of 238.09. He is the first player in IPL 2026 to reach the 400-run mark. He has one ton and two fifties so far. On Tuesday, Sooryavanshi slammed a 16-ball 43 for Rajasthan Royals against Punjab Kings. Ahead of the match, former India players Murali Karik and Mohit Sharma discussed the aura of Sooryavanshi.

"There are two such players... before this, there was one player, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, for whom, no matter which of the ten franchises or which of the ten grounds



you go to, you will see one name, the same aura, the same love for him everywhere," Sharma, who played with Dhoni for India and CSK, said on Cricbuzz. "And now, the second person I've seen like this is one who, across all ten franchises, whichever ground you walk into, the commentators standing there, the cameramen, the players from the opposition side-they all try to have a

conversation with him. Because the love he gets from every side, from all directions, is so immense. I have seen only two such players." Talking about the match, Donovan Ferreira's audacious strokeplay handed Punjab Kings the bitter pill of defeat for the first time in this edition of the IPL, as Rajasthan Royals countered home by six wickets in a high-octane chase here on Tuesday. Chasing a

target of 223, Rajasthan Royals needed 71 off the last six overs when Ferreira smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off 26 balls in the company of an unheralded Shubham Dubey (31 not out off 12 balls) to clinch the victory with four balls to spare.

Ferreira was brilliant in picking his areas, as the PBKS trika of Arsheep Singh (1/68 in 4 overs), Lockie Ferguson (0/57 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (0/41 in 3.2 overs) would like to forget this day in a hurry. Between Ferreira and Dubey, they hit nine fours and five sixes as they undid all the good work done by Yuzvendra Chahal (3/36 in 4 overs). The manner in which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (43 off 16 balls) started with a deluge of five sixes, including a couple of flicked maximums off Arsheep Singh and Lockie Ferguson, it seemed RR would make a meal of the chase.



## PM Modi inaugurates Ganga Expressway, says BJP set for 'historic hat-trick' after victories in Bihar and Gujarat

New Delhi, Apr 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi district and used the platform to strike an election note, expressing confidence that the BJP is headed for a "historic hat-trick" in the ongoing state polls. "I am confident that in the elections in these five states, the BJP is going to complete a historic hat-trick of victories (after victories in Bihar Assembly polls and Gujarat civic polls). The results of May 4 will strengthen the resolve for a developed India," PM Modi said while addressing a gathering. The high-speed corridor, built at an estimated cost of ₹56,230 crore, is being projected as a key infrastructure intervention aimed at boosting connectivity and economic activity across Uttar Pradesh. PM Modi described the project as a "new lifeline" for the state's develop-



ment, drawing a parallel with the role of the Ganga in sustaining life and growth. What the Ganga Expressway means for UP According to the Prime Minister's Office, the 594-km-long, six-lane expressway, expandable to eight lanes, will link 12 districts, including Meerut, Hardoi and Prayagraj, connecting western, central and

logistics corridors planned across more than 2,600 hectares along its route. Officials say this will reduce logistics costs, improve supply chains and generate employment. The project is also expected to provide farmers with direct access to urban and export markets, boost tourism, and generate direct and indirect employment across the region.

### PM Modi cites Gujarat results, Bengal turnout

During his speech, PM Modi also referred to recent local body election results in Gujarat, claiming that the BJP had won "eighty to 85% of the municipalities and panchayats." Turning to West Bengal, where polling is underway, the Prime Minister said voter turnout remains strong. "Just like in the first phase, people are coming out in large numbers to cast their votes. Images of long queues are circulating on social media," he

## Heatwave intensifies across TN; temperature crosses 38 degrees in many districts

Chennai, Apr 29: With the onset of peak summer, Tamil Nadu is witnessing a steady rise in temperatures, with several districts recording extreme heat conditions. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), temperatures crossed 38 degrees Celsius in at least 13 locations across the state on April 28, indicating a deepening heatwave trend. Tiruchirappalli recorded the highest temperature in the state, with the mercury soaring to 40.5 degrees, making it one of the hottest locations of the day. Other major districts also reported intense heat, with Vellore and Erode registering 39.4 degrees. Karur Paramathi, Chennai's Meenambakkam observatory, and Madurai Airport



each recorded temperatures of around 38.9 degrees. Several other regions experienced similarly high temperatures. Tirupattur and Dharmapuri recorded 38.3 degrees, while Salem, Thanjavur, Madurai city, Tiruttani, and Namakkal reported temperatures hovering around 37.8 degrees, reflecting widespread heat stress across both interior and coastal parts of the state. Meteorological officials

have warned that the situation is likely to worsen in the coming days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a further increase in maximum temperatures by up to 3 degrees across Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry by Saturday. The rise is attributed to prevailing dry weather conditions and increased solar radiation typical of late April. In addition,

## Who is Mohammad Salim Dola? Dawood aide, global drug syndicate handler now in NCB custody

New Delhi, Apr 29: Aday after being brought to India in a coordinated international operation, Mohammad Salim Dola, a close associate of underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim, was produced before a Delhi court on Tuesday, which granted two days of transit remand to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The development has brought renewed focus on the man described by investigators as a key figure in a sprawling international drug trafficking network. Dola's arrest in Turkey and his return to India are being seen as a major breakthrough in the crackdown on cross-border drug networks. He is likely to be taken to Mumbai next,



where several narcotics cases against him are already pending. Who is Salim Dola? According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Salim Dola, 59, is a Mumbai-based operative who has been on the radar of Indian agencies for years. He was the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice issued in March 2024 and had been absconding since 2020, when he left India for Turkey. Investigators say Dola built and operated a transnational drug trafficking syndicate spread across the Middle East, Africa and Europe. His alleged role was that of a bulk supplier, feeding narcotics into distribution networks within India.

## This is time to stand up against forces that seek to undermine your rights: Kharage's appeal to Bengal voters

New Delhi, Apr 29: As the second phase of the West Bengal elections progresses, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called upon voters to participate in significant numbers and utilise their democratic rights. He further said that this is the time to stand up against forces that seek to undermine your rights and give them a befitting reply. Kharge took to social media platform X and said, "Today marks the second phase of polling in the West Bengal Assembly elections. I urge every voter to step out in large numbers and exercise your democratic right without fear or hesitation."



"Do not be influenced or intimidated by anyone. Vote for progressive values. Vote for development. Vote for harmony. Vote for amity. West Bengal has always led the way in driving meaningful change, and today is another such moment," he said. Kharge further said that this is the time to stand up against forces that seek to undermine your rights and give them a befitting reply. He further added, "This is the time to stand up against forces that seek to under-

mine your rights and give them a befitting reply. I especially appeal to young and first-time voters, your voice matters. Ensure that the spirit of true Democracy persists in West Bengal." As voting for the second phase of West Bengal is underway, voter turnout was recorded at 18.39 per cent till 9 a.m. Meanwhile, polling began at 7 a.m. for 142 constituencies across six districts in West Bengal, including its capital, Kolkata, in the second phase of the two-phase Assembly polls. The polling process started with mild tension in certain pockets from the very first hour. In the Bhabanipur

Assembly constituency in South Kolkata, which is witnessing a battle between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, the Chief Minister's brother, Kartik Banerjee, was cautioned by central forces for assembling near a police station with companions in excess of the permitted number. The Election Commission of India (ECI) expressed optimism over voter participation in the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, sharing multiple posts highlighting strong turnout, especially among women and young electors.

## West Bengal Assembly elections 2026: Mamata Banerjee says BJP forcefully rigging polls

Kolkata, Apr 29: As polling began for the second and final phase of 2026 Assembly elections in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee levelled allegations against central forces and poll authorities. "So many observers have come from outside. Whatever the BJP says, they are doing. Just look around, all our posters have been removed. Is this how polls take place? Votes will be cast by voters, not by the police or security forces. Some new people have recently been brought in, and they are doing whatever they want. They are doing terrorism," Banerjee said. Banerjee, who is contesting from the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency, claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was trying to "forcefully rig the election." While pointing out to a video playing on her phone, she said, "Look how our worker was beaten up at night. Just look at this



atrocious. What kind of hooliganism is going on? Voting does not happen like this. Voting happens peacefully. It is a festival of democracy. But they have completely ruined it." She alleged that the "intention is very clear that the BJP wants to forcefully rig the election." "Our workers and people are ready to die, but they will not leave the

place," she added. Banerjee said she and her party want the voting to be peaceful so that people can exercise their franchise. "However, some observers have been brought in from different places, along with police officers who do not understand Bengal. There was one officer yesterday who caused trouble across Bengal. I was awake all night. Observers are going to police stations to create pressure and target TMC, saying that all TMC agents should be arrested," she said. She added, "Last night, around 2 a.m., a team of CRPF 'Gunda', sorry, not 'Gunda', CRPF force went to my Ward 70 councillor's house without the local police and attacked his house. His wife was alone with their children. When he said he wasn't home, the CRPF assaulted them (kicked them), snatched their phone, and warned that he should not do any party work. I can show you the proof." Voting is underway at 142 constituencies in the second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections. Polling started at 7 a.m., with large number of voters lined up outside booths across Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and Purba Bardhaman.

## West Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari inspects polling station in Bhabanipur, offer prayers at Hanuman temple

New Delhi, Apr 29: West Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday inspected polling stations in Bhabanipur assembly seat, and also offered prayers at the Hanuman temple in the region. Suwendu is taking on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from Bhabanipur in a high-profile contest, who has held the seat for the past 15 years. The second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026 has officially commenced, preceded by rigorous mock polls across the state's high-stakes corridors. Election officials and polling agents gathered at dawn to conduct mock polls, a mandatory procedure to ensure the integrity of EVMs and



VVPAT machines. By 6:30 AM, long queues had already snaked around polling stations in South 24 Parganas. Despite the intense heat predicted for later in the day, voters, many of them women and first-timers, arrived early to exercise their franchise in what is being described as one of the most polarised and significant elections in Bengal's history. The second round, widely seen as the "litmus

test" for the Trinamool Congress (TMC), as voting moves into the party's traditional fortresses in South Bengal and Kolkata. The scale of this phase is massive, covering nearly half of the state's total assembly seats, 142 (out of 294). The total electorate is around 3.21 crore (Male: 1,64,35,627 and Female: 1,57,37,418, and Third Gender: 792). 1,448 candidates are in the fray, including 220 women.

## Share Of Females In India's Labour Force Jumped From 23.3 Pc To 40 Pc In 7 Years: Mandaviya



New Delhi, Apr 29: Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted on Tuesday that the female labour force participation rate in India has jumped from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 40 per cent in 2025 — reflecting the increasing empowerment of women in the country. Addressing the 'SwigStreet: Celebrating Women on the Move,' an event organised by food delivery startup Swiggy, the minister underlined that the equitable participa-

tion of women in the workforce is both a social imperative and an economic necessity. Empowering women is central to building a Viksit Bharat, he added. Mandaviya said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed new, enabling opportunities opening up for women, leading to a transformative policy action across domains like labour law reform, digital inclusion, and targeted welfare delivery. The Female Labour Force Participation Rate has risen from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 40 per cent in 2025." "The Female Worker Population Ratio (FWPR) has correspondingly increased from 22 per cent to nearly 39 per cent over the same period. Further, the Female Unemployment Rate (FUR) has declined from 5.6 per cent to 3.1 per cent, indicating that women who seek employment are now more successfully finding it," he added. The minister also stressed upon the nearly three-fold expansion in India's social security coverage in the past decade, from 19 per cent in 2015 to over 64.3 per cent in 2025, reflecting the outcome of sustained policy action across domains like labour law reform, digital inclusion, and targeted welfare delivery. "Every time they claim a clean

## West Bengal Assembly elections 2026: Abhishek Banerjee says BJP will be reduced to 'less than 50 seats'

New Delhi, Apr 29: Amid the ongoing voting for the second phase of 2026 Assembly elections in West Bengal, Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee exuded confidence in Mamata Banerjee-led party's victory and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be reduced to less than 50 seats this time. Banerjee cast his vote at Mitra Institute polling booth in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency on April 29. On being asked about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim of winning the West Bengal Assembly elections 2026 by a huge margin, Banerjee told reporters, "He (Amit Shah) said they would win 200 seats in 2021, but it was the TMC that crossed that mark. They claimed they would secure 30 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal — in reality, TMC won 29. Now they are saying 177. If you go by their own track record, they will fall below 50." "Every time they claim a clean



sweep for the BJP but when the results come out, it turns out exactly the opposite," he added. Taking a jab at the BJP-led central government over the deployment of CRPF armoured vehicles for maintaining law and order, Banerjee said, "The INS warships and Rafale are yet to be deployed. Do that too. The thing that you should be doing against Bangladesh and Pakistan, you are doing it against the people of Bengal and call us Bangladeshi. So those who talk

about fear and trust, people are watching who are creating an environment of fear and terror in Bengal, and people will answer for it." He further claimed that the BJP will "fall flat on their faces when the results come out" on May 4. Sticking to his earlier claims, Banerjee said TMC's vote percentage will increase in the 2026 Assembly elections in West Bengal, adding that the party will form the government for the fourth time "with a bigger majority than

2021." Voting underway across 142 seats amid tight security. Voting started on April 29 in 142 constituencies in the second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly election's security arrangements. Polling began at 7 a.m. as voters were seen lined up outside booths across Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and Purba Bardhaman districts that together form the political and electoral core of West Bengal. In the first phase, the BJP defended its north Bengal gains, while the final round shifts the battle squarely to the TMC's strongest belt. In 2021, the ruling party secured 123 of these 142 seats, leaving just 18 for the BJP and one for the ISF. The focus remains on Bhabanipur, which is Mamata Banerjee's political bastion. She is facing Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari in a prestige battle being looked upon as a symbolic rematch of Nandigram, where he had defeated her in 2021.

# Nifty Up 100 Pts, Sensex Open At 77,245 Despite Brent Crude At USD 111

New Delhi, Apr 29: The domestic stock markets opened on a positive note on Wednesday even as uncertainty in West Asia and disruptions in the global energy sector continued to weigh on sentiment. The Nifty 50 index opened at 24,096.90, gaining 101.20 points or 0.42 per cent, while the BSE Sensex opened at 77,245.83, up 358.92 points or 0.47 per cent. Market experts said that despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, Indian markets are showing resilience, supported by expectations of stability and positive momentum from the previous month. Ajay Bagga, Banking and market expert, said that the situation in the Gulf remains uncertain, with mixed signals emerging on the US-Iran deal. He said, "The Gulf situa-



tion remains muddled. Trump posted that Iran is in a bad shape and wants a deal. On the other hand, the WSJ published a lead article where it said Trump has chosen not to escalate nor withdraw, but to continue the blockade for an extended period to bring Iran to the negotiation table. Asian markets are down this morning on the US tech sell off impact and on higher oil prices continuing". However, he cautioned that

Geojit Investments, said that while there are important developments in the Gulf region, the energy crisis caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz remains unresolved. He said, "Even though there are important developments happening in the Gulf region, there is no solution to the energy crisis caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. UAE's decision to quit OPEC might have a bearing on crude prices in the medium term but it is unlikely to ease crude prices in the near-term. There are indications that the US-Iran stand off may continue much longer". He added that Brent crude high price is negative for India, and as long as oil prices remain elevated, risks to growth and inflation will persist. At the

time of filing this report, Brent crude was trading at around USD 111 per barrel, continuing to remain at high levels. Meanwhile, several companies, including Bajaj Finance, Adani Power, Vedanta, Indian Bank, Waaree Energies, Federal Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Schaeffler India and Motilal Oswal Financial Services, are set to announce their quarterly earnings for the fourth quarter of FY26 on Wednesday. In other Asian markets, a mixed trend was seen. Singapore's Straits Times declined 0.52 per cent to 4,862. Taiwan's weighted index fell 0.59 per cent to 39,371, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 1.10 per cent to 25,962 and South Korea's KOSPI index gained 0.20 per cent to 6,652.

## India's Gold Investment Demand Tops Jewellery For First Time Ever In March Quarter

New Delhi, Apr 29: India's investment demand for gold surpassed jewellery consumption for the first time on record in the March quarter, as investors turned to the precious metal amid subdued equity market returns, the World Gold Council (WGC) said on Wednesday. Stronger investment demand in the world's second-largest consumer of gold partly offset a decline in jewellery buying, hit by a rally in prices, helping keep overall demand stable, the WGC said. "For the first time investment demand surpassed jewellery demand," Sachin Jain, chief executive of the WGC's Indian operations, told Reuters. "Investment demand will become increasingly prominent in the coming quarters, with both financial and retail investors showing more interest in gold." Investment demand



in the March quarter surged 52% from a year earlier to 82 metric tons, while jewellery demand fell 19.5% to 66 tons, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report published on Wednesday. Total gold consumption in the country rose 10.2% to 151 metric tons during the quarter, according to the data. For the first time, investment demand accounted for a larger share of total consumption than jewellery, rising to 54.3% in the quarter. Investment demand typically accounts for about a quarter of India's total gold consumption, but rising prices have been prompting investors to buy coins, bars, and gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Inflows into gold ETFs jumped 186% in the March quarter from a year earlier to a record 20 tons, the WGC said. Weak stock market performance in recent quarters has been drawing investors to gold ETFs, and the trend is likely to continue, Jain said.

## Gold, Silver Trade On Firm Note Ahead Of US Fed Decision

New Delhi, Apr 29: Gold and silver traded on a firm note on Wednesday ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, with both precious metals trading in a narrow range. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June 5 opened at Rs 1,50,720 per 10 grams, up Rs 693 or 0.46 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,50,027. However, the yellow metal pared gains and was trading marginally lower by Rs 56 or 0.04 per cent at Rs 1,49,971 at 11:30 am. So far in the session, it touched an intraday low of Rs 1,49,720, a decrease of 0.20 per cent or Rs 307, and a high of Rs 1,51,527, an increase of 1 per cent or Rs



1,500. On the other hand, silver contracts for July 3 rose Rs 826 or 0.34 per cent to begin the session at Rs 2,43,589 per kg compared to the previous close of Rs 2,42,763. At the time of writing this story, the white metal was trading at Rs 2,38,738, up Rs 1,393 or 0.6 per cent. During the session, silver hit a low of Rs 2,37,607, a

## Global flights from Varanasi soon as Air India joins hub-and-spoke rollout

New Delhi, Apr 29: India's aviation sector is set for a structural shift as Air India on Wednesday backed the Centre's move to roll out a hub-and-spoke aviation model and announced plans to launch international connectivity from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, signalling a decisive push to turn India into a global aviation hub while easing pressure on metro airports. The move comes amid the Central Government's wider strategy to transform the aviation ecosystem, improve airport infrastructure utilisation, boost connectivity from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, and position India as a major transit hub



in global air travel. With rising passenger traffic, congestion at major airports like Delhi and Mumbai has been a persistent concern, and the hub-and-spoke model is expected to redistribute traffic while enhancing seamless travel. Welcoming the development, Campbell

Wilson, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India, said the model would be a "transformative step for Indian aviation". "This is a transformative step for Indian aviation. We would like to thank the Prime Minister for his vision to make India a global aviation hub and develop the entire aviation ecosystem. The hub-and-spoke model will not only strengthen connectivity but also ensure optimal use of airport infrastructure developed across the country," Wilson said. He said that the Civil Aviation Ministry's push would create a "strong multiplier effect" and act as a catalyst for India's economic growth, aviation sector expansion, and global connectivity ambitions. Wilson also acknowledged the role of the Civil Aviation Secretary in coordinating with airlines, airports and government agencies to ensure operational readiness, passenger convenience, and security compliance as the new aviation model moves towards implementation. As part of its aggressive network expansion strategy, Air India confirmed that it is preparing to introduce international flights from Varanasi under the hub-and-spoke framework. The move is expected to significantly improve global connectivity for eastern Uttar Pradesh and nearby regions, while reducing dependence on metro hubs. P Balaji, Group Head, Governance, Risk, Compliance and Corporate Affairs at Air India, said the decision reflects a shift towards decentralising international travel.

## Bandhan Bank's shares jump over 13% after posting 3.2% rise in net revenue in Q4 FY26

New Delhi, Apr 29: Shares of Bandhan Bank jumped over 13 per cent to trade at Rs 202.60 apiece around 13.50 PM on Wednesday after the bank reported its net revenue for Q4 FY26 at Rs 3,567 crore, a growth of 3.2 per cent YoY, as compared to Rs 3,456 crore in Q4 FY25. According to the company's press release, the bank's net interest income (NII) as of Q4 FY26 stood at Rs 2,796 crore compared to Rs 2,756 crore in Q4 FY25, representing a growth of 1.4 per cent YoY. While the net interest margin (NIM) for the quarter was 6.2 per cent in Q4 FY26. The provisions (other than tax) & contingencies charged to the profit and loss for Q4 FY26 were at Rs 677 crore. The profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, stood at Rs 534 crore compared to



Rs 318 crore, registering a growth of 68 per cent YoY. The bank's return on assets (RoA) stood at 1.1 per cent and return on equity (RoE) at 8.5 per cent for Q4

FY26, as per the press release. Also, the bank's net NPA stood at 1.0 per cent in Q4 FY26 and gross NPA at 3.3 per cent, flat sequentially. While the gross NPA was at

4.7 per cent in Q4 FY25 and the net NPA was at 1.3 per cent. Provision Coverage Ratio (Including technical write-offs) as of March 31, 2026, is 84.9 per cent. The collection efficiency for Emerging Enterprise Business loans (EEB) loans was higher at 99.3 per cent for Q4 FY26 vs 98.2 per cent for Q3 FY26. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, said the bank's FY 2025-26 performance underscores the strength of our franchise, supported by disciplined execution and diversifying business model. "We will continue to pursue customer-centric, digital-led growth by enhancing distribution channels, expanding our product suite, and leveraging data-driven insights to deliver sustainable, risk-adjusted growth," he added.

## Over 40 pc of Australians say US, Israel most responsible for fuel crisis

Canberra, Apr 29: Over 40 per cent of Australians blame the United States and Israel for the ongoing fuel crisis, and a majority expect the national economy to get worse in the next six months, according to a poll published on Wednesday. The latest edition of the Essential Report, a monthly poll on social and political issues conducted by independent firm Essential Research, asked respondents who they most blame for the ongoing fuel crisis, with 42 per cent identifying the United States and Israel for initiating strikes on Iran. By comparison, 32 per cent of respondents said they most blame the Australian government for not planning ahead, and 17



per cent said that Iran bears the most responsibility for closing the Strait of Hormuz, reports Xinhua news agency. The conflict in the Middle East caused fuel prices in Australia to soar to record highs in March, prompting federal and state governments to cut the fuel sales tax temporarily. Ahead of Treasurer Jim Chalmers

## Stock markets rebound in early trade

New Delhi, Apr 29: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Wednesday helped by buying in blue-chip stocks and a rally in Asian markets. Buying by domestic institutional investors also offered support, helping cushion the downside moves, analysts said. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 358.92 points to 77,245.83 in opening trade. The 50-share Nifty 50 went up by 101.20 points to 24,096.90. From the 30-Sensex firms, Maruti, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra and Reliance Industries were



among the biggest gainers. Tata Steel, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.21 per cent lower at USD 111 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark KOSPI, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index

## 76% of India's real estate inflows came from domestic investors in Q1 FY26: Report

New Delhi, Apr 29: The domestic investors continued to drive the investment activities in India's real estate landscape, with 76 per cent of market share, while foreign investors contributed the remaining 24 per cent in first quarter of FY26, according to a report by Cushman & Wakefield. Institutional investment activity in real estate during Q1 FY26 recorded a total of USD 1.6 billion, down 52 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) and up 26 per cent year-on-year (YoY). The report



noted that the domestic investors' share has been higher in four of the last five quarters. The increased domestic institutional share acts as a safeguard against volatile foreign capital flows, reducing risks from global currency fluctuations and geopolitical events. Core asset acquisitions had 68 per cent share in Q1 FY26, followed by 24 per

cent for under construction projects and 8 per cent early-stage investments. The office sector was the most attractive in Q1 FY26, having received 64 per cent share of inflows, followed by the hospitality (13 per cent) and residential (9 per cent) sectors. At a city level, the report highlights that Delhi NCR garnered 28 per cent of the quarterly investment in Q1 FY26, followed by Chennai and Bangalore at 17 per cent and 14 per cent shares, respectively. In the overall institutional fund deployment during Q1 FY26, Private Equity (PE) investments had 74 per cent share, followed by real estate investment trusts (REITs) at 26 per cent. Meanwhile, the Private Equity (PE) investment in the real estate sector during Q1 FY26 was up by 48 per cent on YoY basis and 19 per cent lower than the previous quarter. PE investments from the USA made a strong start to the year at USD 293 billion, up by 5 per cent (YoY). The reported first stated that Q1 FY26 recorded.



## Ashok Koul reviews Prashikshan Mahabhiyan, organizational strengthening in Jammu South

Jammu, 29 April 2026: Jammu & Kashmir BIP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chaired a series of important meetings with senior party leaders to review preparations for the ongoing Prashikshan Mahabhiyan and to discuss organizational strengthening in the Jammu South district.

The meetings were attended by J&K BIP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, M.A. Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Secretary Reema Padha, Prabhari Jammu South Praduman Singh, and District President Jammu South Naresh Singh Jasrotia, among other senior functionaries.

In the first meeting, detailed discussions were



held regarding the preparations and strategy for the District Training Maha Abhiyan under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan. Emphasis was laid on ensuring maximum participation, effective training modules, and the smooth implementation of the program at the grassroots level.

In the second meeting, detailed deliberations were held for strengthening the party organization in Jammu South district. Deliberations were held on enhancing coordination among party workers, expanding outreach, and planning upcoming programs aimed at further consolidating the BJP's presence in the region.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meetings, stressed the importance of continuous training and organizational discipline. He said that the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan is a crucial initiative to empower party workers with ideological clarity and organizational skills. He asked all leaders to actively contribute to the success of the campaign and ensure that its benefits reach every level of the party structure.

He further emphasized that a strong and active organization is the cornerstone of the party's success. He also reviewed logistical arrangements and assigned responsibilities to ensure the success of the campaign.

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## DDC reviews progress of HADP in Reasi district

REASI, APRIL 29: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The officers presented detailed updates on the physical and financial progress, highlighting key achievements, existing challenges and proposed action plans for effective implementation.

The DDC reviewed the status of farmer registrations under the programme. He directed the concerned departments to ensure 100 percent registration within a stipulated timeline. Emphasizing the impor-



importance of digital connectivity, he instructed officers to ensure internet facilities at all Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKGs) to facilitate seamless service delivery. He further urged all KKGs to obtain the necessary licenses for the sale and distribution of seeds and fertilizers to strengthen agricultural support services at the grassroots level. The DDC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to achieve the objectives of HADP and to enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of the agriculture sector in the district.

## PHC Bhagwah gets Truenat Machine



DODA, APRIL 29: In a significant development aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities in the remote areas of the district, the Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed

rather, today inaugurated a Truenat Machine dedicated to PHC Bhagwah. With the installation of the machine, TB tests will now be conducted at the PHC, providing timely diagnostic services to the local people and those from adjoining areas. The CMO said that the addition of the Truenat Machine would greatly benefit the local population and strengthen healthcare delivery services.

District Epidemiologist Umar Anayat, Mashhood Latif, BM&EO Ghat, besides the staff members of PHC Bhagwah were also present on the occasion.

The local residents expressed gratitude to the Chief Medical Officer and the Health Department for this valuable initiative.

## DLSA Doda spreads awareness on Mediation; Child protection laws

DODA, APRIL 29: Legal Awareness Programme on mediation and child protection laws were organised today by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Doda. The awareness programme on mediation was held here at the Labour Office to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms among the public.

The programme was conducted by Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar (LADC) along with Advocate Abhi Kumar, in the presence of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Paramveer and Shehnaaz.

The speakers elaborated on the significance of mediation as an effective tool for resolving disputes in a quick, cost-efficient and amicable manner. They emphasized that mediation not only reduces the burden on courts but



also helps maintain cordial relationships between parties. The participants were encouraged to opt for mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution to avoid prolonged litigation. Meanwhile, an awareness camp focusing on child protection laws and prevention of sexual offences was organized today at a local school under the directions of the

Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhaderwah, Secretary DLSA and Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Doda. The session was facilitated by the LADC and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Doda. Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar was the resource person. He delivered an informative and engaging session on various aspects of child protection laws. He elaborated on preventive measures against child abuse, the significance of timely reporting and the legal safeguards available for children.

## Shamsher Chand expresses concern over political bickering, urges focus on public issues

Sub-headline: AICC Member calls for constructive dialogue, says governance must not be overshadowed by political point-scoring

Jammu: Shamsher Chand, AICC Member and Bharat Yatri, has voiced deep concern over the growing trend of heated exchanges between ministers and opposition leaders, stating that such confrontational politics is overshadowing the real issues affecting the common people. In a detailed statement, Shamsher Chand observed that public discourse is increasingly being reduced to allegations and counter-allegations, with leaders more focused on scoring political brownie points rather than engaging in meaningful dialogue. He said this pattern is not only unproductive but also harmful to the democratic fabric, as it shifts attention away from governance and accountability. Highlighting the broader impact, he noted that per-



sistent political confrontation leads to policy paralysis, delays in decision-making, and weak implementation of developmental programmes. "When governance takes a back seat to political rivalry, it is the common citizen who ultimately suffers," he remarked. He added that critical issues such as unemployment, inflation, healthcare, education, and infrastruc-

ture development demand urgent and coordinated action, which becomes difficult in an atmosphere of continuous political friction. Shamsher Chand further cautioned that such an environment erodes public trust in democratic institutions. When people witness their elected representatives engaged in verbal conflicts rather than constructive debate, it creates a sense of disillusionment and disconnect. This, he said, can weaken citizen participation in democratic processes and reduce confidence in governance systems. He stressed that both the ruling government and the opposition have an equal responsibility to maintain the dignity of democratic institutions. While disagreement is an essential part of democracy, it must be

expressed through healthy debate, evidence-based arguments, and a commitment to finding solutions. "Democracy thrives on dialogue, not discord," he asserted. Calling for a shift in approach, Shamsher Chand urged political leaders to prioritise policy discussions, collaborative problem-solving, and people-centric governance. He emphasized the need for a mature and responsible political culture where leaders work together on issues of public importance, even while maintaining ideological differences. Reaffirming his commitment to the welfare of the people, he appealed to all stakeholders to rise above narrow political interests and focus on inclusive development, transparency, and efficient service delivery.

## Rajouri unites against drug abuse

Padyatra, Yoga, Fitness Drive held to promote healthy, drug free society

RAJOURI, APRIL 29: In a determined effort to strengthen the fight against drug abuse, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports District Rajouri organised a series of impactful and well-coordinated activities across the district under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The campaign featured a diverse range of programmes including Padyatra, Yoga sessions, pledge ceremonies and fitness and wellness activities, all aimed at spreading awareness and inspiring positive behavioural change among the youth. The Padyatra witnessed energetic participation from students and young



volunteers who marched through key areas of the district, spreading awareness and raising a strong voice against drug abuse. Yoga sessions conducted at multiple venues emphasised mental clarity, discipline and holistic well-being, reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Pledge ceremonies were organised across institutions where participants solemnly resolved to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a drug free society. Fitness and wellness activities further motivated the youth to channel their energy into constructive and health-oriented pursuits.

## Govt Polytechnic Reasi, GDC Katra organise youth engagement events

REASI, APRIL 29: As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, Government Polytechnic and Government Degree College Reasi organised a series of youth engagement programmes.

Government Polytechnic organized a series of indoor sports activities, with active participation of 60 students representing different departments. Contests in Table Tennis, Chess and Carrom were held, providing students an opportunity to showcase their skills, focus and strategic thinking.

The program was organised under the guidance of Principal, Dr. Arun Bangotra. The events were organised under the supervision of faculty members. Akankasha



Sharma, Veena Thapa, Prashtom Lal, Prashtom Singh and Anil Kumar. Government Degree College Katra, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, organised an awareness symposium as part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the aegis of the Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. The programme was conducted under the leadership of the Principal, Dr.

## Census-2027: 3-day training for Field Trainers concludes at Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 29: The three-day training programme for Field Trainers (FTs) in connection with the forthcoming Census-2027 operations concluded today in Jammu.

The training programme was organized by the District Administration Jammu under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) Vidhur Shekhar and DSEO, Additional District Census Officer Neeraj Sharma.

A total of 46 Field Trainers from different departments participated in the training programme. The Field Trainers have been trained to further impart training to Supervisors and Enumerators at their respective charge levels to ensure smooth and efficient conduct of census activities across the district.

The training sessions were conducted by Master Trainer Jatinder Kumar, Assistant Director and Nodal Officer (Jammu) from



Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, who provided detailed training on various aspects of Census-2027 including House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), House listing Blocks (HLBs), Layout maps, Definitions uses in Census, Legal aspects of Census, roles and responsibilities of Census Functionaries etc through PPTs and hands on practices on mobile devices. Sunita Reshi, District Coordinator from Census Operations, J&K also attended the training. The programme concluded today with closing remarks by Vidhur

Shekhar, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), who emphasized the importance of proper training and coordination among field functionaries for the successful conduct of Census-2027. He appreciated the active participation of the Field Trainers and urged them to effectively disseminate the knowledge gained during the training to the enumerators and supervisors during subsequent training programmes. The District Administration Jammu reaffirmed its commitment to ensure the smooth, transparent and time-bound conduct of Census-2027 in the district.

## Lieutenant Governor Launches Book "Healer in Exile: The Untold Story of Dr. Sushil Razdan"



**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, today launched the book, "Healer in Exile: The Untold Story of Dr. Sushil Razdan" authored by his son Sachin Razdan. Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that Dr. Sushil Razdan stands among India's leading neurologists and his contributions in the medical

field remain unmatched. "The story of Dr. Sushil Razdan's life conveys a significant lesson of committing yourself to the selfless service of others. It is a sacred duty to place the needs of the person before you above your own and see society not merely as a city or village, but as a community of responsibilities, where true fulfillment lies in dedicating one's

strength to the care of its most vulnerable population," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that the central message of this book is profound and what makes a doctor truly exceptional is not only skill in treatment, but the ability to serve with compassion. Today, some experts in health-care claim that artificial intelli-

gence will transform the healthcare sector and it will deliver treatments with flawless precision. I hold a different view. Technology can indeed support diagnosis and treatment in important ways, but it cannot replace the spirit of service. No instrument of AI can embody or substitute this essence of care with compassion," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Dr. Sushil Razdan bore the anguish of being uprooted from his soil. He said the pain of leaving behind roots and cherished homes defies expression and like countless fellow Kashmiri Pandits, Dr. Razdan endured this sorrow, yet he remained steadfast, striving to preserve his heritage, values and spirit of selfless service. "Dr. Sushil Razdan has touched millions of lives, ensuring with utter devotion that patients recover to nurture families and contribute to nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

## Speaker LA reviews progress on new LA Complex, emphasizes timely completion



**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a meeting with the senior officers to review progress on construction of the new Legislature Complex at Jammu. Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi; Engineer-in-charge, Pursotam Kumar, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu Rajesh Kumar; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Director Finance PWD HK Prashar, SE R&B, South Circle Jammu Arit Gupta, and other senior officers of

concerned departments and Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting. Threadbare discussion was held on the issues pertaining to early completion of the new Assembly Complex including provision for Central Hall, committee cum meeting rooms, seating capacity, library, Media room etc. A detailed presentation about various phases of project execution was presented by the Executive Engineer in charge of the project through a PowerPoint Presentation. The Speaker was apprised that Central Hall has been proposed as

it is one of the basic requirements of the Legislative Assembly. It was also informed that there is a provision for 5 committee cum meeting rooms with the seating capacity ranging from 50 to 100 chairs. Regarding the space for the Library and Media room, it was apprised that there is sufficient space for both requirements. The Speaker, after reviewing the progress of development works of Assembly Complex emphasized the timely completion of the project while maintaining high quality standards.

## Yasha Mudgal reviews progress on Centrally Sponsored Computerization of PACS

**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting to review progress on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) under Phase-II across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary, Cooperative Department, FA/CAO Cooperative Department, Joint Registrar (Audit), Deputy Registrars of the Cooperative Department and other senior officers of the Department. During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the Union Ministry of Cooperation, has approved 171 PACS for coverage under this phase in J&K. It was further highlighted that while 8 out of 20 districts have successfully completed the identification and approval process through their respective District Level Implementation and Monitoring

Committees (DLIMCs), progress remains pending in the remaining districts. Yasha Mudgal reiterated that PACS, being grassroots-level cooperative institutions, play a pivotal role in providing credit and essential services to farmers and rural populations. She emphasized that the computerization initiative, envisioned by the Government of India, aims to strengthen these societies through digital enablement, ensuring greater transparency and modernized service delivery. Taking serious notice of the slow progress in the remaining districts, the Commissioner/Secretary issued a stern directive to all the Deputy Registrars of the lagging districts. She ordered the immediate expedition of the approval process and set a hard deadline of May 5, 2026, for completion of all DLIMC approvals, making it clear that timely completion of formalities is non-negotiable for the onboarding and digitization of these societies.

## J&K govt deliberates on Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution -Enabled Citizen Service Delivery Ecosystem

**JAMMU, APRIL 29:** In a significant step towards strengthening the digital governance and enhancing citizen service delivery, the Information Technology Department today convened a comprehensive meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information Technology, to deliberate upon the adoption of a Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution for seamless delivery of government services to the citizens. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary, Information Technology Department and was attended by senior officers and officials of the Department, including the CEO, JaKeGA, Director Finance, Additional Secretary IT, Head



SeMT, Consultant SeMT, and representatives of empanelled System Integrators (SIs) under the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. The deliberations focused on leveraging a conversational multi-channel communication platform

to improve the accessibility, efficiency and responsiveness of government services. During the meeting, technical presentations and Proof of Concept (PoC) demonstrations were reviewed, highlighting multiple citizen-centric use cases such as grievance redressal, service delivery notifications, application status tracking, dis-

semination of government schemes and public information and interactive citizen support services. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary IT emphasized that the initiative is aimed at bringing the government services closer to the citizens by utilizing widely adopted digital communication platforms, thereby ensuring ease of access, real-time interaction, and an improved user experience. He further observed that integration of Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution based services has the potential to significantly strengthen inclusive governance, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the Union Territory.

## Javid Dar inaugurates Rs 3.5 cr Fruit & Vegetable Processing Unit in Marh

**JAMMU APRIL 29:** In a major boost to agricultural infrastructure in Jammu region, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fruit and Vegetable Aggregation, Processing, Grading and Packing Unit at Marh, Jammu. MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat, Managing Director JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Sanjay Gupta, Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed and Director Sheep



Husbandry Jammu, Dr Syed Moin-ul-Haq were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that establishment of the processing unit will play a transformative role in strengthening post-harvest management, boosting processing capacity and significantly reducing post-harvest losses. He said the facility will add 100 metric tonnes of storage capacity, ensuring value addition

and creating better marketing opportunities for the farmers at both local and national level. He highlighted that Marh, known as the vegetable hub of Jammu district, contributes significantly to vegetable supplies across the region, making the installation of such a facility crucial for the farming community. "The Rs 3.5 crore project will provide farmers with modern post-harvest infrastructure, helping minimise crop damage and ensuring improved returns through better grading, packing and storage facilities," the Minister said. Reiterating the government's commitment towards farmers' welfare, Javid Ahmad Dar said the

Jammu and Kashmir government is ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds and fertilizers to maximise farm productivity. He added that exotic varieties of vegetable seeds and fruit plants are being made available through departmental channels. The Minister further informed that Centres of Excellence have been established across all districts to provide quality seedlings and technical support to the farmers. He assured that the demands and concerns raised by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat would be addressed on priority, adding that several initiatives have already been taken to facilitate the farming community.

## Div Com meets Religious Leaders, invites for participation in Nasha Mukta J&K Padyatra

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 29:** Continuing outreach efforts to engage stakeholders in the fight against drug abuse and to build a narcotics-free society, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today held a meeting with religious leaders from various faiths. The meeting was attended by Imams, members of the Shia Community, Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, and representatives of the migrant Hindu community. During the interaction, the Divisional Commissioner appreciated the proactive role of religious leaders in the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, noting their influence in spreading awareness through religious institutions and community engagement.



He emphasized that the role of religious leaders is indispensable in combating the growing menace of narcotics. On the occasion, he extended a cordial invitation to all religious figures, across sects and faiths, to participate in large numbers in the Nasha Mukta J&K Padyatra scheduled for May 3. The participants shared valuable suggestions and assured full cooperation and active participation in the upcoming padyatra, reinforcing their commitment to the collective fight against drug abuse.

## Secretary RDD directs DCs to prepare District Sanitation Plans for door-to-door waste collection

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 29:** Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired a high-level review meeting under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen and directed all Deputy Commissioners to prepare comprehensive District Sanitation Plans within one week for universal door-to-door waste collection across rural Jammu &

Kashmir. The Secretary said District Sanitation Plans must begin with Panchayat-wise mapping of existing rural sanitation infrastructure created by the Department, including Segregation Sheds, Plastic Waste Management Units (PWWUs), compost pits, soakage facilities, waste collection points, transport vehicles and other sanitation assets, so that these are effective-

ly integrated into the waste collection chain. He instructed districts to design Panchayat-wise collection routes, assess manpower needs and establish linkages between household waste collection and scientific processing/disposal facilities. He added that cluster-wise review meetings would be held after submission of district plans. The Secretary stressed that several sanitation

assets in the past had been created at unsuitable locations and therefore future planning must ensure optimum utility, accessibility and long-term sustainability. He further directed strict implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026, making four-stream segregation at source mandatory-wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste. Domestic

hazardous waste such as medicines, paints and thermometers, he said, must also be separately handled. To ensure sustainability, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that dedicated funds have now been earmarked as a dedicated allocation for door-to-door collection, segregation and operation & maintenance of sanitation assets. However, he emphasised that

user charges must be regularly collected so that the system remains financially viable. He observed that waste management should not become a "leaking bucket" dependent only on repeated government funding, adding that long-term success depends on community ownership, cost recovery and efficient local management. Emphasising citizen participation, he said

strong IEC campaigns are essential and identified tourist destinations, markets, hospitals, schools, urban-rural fringe zones and legacy waste sites as special focus areas. District administrations were also directed to maintain zero tolerance against roadside dumping, animal dung accumulation along village roads, choked drains and open burning of waste.

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

