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A historic milestone for J&K: Vande Bharat Express flagged off between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh, and CM Omar Abdullah jointly inaugurate the high-speed service from Jammu Tawi Station

20-coach modern Vande Bharat train equipped with advanced winterization technology to ensure smooth operations even in extreme snowfall conditions

Railway Minister inspects Chenab Bridge—the world's highest railway bridge—and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station during visit

JAMMU, APRIL 30: A historic milestone was achieved today in Jammu and Kashmir's transport infrastructure as the direct high-speed Vande Bharat Express service between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar



They were formally inaugurated by Jammu Tawi and Srinagar



ly flagged off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, reaffirming the Government of India's

Drug Traffickers To Be Dealt With Like Terrorists In J&K: LG Sinha

JAMMU, APR 30: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that drug traffickers would be dealt with like terrorists under the law in the Union territory, where 440 drug offenders have been arrested and 350 FIRs filed in the past 20 days under the 100-day 'Nasha Mukti J-K Abhiyan'.

Addressing a gathering after launching the anti-drug campaign in Doda, Sinha termed drug abuse a form of "silent terrorism" and called for a public movement against the menace. "Narcotics smuggling is no less than terrorism, and those involved will get stringent punishment. I feel drug abuse is like silent terrorism, not just a matter of law and order," he said. Likening narcotics smuggling to "terrorism in disguise", Sinha called it a hidden threat that devastates the



ism, and those involved will get stringent punishment. I feel drug abuse is like silent terrorism, not just a matter of law and order," he said. Likening narcotics smuggling to "terrorism in disguise", Sinha called it a hidden threat that devastates the

Amit Shah In Ladakh To Attend First-Ever Exposition Of Buddha Relics In India



LEH, APR 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Ladakh on Thursday to attend the first-ever international exposition of holy relics of Lord Buddha in India, officials said. Shah was

received by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport here. Senior officials of the police and civil administration were also present. During his two-day visit, Shah will pay respect to the sacred relics of Lord Buddha on the Buddha Purnima, which falls on Friday. He will also lay foundation stone for a 10 TLPD (thousand litres per day) capacity dairy plant in Kargil and attend other dairy-related programmes. In an X post on Wednesday, Shah said it was a moment of profound good fortune for me to be attending on the occasion

Governor attends 'At Home' Hosted by The President at Rashtrapati Niwas



SHIMLA, APRIL 30: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kanvir Gupta, accompanied by Lady Governor Bindu Gupta, attended the 'At Home' hosted by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Niwas,

CM Omar Abdullah Seeks Inland Port For J&K At Vande Bharat Flagging Off Ceremony

JAMMU, APR 30: Thanking Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the Centre for extending Vande Bharat train services between Jammu and Srinagar, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday demanded a dry (inland) port for the union territory to boost trade and business.

"I want to congratulate and thank Vaishnaw and government, on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, for connecting Jammu with Kashmir



through rail," Abdullah said while addressing a gathering during the flagging-off of the Vande Bharat train from the Jammu railway station. Highlighting the railway

BRIEF NEWS

HC Seeks Fresh Status on CT Scan Machines, Inquiry Into Doctor's Private Practice

JAMMU, APRIL 30 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has sought fresh affidavits from the Health and Medical Education Department and Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited regarding the installation and commissioning of CT Scan machines at different hospitals across the Union Territory.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Pall and Justice Rajesh Oswal passed the order in a suo motu Public Interest Litigation concerning healthcare facilities. The matter has now been adjourned to May 14, 2026. During the hearing, the

(Contd on Pg 2)

Juice Factory Steamer Explodes Two Dead

SRINAGAR, APR 30: A juice factory steamer exploded mid-repair, killing two persons and injuring one in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

The blast took place at Aglar on Wednesday night, injuring three persons, Saurabh Singh, Shiv Kumar, and Raj Kumar, who were repairing the steamer, they said. The three were rushed to a hospital where Saurabh succumbed to his injuries late on Wednesday night while Shiv Kumar died this morning. Raj Kumar is undergoing treatment, officials said. All three workers are

(Contd on Pg 2)

NIA Court Orders Attachment of Baramulla Properties of Terror Accused

JAMMU, APRIL 30 (JNF): In a significant order under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Special Judge under NIA Act, Jammu, has allowed an application filed by the National Investigation Agency and ordered attachment of immovable properties allegedly belonging to accused Shaheen Ahmad Lone, a resident of Kaniyapora, Baramulla, in RC-01/2020/NIA/JMU.

The order was passed on an application moved under Section 33(1) of the UAPA, seeking attachment of properties during pen-

dency of trial. The properties include a residential house on land measuring 7.5 marlas under Survey No. 1192, land measuring 6 marlas with a shed under Survey No. 1802 Bay, and the building of Syed Bahaud-Din Memorial School, Kaniyapora, under Survey No. 1154 min in Baramulla.

The case relates to the interception of a Hyundai 120 cc car at Ak-Stop Naka on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway near Mir Bazar, Kulgam, on January 11, 2020, during which arms, ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle, pistols, a hand

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Major Reshuffle In Finance Department; Over 70 Officers Transferred

JAMMU, APR 30: Information Technology Department, has been given additional charge as Director Finance in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Naaila Zahoor Chib, Director Finance various departments and districts to streamline administrative functioning. According to Government Order No. 174-F of 2026 dated April 30, 2026, the transfers and postings have been made with immediate effect in the interest of administration. As per the order, several senior officers have been reassigned to key positions. Iftekhar Hussain Chouhan, Director Finance in the

(Contd on Pg 2)

Enough Is Enough: Farooq Tells Pakistan To End Cycle Of Violence

SRINAGAR, APR 30: Asserting that "enough is enough", National Conference president Farooq Abdullah says Pakistan should "call it a day" and end the cycle of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. While terrorism has largely subsided, Pakistan's refusal to accept Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India continues to fuel violence in the region, the three-time Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said. "My humble advice to both these nations, my own nation and Pakistan, is that the time has come. Let us leave the path of violence and start finding ways of peace so that we can live with honour and dignity," the 88-year-old said in an interview. Discussing the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, he said it was a "big blow" to efforts of



rekindling brotherhood in the region. However, it also brought the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the streets in protest. This was, Abdullah said, a clear signal to Pakistan that terror was being rejected. The pain was not felt only by the families who lost their dear ones but also by the people of Jammu and

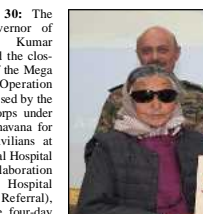
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'India Recognised For IT, Pakistan For Terrorism': Rajnath

NEW DELHI, APR 30: Delivering a sharp rebuke over Pakistan's continued backing of terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that while both nations gained independence together, India is today globally recognised for 'Information Technology', whereas Pakistan has come to be seen as the epicentre of "International Terrorism", underscoring a hardened shift in India's response to cross-border terror. Addressing a National Security Summit in the national capital, Singh said, "Both India and Pakistan attained independence at the same time. However, today India is recognised globally for IT i.e., 'Information Technology', while

(Contd on Pg 2)

Over 950 patients screened, 215 surgeries conducted L-G lauds Fire & Fury Corps-led initiative for bringing specialised eye care to far-flung areas of Ladakh



LEH, APRIL 30: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinay Kumar Saxena, attended the closing ceremony of the Mega Eye Camp-Operation Netra 1.0, organised by the Fire & Fury Corps under Operation Saadbhavana for veterans and civilians at the Army General Hospital in Leh in collaboration with Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi. The four-day mega initiative, held from April 27 to April 30, covered patients from multiple remote locations, including Tangste, Nyoma, Chushul, Nubra and Kargil. The camp also witnessed advanced medical interventions by a highly specialised surgical team from Army Hospital (R&R), which screened around 950

CORAS Commandos Among 21 Security Personnel To Guard Vande Bharat Trains : PCSC

JAMMU, APR 30: Apart from the multi-layered security setup along the 327-kilometre Jammu-Katra-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line, 21 security personnel, including RPF commandos, will guard the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express service launched by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday, an official said. Vaishnaw on Thursday flagged off the 20-coach train, which is expected to cut travel time between Jammu and Srinagar to

(Contd on Pg 2)

Court Denies Bail to Tech Director in Rs.90-Lakh Fraud Case

JAMMU, APRIL 30 (JNF): In a strong order in an alleged economic offence, the Court of 3rd Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu, has rejected the anticipatory bail application of Samar Singla, Director of SOCOMO Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Mohali, in FIR No. 0003/2023 registered by EOW Merit Branch, Jammu, under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC.

The case relates to allegations that the complainant's son had engaged the accused company for development of a taxi service mobile application for a London-based business venture. As per the complaint, the accused initially offered to provide a ready-made app for 71.5 lakhs, but later, on account of enhancements and customisation, the payment allegedly increased.

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Repositioning, vision restored for around 15 patients, including those who were previously completely blind. This large-scale initiative stands as a remarkable example of civil-military collaboration, bringing together the Indian Army, civilian

IOI Repositioning. Notably, vision was restored for around 15 patients, including those who were previously completely blind. This large-scale initiative stands as a remarkable example of civil-military collaboration, bringing together the Indian Army, civilian

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FROM PAGE ONE

A historic...

Railway Manager Vivek Kumar. The ceremony was further enlivened by cultural performances presented by schoolgirls, adding a festive touch to the historic occasion. Addressing the gathering, Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw described the launch as "creating new history," emphasizing that the direct rail link will establish a strong and uninterrupted connection between Jammu and Kashmir Valley, significantly transforming regional mobility and integration.

He highlighted that, in response to growing passenger demand, a modern 20-coach Vande Bharat Express has been introduced on this route instead of the standard configuration. The train incorporates advanced winterization technology, including heated windshields and specialized temperature control systems, ensuring uninterrupted operations even in sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall conditions. Covering a distance of approximately 267 kilometers in just 4 to 5 hours, the service is expected to drastically reduce travel time while boosting tourism, trade, and overall economic activity in the region. Following the inauguration, the Railway Minister undertook an inspection visit to the globally renowned Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and also reviewed facilities and progress at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station.

The regular operations of the Vande Bharat Express will commence from May 2, 2026. The service will run with two pairs of trains, operating six days a week. Train No. 26401/26402 will operate except on Tuesdays. The train will depart from Jammu at 06:20 AM and arrive in Srinagar at 11:10 AM. On its return journey, it will depart from Srinagar at 02:00 PM and reach Jammu at 06:50 PM. Train No. 26403/26404 will operate except on Wednesdays. It will depart from Srinagar at 08:00 AM and arrive in Jammu at 12:40 PM. On the return leg, the train will depart from Jammu at 01:20 PM. The direct high-speed service is expected to significantly benefit tourists, traders, students, and patients by providing a faster, safer, and more reliable mode of transportation, while also strengthening socio-economic connectivity between the two regions.

Drug...

humanity and enemies of our youth. We are committed to wiping out this threat," Sinha said.

"I give you my word — we will not rest until dismantling the networks spreading this poison in society," he said.

Noting that 80 days remained in the 100-day anti-drug drive, Sinha said, "Every moment must be used with purpose, and every citizen must take part in this mass movement."

"Together, we can make Jammu and Kashmir a shining example for the nation — a society free from drug addiction," he said.

Underlining the importance of public participation, Sinha said the fight against drugs cannot rest on government machinery alone.

"In the remaining 80 days, a whole-of-government approach must confront and dismantle the web of drug addiction. This will require a change in mindset. Drug smugglers thrive on public indifference and silence," he said.

Sharing details, Sinha said about 350 FIRs had been registered and 440 drug traffickers arrested in the past 20 days, as he urged schools, colleges, social organisations and the media to join the drive.

Amit Shah...

of Buddha Purima, the first ever international exposition of the holy relics of Lord Buddha, commencing on the 1st of May," he said. "In this exposition, devotees from different parts of the world will offer veneration to the relics of Lord Buddha," he added. The sacred Piprahwa relics of Buddha were brought to Leh in a special Indian Air Force aircraft on Wednesday by Drukpa Thuksey Kinpoche and Khempo Thinlas Chosal of Matho Monastery. The sacred relics were accorded a ceremonial reception on arrival, with people pouring out of their homes and gathering along the route to pay respect. The exposition to be held in the first two weeks of May marks the beginning of a rare and significant spiritual occasion in the Ladakh Territory of Ladakh. Piprahwa relics refer to the ancient remains and associated objects linked to Gautama Buddha, discovered at Piprahwa, an archaeological site in the present-day Uttar Pradesh, 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.

The relics have been exhibited internationally in several countries; this is the first time they have been brought from their original place of preservation for exposition within India.

The Piprahwa 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 Jivatal from May 2 to 10. They will subsequently be taken to Zaskar on May 11 and 12, followed by exposition at the Dharm Centre in Leh from May 13 to 14, before being returned to Delhi on May 15, it read.

Governor...

Opposition, Shri Jai Ram Thakur; Public Works Minister, Shri Vikramaditya Singh; senior officers of the State Government; and other prominent persons.

CM Omar...

it is that has not only enabled people like us to travel but has also facilitated the transport of goods such as cement. I was surprised to see Maruti cars being transported to Srinagar and fruits from Kashmir by rail," he said.

Abdullah also appealed to the railways minister to set up an inland port in Jammu and Kashmir to ease customs clearance for exporting goods from the union territory. "I have a request for the railways minister, even as it does not pertain to his ministry, but since he has the goodwill,

he can use that. I request that an inland port be set up in J-K. There is an urgent need for a dry port here so that we do not require customs clearance in other cities for our goods, which we want to export from here. The customs clearance should take place here in J-K, it will benefit our trade and business," the CM added.

Abdullah said that while he would raise the issue with the central government, he appealed to the union ministers, Vaishnaw and Jitendra Singh, and the MPs present there to take up the matter with the Centre.

"This inland port, dry port, will prove to be very beneficial for Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Talking about the significance of the railway connectivity between Srinagar and Jammu, the chief minister said the people of J-K had been waiting for it for many years. "For so many years, we had been waiting to travel by train from Jammu to Srinagar. Now, there is no need for us to travel to Katra from Jammu and the other way around via road," he said.

Abdullah said he had never expected the railway line to become so popular that he would have to seek favours to reserve seats on the train.

"Thankfully, now it (train) has been changed from eight bogies to 20 and while 500 passengers used to travel earlier, now 1400 people can travel via it. This is a huge thing for us," he added.

NIA Court...

grenade and other incriminating material were allegedly recovered. The investigation was later taken over by the NIA after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order on January 17, 2020.

According to the NIA, accused Shaheen Ahmad Lone was allegedly an active overground worker of banned terrorist organisations Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba and was involved in smuggling arms, ammunition and explosives from across the LoC for further supply to terrorists operating in Kashmir.

The defence opposed the application, contending that the residential house and shed were ancestral properties and not proceeds of terrorism. It was further argued that the school land was Waqf land and the school was being run by the Aqaf Committee, and therefore could not be attached against the accused.

After considering the rival submissions, the court observed that Section 33 (1) of UAPA permits attachment of property belonging to an accused facing trial for offences under Chapter IV or VI of the Act. The court held that such attachment is a preventive measure to ensure that the accused does not dispose of the property or create third-party interest during the pendency of trial.

The court noted that the accused is facing trial for offences under Section 120-B IPC, Sections 17, 18, 38, 39 and 40 of UAPA, provisions of the Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act. It further observed that the properties had not been attached earlier under any provision of UAPA.

Allowing the NIA's application, the court directed that the properties shall remain attached to the extent of the accused's share and that no third-party interest shall be created till the culmination of proceedings in the case. (JNF)

Enough Is...

Kashmir, he said. "They (people) came out on the streets without anybody asking them to do so... they came out voluntarily and said this is not us we're not part of it," Abdullah said, recalling the scenes of protest after the attack last April.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those from the Valley, had sent a stern message to Pakistan that violence must end, he added.

"I hope our neighbour realised we will never favour terrorism and we will never be part of any such war in the future. This is not us. We are not animals. We are peace loving people and we want peace to prevail. Enough is enough... call it a day," he added.

In his view, the greatest threat facing the youth in Jammu and Kashmir today is no longer militancy but a rampant drug epidemic "eating the vitals" of not only the union territory but the nation.

Expressing deep regret that some locals are involved in the trade for monetary gain, Abdullah said he favoured a crackdown so severe that "no one dares to continue this menace."

"No religion preaches drug abuse," he said and added that the fight against narcotics cannot be the government's responsibility alone. "This menace has to be fought by every parent and every citizen," he said, calling for a united national front to eradicate the crisis forever.

A former Union minister in Manmohan Singh's UPA-II government, Abdullah, who represented India at the United Nations in early 1990s, said wars are no solution and increases problems rather than solving them. Global conflicts like the continuing Russia-Ukraine war and the West Asia one between Iran-US and Israel only skyrocket inflation and deepen poverty worldwide. "Look at Europe today. Prosperous countries are facing tremendous problems. America itself is in no good way because of this war." Three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists opened fire at tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow on April 22 last year killing 25 tourists and a local pony operator who had attempted to save them.

CORAS...

includes eight Railway Protection Force (RPF) commandos who will ensure security along the route. Gangwar said, adding that they are fully equipped with advanced weapons.

The official said the railways will also operate a pilot vehicle ahead of the train for security purposes. "It will move in advance in the morning and address any shortcomings along the route," he said.

Furthermore, guard posts have been established at every 2 kilometres, manned by quick reaction teams consisting of Government Railway Police and civil police personnel.

"On receiving any information, they will immediately secure the affected area," he said.

On tunnel security, he explained that a tunnel control system is put in place, which is jointly managed by the engineering teams and the Government Railway Police. "Sensors have been installed to detect any unusual activity — whether fire or intrusion — and they immediately trigger alarms. Both ends of the tunnels are guarded," he added.

Escape tunnels have been provided so that, in case of any

emergency, stranded passengers can be evacuated safely. "You will see that there is complete and robust security throughout the route. Moreover, the affection and support of the people of Kashmir itself serve as a strong assurance for the safety of this service," Gangwar said.

RPF commandos, popularly known as CORAS (commandos for railway safety), were deployed last year for security of Vande Bharat trains operating on the Katra-Srinagar rail link between the Kashmir Valley and Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

The 327-kilometre railway line, constructed at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore, includes 36 tunnels spanning 119 kilometres and consists of 947 bridges, the official said. The project provides all-weather seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country, aiming to transform regional mobility and boost socio-economic integration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on June 6 last year, flagged off the first Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Srinagar, marking the first rail link between the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region.

Major...

Jammu, Manohar Lal has been moved to JPDCIL Kathua as Chief Pay & Accounts Officer. The reshuffle also includes multiple postings in the health and education sectors. Mr. Mohd Ayoub Lone has been posted as District Treasury Officer Anantnag, while Ms. Nuzliq Mushtaq has been assigned as Financial Advisor/CAO at Government Medical College, Srinagar. Several Chief Accounts Officers have also been repositioned across departments. Mr. Irfan Majid has been posted with the J&K Road Transport Corporation, while Mr. Nishad Akhtar has been transferred to the Police Headquarters Srinagar. Mr. Mohd Iqbal Pethar has been posted as Chief Accounts Officer in SICOP.

In district-level changes, officers have been shifted in Kupwara, Pulwama, Kulgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, and other districts to strengthen treasury and accounts management. Notably, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Lone has been posted as District Treasury Officer Pulwama, while Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Lone has been shifted to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Srinagar.

The order further includes adjustments of officers awaiting promotion, who have now been placed as Chief Accounts Officers or District Treasury Officers in various departments and districts.

The government stated that these transfers aim to enhance efficiency, ensure better financial governance, and improve coordination among departments. The order has been issued by the Finance Department under the approval of the competent authority and signed by Financial Commissioner (ACS) Finance, Shailendra Kumar.

'India...

Pakistan is regarded as the epicenter of a different IT i.e., 'International Terrorism'.

In a sharp articulation of India's evolving security doctrine, the defence minister asserted that Operation Sindoor marks a decisive shift from the earlier practice of limited strikes to the nation's own terms, sending a clear global message of strategic resolve and operational confidence.

"Operation Sindoor conveyed an unequivocal global message that India is no longer bound by the old mindset of merely issuing diplomatic statements when terror attacks are perpetrated on its soil, and that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government has moved beyond mere intent and rhetoric by demonstrating its unwavering commitment through decisive action," said Singh said in his address.

"Terrorism emanates from a distorted and perverse mindset. It casts a dark stain on humanity. The battle against terrorism is not merely a matter of national security; it is, fundamentally, a battle to safeguard the core values of humanity. It is a fight against a barbaric ideology that seeks to annihilate the very human value. We have articulated this Indian perspective, both within the country and abroad," said the Minister.

He further added that as long as terrorism exists, it will continue to challenge collective peace, development, and prosperity. He urged the world to join hands in eradicating a religious colour or linking it to a violent ideology such as Nazalism. This is extremely dangerous and, in a way, provides cover fire to terrorists so they can slowly advance toward their goal. Terrorism is not just an anti-national act; it has multiple dimensions—operational, ideological, and political. It can only be dealt with if we tackle all these dimensions," he said.

Dubbing Operation Sindoor as a shining example of jointness and synergy of the Indian Defence Forces, he stated that the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force acted in concert and under a unified plan, demonstrating conclusively that India's military might no longer operates in silos; instead, it has emerged as a joint, integrated, and global power.

He also stated that India executed Operation Sindoor on its own terms and at a time of its own choosing and halted it strictly on its own terms. "During the course of the operation, we targeted, with absolute precision, only those who had perpetrated the attack against us. We did not halt the operation because our capabilities had been exhausted or diminished. We halted it entirely on our own terms. We were fully prepared to sustain a prolonged conflict. We possess the requisite surge capacity, and the inherent strength to rapidly scale up our capabilities in moments of sudden crisis," he said.

Singh underlined the fact that India's military-industrial complex has consistently demonstrated, time and again, that it stands ready to meet not only the requirements of peacetime, but also the demands for rapid supply and logistics during times of war. He asserted that, during that period, India did not fall on the bluff or a threat of a nuclear strike, but it successfully accomplished its objectives. "This is the 'New World Order'; the 'New India' of this new global era. This is an India which makes no distinction between terrorism and those who sponsor it. This is the unequivocal policy of our Prime Minister, which has transformed India amidst the shifting global landscape," he said.

Describing Operation Sindoor as an embodiment of deterrence, the defence minister stated that although the opera-

tion was concluded within a span of just 72 hours, the preparatory work preceding it was extensive and protracted. He pointed out that India's surge capacity and its ability to rapidly mobilise resources, strategic stockpiles, and the proven credibility of indigenously-developed weaponry have all become integral components of deterrence posture.

L-G lauds...

healthcare professionals, and administrative agencies to deliver critical healthcare services to underserved populations in Ladakh's most inaccessible areas.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Indian Army, particularly the Fire & Fury Corps, for the successful execution of the initiative. He described Operation Netra as a transformative effort that has brought new hope and light into the lives of hundreds of people, noting that for many beneficiaries, the surgeries have restored not just vision but also dignity, confidence and independence.

He emphasised that Ladakh's challenging terrain and vast distances have historically limited access to specialised healthcare, but initiatives like Operation Netra are effectively bridging these gaps through coordinated outreach and service delivery.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the collaborative efforts of Army Hospital (R&R), 153 General Hospital, SSM Hospital, the Health Department, and administrative teams, terming it a model of professional excellence and synergy. He also highlighted the Indian Army's broader role as a force for humanity and community welfare, especially in remote regions like Ladakh.

Reaffirming his commitment to strengthening healthcare access, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the momentum generated by Operation Netra would continue, ensuring that quality medical services reach every corner of Ladakh.

During the ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the medical team led by Brigadier (Dr) Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (R&R), and distributed eye care kits among the beneficiaries.

Court...

substantially. The complainant alleged that despite payments of around ₹90 lakh, the app was not fully delivered even after considerable delay. It was further alleged that the accused later demanded ₹1.15 crore for the app code, though the earlier agreed amount was stated to be ₹55 lakh.

Appearing for the applicant, the defence argued that the matter was purely contractual and civil in nature, and that even if there was any breach of contract, no criminal case was made out. It was also argued that the applicant's custodial interrogation was not required and that he was ready to cooperate with the investigation.

The prosecution opposed the plea, submitting that the allegations disclosed a serious case of cheating and criminal conspiracy involving a large amount of money. It was further submitted that the applicant had failed to cooperate with the investigating agency despite notices.

After hearing both sides, the court observed that part of the payment had been made from Jammu, and therefore, at the prima facie stage, the Magistrate as well as Crime Branch Jammu had jurisdiction to proceed in the matter. The court further observed that the subsequent conduct of the applicant, including the alleged demand of a higher amount after receiving substantial payments, showed dishonest intention which, according to the court, surfaced during execution of the contract.

The court also took note of the allegation that the applicant had not appeared before the enquiry officer, had not joined investigation despite notices under Section 41 CrPc, and had also failed to appear before the court despite directions.

Holding that the allegations involved a serious economic offence and that custodial interrogation was required, the court ruled that the applicant had failed to make out a case for grant of anticipatory bail.

Accordingly, the anticipatory bail application was dismissed. The court, however, clarified that the applicant was only free for deciding the bail plea and would not affect the trial on merits. (JNF)

HC Seeks...

Court was informed that an inquiry had been ordered against Dr. Vipan Mangotra, Professor and Head of Department, Radio-diagnosis, Government Medical College, Jammu, following allegations that he was engaged in private practice in violation of norms and Government Order No. 43-HME of 2013. The Government informed the Court that a fact-finding inquiry had been ordered on March 27, 2026, and Akriti Sagar, IAS, Special Secretary to Government, was appointed as Inquiry Officer.

Learned Senior AG submitted that the inquiry was still in progress and was likely to be concluded within a week, after which appropriate action would be taken by the authorities.

The Court was also apprised about the status of CT SCAN machines. As per the affidavit filed by JKMSCL, machines for District Hospital Budgam and District Hospital Poonch had been delivered, while installation was expected to be completed shortly. The Court was further informed that CT SCAN machines for SMGS Hospital Jammu, SMHS Hospital Srinagar, Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar, Chest Disease Hospital Jammu and Super Speciality Hospital Jammu were at different stages of delivery or installation.

Appearing online, Mohd. Ashraf Chowdhury, General Manager (Administration), JKMSCL, submitted that the machines for DHS Kashmir and DH Budgam were under installation and would be operational within a week. Regarding DHS Jammu and DH Poonch, he submitted that machines had been installed and were likely to be operational within the same period.

For SMGS Hospital Jammu, the Court was informed that the machine had been delivered on April 10, 2026, and two weeks were required for civil works and installation. As regards Chest Disease Hospital Jammu, SMHS Hospital Srinagar and Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, the authorities stated that the matter had been taken up with Japan-based vendors and the machines were expected to be delivered in the first week of June.

The Bench granted two weeks' time to the respondent departments and the Corporation to file fresh affidavits indicating actual progress on the ground. The Court also directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, to ensure filing of the necessary affidavit regarding the ongoing inquiry/investigation. (JNF)

Juice Factory...

residents of Uttar Pradesh, they said.

142nd Birth Anniversary of Sant Maharishi Mehi Paramhans celebrated with devotion at Badyal Brahamana

Satsang and Mahabhandara mark grand tribute to Sant Mat saint's message of unity, meditation, and spiritual harmony

JAMMU, APR 30: The 142nd birth anniversary of Sant Maharishi Mehi Paramhans was observed with great devotion and enthusiasm at Badyal Brahamana in RS Pura on Wednesday, drawing a large gathering of devotees and spiritual followers from across the region. The commemorative event began in the early morning with a traditional Prabhat Pheri, where devotees walked through the locality chanting bhajans and spreading the message of peace and spiritual awakening. The procession created an atmosphere of devotion and reverence, reflecting the enduring influence of the saint's teachings. Participants later assembled at the main venue to offer floral tributes to the revered saint, recalling his invaluable



contribution to spiritual thought and his efforts to bridge diverse religious philosophies. A Satsang was organized, during which speakers and spiritual leaders highlighted the principles of Sant Mat, emphasizing meditation, inner realization, and the unity of all faiths. Born on April 28, 1885, in Bihar, Sant Maharishi Mehi Paramhans devoted his life to the study and synthesis of sacred scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita, presenting their essence in a simple

and accessible form. His efforts to harmonize diverse spiritual traditions have left a lasting imprint on society, inspiring countless individuals toward a path of righteousness and spiritual awakening. A grand Mahabhandara (community feast) was also arranged, symbolizing equality and collective harmony, where people from all walks of life partook in the meal together. The event served not only as a spiritual gathering but also as a platform to strengthen social bonds and communal unity. Speakers highlighted

that Sant Mat, as propagated by Sant Maharishi Mehi Paramhans, has played a significant role in promoting inner transformation as the foundation for societal change. They noted that the teachings of Sant Mat have historically contributed to reducing social divisions, advocating equality, simplicity, and compassion. The doctrine encourages individuals to seek truth within, fostering a sense of responsibility, discipline, and moral integrity—values that are essential for building a harmonious and progressive society. Its stress on

meditation and introspection has also helped individuals cope with stress, conflict, and the challenges of modern life, thereby strengthening mental and emotional well-being at the community level. Speakers emphasized that in today's fast-paced and often divided world, the teachings of Sant Mat offer a timeless framework for peace, coexistence, and ethical conduct. They called upon the younger generation to adopt these principles in daily life to build a more compassionate and united society. The programme concluded with collective prayers and a reaffirmation by devotees to follow the path shown by the great saint, ensuring that his message of unity, meditation, and universal brotherhood continues to guide future generations. The event was attended by members from all sections of society set together.

Placement Drive at University of Jammu Opens Career Opportunities for Social Sciences Students



JAMMU, APR 30: Reinforcing its commitment to enhancing student employability through meaningful industry engagement, the Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Placement Cell, University of Jammu, and the Bharti Airtel Foundation, successfully conducted a placement drive for students of Rural Learning, Studies and Sociology. The placement drive was organized under the patronage of Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu. The drive marked the second phase of the placement process, following an aptitude test held on April 9, 2026. Based on their performance, 10 students from the Master's programmes in Rural Studies (MRS) and Sociology were shortlisted for

the final round of interviews. A panel comprising representatives from the Bharti Airtel Foundation visited the campus on April 30, 2026, and conducted in-person interviews, providing students with a valuable opportunity to showcase their skills and potential. Prof. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, played a pivotal role in initiating the drive and actively motivating students to participate in the recruitment process. Dr. Bharti Pathania, Departmental Placement Officer, and Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EAIB, Department of Lifelong Learning, also made significant contributions towards the smooth execution of the drive. The overall event was coordinated by the office of the Placement Cell, University of Jammu.

MGAC Brantol solemnizes Annual Yagya with unwavering religious fervour

JAMMU, APR 30: In a vibrant display of faith and communal harmony on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturdeshi, the Maha Ganesh Ashpan Committee (MGAC) Brantol, Sirru, Pattan, Baramulla, solemnly observed its annual yagya at Durga Mandir, Durga Nagar, here today, drawing thousands of devotees in a sea of devotion.



The sacred event saw an overwhelming turnout from the Sirru biradari, including daughters of Sirru who traveled from across the country to participate. Families reunited amid chants and rituals, their excitement palpable as old bonds were rekindled, infusing the air with an ecstatic, unifying energy that transcended distances and daily routines.

The yagya commenced with the inaugural Subahar yesterday evening, building to a grand culmination today with five meticulously conducted Subahars. The rituals peaked with the poignant

Purnahuti, followed by the joyous Prasad Vitran in the afternoon, leaving devotees spiritually uplifted. Organizers went beyond tradition, offering Maha Bhog alongside thoughtfully placed fruit stalls and refreshing chhabeels to ensure every attendee's comfort amid the festivities.

ARMY OF YOUNG INTERNS: From Classrooms to Communities, Shaping the Future of Urban Sustainability

JAMMU, APR 30: In an initiative that foregrounds youth participation in urban governance, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Wednesday launched Phase-II of the Swachhata Internship Programme. The effort seeks to mobilise a group of student interns as agents of behavioural change, linking classroom learning with community action to advance the city's sustainability goals.



The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, JMC, at Government High School, City Chowk. It marks the beginning of a series of

structured workshops to be conducted across schools in Jammu city. Addressing students, Dr. Yadav described them as the "true architects of a cleaner future", underscoring that environmental stewardship

must be inculcated early. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi's quote that "cleanliness is next to godliness", he said that embedding such values in young minds would translate into sustained civic responsibility in the years ahead. He also expressed satisfaction at the enthusiasm displayed by students, noting that such engagement is critical to converting awareness into action.

In the second phase of the Swachhata Internship Programme, the focus has been expanded to deepen practical engagement and field-based learning, enabling students to move beyond awareness towards active participation in waste management and sustainability practices. The programme includes practical training on waste segregation at source, demonstrations on composting of kitchen waste, and awareness sessions on menstrual hygiene and plastic pollution. Field visits to Material Recovery Facilities are also planned to provide students with first-hand exposure to scientific waste management systems.

Development gaining Momentum in Bani under Omar led govt: Rattan Lal Gupta

Says tourism, Healthcare, Education, and connectivity witnessing upgrades as govt targets holistic development

JAMMU, APR 30: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President for Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is actively working to unlock the tourism potential of Bani and transform it into a thriving hub on both the regional and national tourism map. He said Dr. Rameshwar Singh MLA Bani doing his best efforts for the inclusive development of Bani Constituency. He made these remarks while addressing a workers' gathering in Bani. The meeting was chaired by Thakur Beliram and saw active participation from senior party leaders and local functionaries, including Rakesh Singh Raka and



Advocate Rakesh Singh, Rattan Lal Kalandri, Sanjay Singh and Jaswant Singh. In his address, Gupta stated that Bani's tourism potential had long remained untapped under successive non-NC regimes. He alleged that no substantial efforts were made by the BJP over the past 11 years to improve the condition of the region or uplift the lives of its

people. "Local schools, college, and health centers in Bani were in a dilapidated state due to non-functional attitude of LG regime. A young girl from Halwai even had to write to the Prime Minister seeking intervention to repair her school, but no action was taken during the LG administration. There was hardly any visible development, and critical projects

were neglected," he said. Gupta, however, added that the situation has improved since the Omar Abdullah-led government assumed office. "The government has allocated ₹228 crores for development projects in Bani. Several projects have been completed, while others are nearing completion. Healthcare and educational infrastructure are being upgraded. The school that the young girl had written about has now been constructed and completed, reflecting the intent and commitment of the elected government," he said. He further noted that road infrastructure, including inner routes, is being upgraded, and previously stalled projects are now progressing. "People are relieved as the local admin-

istration has become more responsive and accountable," he added. Reiterating the government's commitment, Gupta said that Bani's tourism potential will be fully explored, with destinations like Sarthal being developed into major tourist attractions. "The Omar Abdullah-led government is focused on inclusive development, without discrimination based on region, religion, or sect. Despite limited resources and various challenges, the government is making steady progress in improving civic amenities, ensuring ration supply, generating employment, protecting heritage and ecology, and promoting local art, craft, and tourism," he said.

GDC Khour Organizes Wall Painting Drive under NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan

JAMMU, APR 30: Government Degree College Khour organized a wall painting activity on 30th April under the NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the worthy Principal, Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, who appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively participate in awareness campaigns promoting a drug-free and healthy lifestyle. He emphasized the role of youth in building a responsible and addiction-free society. The wall painting activity was carried out by NCC



cadets of the college under the supervision of Prof. Shivani Sharma, ANO and Nodal Officer of NMBA. Dr. Sapna Naramia and Dr. Pooja Kumari also supervised the event and guided the students throughout the activity. Through their creative artwork, the cadets conveyed strong anti-drug messages and emphasized the importance of leading a healthy

and drug-free life. The programme concluded with the NMBA pledge, wherein all participants took an oath to contribute towards building a drug-free society and to spread awareness in their respective communities. All committee members were present on the occasion, including Prof. Jozafeen Afzal and Dr. Anjana Sharma.

Department of Educational Studies, CUJ organizes Farewell "Navpath".



JAMMU, APR 30: The Department of Educational Studies organized a farewell event titled "Navpath" to bid adieu to its graduating students of M.Ed. fourth semester and B.A. B.Ed eighth semester. The event celebrated not an ending, but the beginning of new journeys filled with aspirations, growth, and opportunities. The pro-

gram commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting and Saraswati Vandana, invoking blessings for wisdom and success followed by the welcome address by the Head of the Department, Prof. Asit K. Mantry. The event was graced by the Dean of Students' Welfare, Prof. Ritika Bakhshi, along with other faculty members of the department including Prof. J. N. Baliya, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ran, Dr. Mohan Galgotra, Dr. Ravali Singh, Dr. Nidhi Saraf, Dr. Arushi Baloria, Dr. Mridu Sharma and Ms. Shivali. The theme "Navpath" symbolized new beginnings and transitions. Students reflected on their academic journey, cherishing the friendships, values, and experiences gained during their time in the department. The event featured engaging activities, speeches, and cultural performances, creating an atmosphere of joy and nostalgia. Faculty members shared their words of wisdom.

The department including Prof. J. N. Baliya, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ran, Dr. Mohan Galgotra, Dr. Ravali Singh, Dr. Nidhi Saraf, Dr. Arushi Baloria, Dr. Mridu Sharma and Ms. Shivali. The theme "Navpath" symbolized new beginnings and transitions. Students reflected on their academic journey, cherishing the friendships, values, and experiences gained during their time in the department. The event featured engaging activities, speeches, and cultural performances, creating an atmosphere of joy and nostalgia. Faculty members shared their words of wisdom.

Warm Farewell Accorded to Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Jammu on Superannuation

JAMMU, APR 30: A warm and heartfelt farewell was accorded today to Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Jammu, Dr. Ashwani Sharma on his retirement from government service after rendering 40 years of dedicated and exemplary service. The farewell function was organized at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu, in recognition of his dedicated and distinguished service to the Agriculture Department. The function was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Sh. Aman Jyoti Sharma; sectoral heads, senior officers, and staff members of the department, along with the family members of the



retiree, who gathered to extend their best wishes on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta lauded the invaluable contributions of Dr. Ashwani Sharma during his long and illustrious

career spanning more than four decades. He highlighted Dr. Sharma's professionalism, commitment, and leadership in strengthening the agriculture department. He wished him good health, happiness, and a fulfilling

post-retirement life. Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Sh. Aman Jyoti Sharma also appreciated the dedicated services rendered by Dr. Ashwani Sharma and acknowledged his role in guiding the department with his vast experience and expertise. He extended his warm wishes for a peaceful and rewarding retired life. In his address, Dr. Ashwani Sharma expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the department, colleagues, and staff for their continuous support and cooperation throughout his long service tenure. He fondly recalled his journey and shared valuable experiences, while extending his best wishes for the continued growth and success of the department.

post-retirement life. Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Sh. Aman Jyoti Sharma also appreciated the dedicated services rendered by Dr. Ashwani Sharma and acknowledged his role in guiding the department with his vast experience and expertise. He extended his warm wishes for a peaceful and rewarding retired life. In his address, Dr. Ashwani Sharma expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the department, colleagues, and staff for their continuous support and cooperation throughout his long service tenure. He fondly recalled his journey and shared valuable experiences, while extending his best wishes for the continued growth and success of the department.

SMVDNSH Holds 72nd Governing Body Meeting

Emphasis Laid on Global Healthcare Standards

Katra, April 30: The 72nd Governing Body (GB) meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH) was convened at the hospital premises, Kakryal under the chairmanship of Dr. KK Talwar, Member, SMVDSB. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB; Sh. Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO; Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. CEO; Sh. Pawan Sharma, FA/CAO, SMVDSB; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director / CAO, SMVDIME; Sh. Sunil Narayan, Sr. VP; Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, NH along with other senior functionaries of the Shrine Board and Narayana Health. During the meeting, several significant decisions were taken aimed at ensuring the future growth of the Hospital, strengthening its



operational capabilities and further enhancing patient care standards in consonance with global healthcare benchmarks. The deliberations also emphasized fostering a patient-centric healthcare culture and integrating advanced digital solutions to improve efficiency, accessibility and overall service delivery. Focus was laid on recognizing and encouraging dedicated and high-performing consultants for their significant contribution towards delivering quality healthcare services.

Emphasis was also placed on fostering a supportive, collaborative and professionally enriching work environment among consultants, nurses, technicians and other healthcare personnel so as to further strengthen coordinated patient care and uphold the highest standards of medical services. With an aim to further augment the Hospital's clinical capabilities and diagnostic infrastructure, the Governing Body approved the procurement of advanced bio-medical and diagnostic

equipment. The proposed upgradation is expected to significantly improve diagnostic precision, treatment efficiency and overall patient care services, particularly in the Departments of Neurology, Cardiology, Nephrology and Bio/Histo Laboratories. The Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, underscored the critical importance of integrating advanced Information Technology solutions into the Hospital's healthcare ecosystem, particularly through dedicated

patient care applications aimed at facilitating easier patient access to medical services. He also emphasized the implementation of user-friendly healthcare management software to enhance operational efficiency, streamline service delivery and further strengthen the Hospital's patient-centric healthcare framework. Broad discussions were held regarding increasing patient footfall and stabilizing revenue. The Board also reviewed strategies for the recovery of credit claims from various government schemes to maintain financial equilibrium. The Chairman advised the hospital leadership to create a robust purchase model with meticulous planning. This includes ensuring maximum utilization of high-cost diagnostic equipment through Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contracts (CAMC).

INDIAN ARMY LEADS AWARENESS DRIVE FOR A DRUG-FREE SOCIETY AT BHEJA, DODA



Doda: 30 Apr 2026
In a continued effort to promote a healthy and drug-free society, an awareness lecture on the theme "Strengthening Action and Cooperation towards Achieving a Drug-Free World" was conducted for youth and locals at Government High School Bheja, Doda. The event was organised with the aim of educating

participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of collective responsibility in eradicating this growing menace. A large number of youth and locals actively participated in the session, reflecting strong community interest and support for the cause. During the lecture, key issues such as the physical, psychological and social consequences of substance abuse were highlighted. Emphasis was also laid on preventive measures, early identification of addiction and the role of families and society in rehabilitation. The session further underscored the importance of cooperation between individuals, families and authorities in combating drug abuse. Such initiatives play a vital role in building awareness and fostering a united front against drug abuse. The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to continue conducting similar awareness programmes in the future to ensure a safer and healthier society. A total of 60 students, 8 teachers and 2 staff members attended the programme and appreciated the initiative, which encouraged them to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy and progressive lifestyle.

Young Talent Blossoms at SMVDU: NSS Hosts Vibrant Inter-school Cultural Fest

Katra, Apr 30: The National Service Scheme (NSS), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, successfully organized a lively and colourful Inter-school Cultural Competition on the university campus, bringing together enthusiastic young performers from the surrounding region. Four schools participated in the programme: PM Shri Middle School, Panthal, Government Middle School Chack Bhagta, Government Middle School, Dheerti, and Government High School, Sirah. The students showcased their abilities in three creative categories namely Solo Singing, Solo Dance



and Group Dance delivering energetic and heartfelt performances that captivated the audience. The competition aimed to promote cultural expression, encourage young talent, and strengthen the bond between SMVDU and nearby schools. Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajeev Kumar, appreciated all the

participants for their enthusiasm and congratulated the winners for their exceptional performances. He motivated the students to continue exploring their talents and to take part in more such enriching activities. NSS SMVDU extends sincere gratitude to all participating schools, teachers, and students.

GDC Ramgarh Organizes Awareness Lecture on SHE-Box Portal

Jammu, Apr 30: The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Women Development Cell, and SHE-Box Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh collaboratively organized an awareness lecture on the SHE-Box (Sexual Harassment Electronic Box) Portal with the aim of fostering a safe, secure, and gender-sensitive academic environment.

The programme was conducted under the esteemed supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal, GDC Ramgarh, who provided constant encouragement and support to strengthen initiatives related to women's safety and empowerment within the institution. The awareness session was organized to sensitize students and staff members about the significance, accessibility, and effective utilization



of the SHE-Box Portal—an online grievance redressal platform launched by the Government of India for addressing complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace. Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Nodal Officer of the SHE-Box Committee, delivered a compre-

hensive and informative lecture on the concept, features, and operational framework of the portal. She elaborated on how the platform serves as a confidential, transparent, and efficient mechanism for the timely redressal of complaints. She further emphasized the importance of creating awareness about

legal rights, institutional support systems, and the collective responsibility of ensuring a respectful and harassment-free environment. During the session, participants were guided through the online complaint registration process and were encouraged to actively raise their voices against any form of harassment or discrimination. The lecture also motivated students to disseminate awareness about the portal among their peers and within the broader community. Faculty members were also present on the occasion and actively participated in the programme, demonstrating the institution's collective commitment towards this significant cause. Students and staff highly appreciated the initiative and acknowledged the college's proactive efforts in addressing issues related to women's safety and dignity.

Director Agriculture Jammu Chairs Key Meeting on Fertilizers

Jammu, April 30: A high-level meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta, who is also the Controller of Fertilizers for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The meeting was held to obtain first-hand inputs from major fertilizer companies regarding the forthcoming visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers to Jammu & Kashmir. The visit, scheduled from 22nd to 30th May 2026 across multiple locations including Srinagar and Gulmarg, will focus on key issues such as the availability, distribu-



tion, and regulation of fertilizers, as well as initiatives for strengthening the domestic fertilizer sector. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held to assess the current status of fertilizer availability across the Union Territory, streamline distribution mechanisms, and identify any potential instances of misuse or

diversion. The discussions also aimed at ensuring that all necessary arrangements and data inputs are in place for the upcoming committee visit. Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Jammu, Sh. Sanjay Anand; Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE), Jammu, Sh. Kuldeep Singh; JAEO Ic Fertilizer Section, (DoA), Sh.

Kamal Sharma; along with State Heads of leading fertilizer companies including Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL), Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), and Indian Potash Limited (IPL), participated in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta emphasized the critical importance of maintaining an efficient and transparent fertilizer supply chain in the Union Territory. He stated that ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizers to farmers remains a top priority of the department. He further highlighted that strict monitoring mechanisms must be in place to

prevent any misuse, hoarding, or black marketing of fertilizers. Director Agriculture stressed the need for close coordination between the department and fertilizer companies to ensure seamless supply and distribution. Sh. Anil Gupta instructed all concerned officers and representatives of fertilizer companies to ensure adequate stocking and timely supply of fertilizers across all districts, maintain complete transparency in distribution channels while strictly adhering to regulatory norms, and compile comprehensive as well as accurate district-wise data on availability and consumption patterns for effective presentation before the Parliamentary Committee.

Paharies of chenab valley demand its share in pahari ethnic Group ST2

DODA : 30 April 2026 : The Pahari dwellers of chenab region issues a strong and unequivocal appeal to the government led by Omar Abdullah to immediately bring the regions of Saraz, Bhaderwah, Bhalessa, Pogal-Paristan, Bonjwah, Dachhan, Marwah, and Warwan under the ambit of the Pahari ethnic group. This is not merely a demand—it is a question of justice long denied. The people of these mountainous and historically marginalized regions have, for decades, remained excluded despite fulfilling every established benchmark laid down by the Lokur Committee. The continued exclusion reflects a systemic oversight that must now be corrected with urgency and political will.

The Lokur Committee criteria—geographical isolation, distinct culture, backwardness, and limited interaction with mainstream systems—are not abstract principles but lived realities in Chenab Valley. The terrain of Dachhan, Marwah, Warwan, and Bhalessa remains cut off for months due to snowbound routes and lack of infrastructure. Census indicators clearly reflect sparse population distribution, poor connectivity, and minimal access to essential services, confirming deep-rooted geographical isolation. Culturally, the region stands as a stronghold of indigenous Pahari traditions. From language to lifestyle, from social organization to folklore, the identity of these communi-

ties is deeply embedded in the broader Pahari ethos. Western Pahari dialects dominate daily communication, and traditional institutions continue to foster social life, demonstrating a distinct and preserved cultural framework. The socio-economic condition of these regions further reinforces their eligibility. Census data highlights low literacy rates, particularly among women, high unemployment, limited institutional access, and dependence on subsistence agriculture and pastoral livelihoods. Health and education infrastructure remain inadequate, and economic mobility is severely restricted. These are not isolated issues but systemic indicators of backwardness.

INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED DRUG-FREE INDIA AWARENESS PROGRAM AT SUNAIL, AKHNOOR



Akhnoor: 30 Apr 2026
The troops of the Crossed Swords Division, under the aegis of the White Knight Corps, conducted a "Drug-Free India" awareness programme at the Nasha Mukti Abhiyan at

Government High School, Sunail. The event comprised an awareness lecture, a student rally, and a drawing competition, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and staff. The awareness lec-

ture highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasized the importance of leading a healthy, disciplined lifestyle. The initiative aimed to motivate the youth to stay away from substance abuse and contribute positively to society. As part of the programme, a tree plantation drive was also organised, promoting environmental responsibility and encouraging students to work towards a greener future. The event was well received and reinforced the collective commitment towards building a drug-free and environmentally conscious society.

A divine confluence of faith and energy The Nirankari Youth Forum's Youth Games sparked new inspiration

Nowshera April 30: The Nirankari Youth Forum's Games were inaugurated at the picturesque Dhalpur Ground in Himachal Pradesh, in the holy presence of His Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajputa Ramit Ji. The event, organized by the Nirankari Youth Forum with the joint cooperation of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, presented a beautiful example of unity transcending regional boundaries. The program commenced with the hoisting of the flag and lighting of the torch by the holy hands of the



Satguru, which filled the entire atmosphere with enthusiasm, energy, and spiritual inspiration. The enthusiasm, discipline, and dedication of the youth were so impressive that the entire campus reverberated with cries of "Shabash!" In her blessings, Satguru

Mata Ji stated that these games are not merely a means of enhancing physical stamina, but a sacred opportunity to dedicate one's body to the service of Nirankari with a spirit of "Nriyaa-Vyaa." She also underlined that, thanks to the grace of the Bestower,

excellent coordination and unity were observed throughout the event, even though some games had to be postponed due to circumstances. The special significance of this event lies in the fact that it connects youth with the values of spirituality,

discipline, service, and unity. It is a multicultural and multilingual platform, where the spirit of "berang mein any rang" (colors in many colors) is realized—a vibrant influence of unity in diversity. During the program, a powerful message of teamwork and collectivity was conveyed: that true victory lies in moving forward with everyone. Furthermore, the youth were encouraged to maintain a spirit of service with body, mind and money, and to make their lives meaningful and successful by adopting Nirankari teachings.

International Labour Day observed at GDC Shopian

Labour Department registers over 25000 workers, Rs 9.81 Crore disbursed under Welfare Schemes

SHOPIAN, APRIL 30: International Labour Day was today observed at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian, with a focus on the dignity, rights, and welfare of the labour class. Assistant Labour Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nida Yousof, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the significance of Labour Day as a tribute to the invaluable contributions of workers across all sectors, including construction, industries, and services. She emphasized that the day is dedicated to recognising the efforts of labourers and ensuring that their dignity is upheld in society. Dr. Nida also elaborated on the role of the Labour Department in safeguarding workers' rights and ensuring their welfare through various schemes and legal provisions. She stressed that the department remains committed to improving working conditions and extending financial and social support to registered labourers.



Deputy LADC, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, Dawood Khan, spoke about the role of DLSA in addressing labour related grievances. He highlighted that the authority plays a crucial role in resolving disputes, providing legal assistance, and

ensuring justice for the labour class. He informed that issues related to labour disputes can be reported through the toll free helpline number 1510. District Information Officer Shopian, Showkat Hussain Ganai, while speaking on the occasion,

underlined the importance of maintaining dignity and respect for every worker and employee. He stated that empathy and human concern must precede legal frameworks in ensuring justice and harmony in society. The programme also featured awareness on the ongoing 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'. Speakers emphasized the need for youth to focus on education and career and highlighted the role of parents and teachers in guiding them away from substance abuse. Officials from the Labour Department detailed various labour laws, including the Payment of Wages Act and the Gratuity Act, explaining how these provisions protect workers' rights and ensure financial security. They also highlighted the JK Building and Other Construction Workers (JKBCOW) Welfare Scheme, including its registration process, eligibility criteria, and benefits.

GCOE Srinagar organizes Drug Awareness Mural under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: Department of Fine Arts and the Beautification Committee of Government College of Education (GCOE), M.A. Road Srinagar, organized a wall painting under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan on the college campus. The mural was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the College, in the presence of faculty members including Prof. Mohd Yaseen Pir, Prof. Nashid Naseem, Prof. Lateef Shah, Prof. Bilkuees, Prof. Mansoor Lone, Prof. Abdul Gani Kumar, Prof. Syed Shaban, Prof. Abdul Rashid, Prof. Showkeen Bial, and other staff members. The artwork was created by B.Ed. students of College Shayad Rashid and Mukhtar Ahmad under the supervision of Arshid



Suleh. The mural highlights the ill effects of drug abuse and conveys a strong message of prevention, awareness, and collective responsibility towards building a drug-free society. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz appreciated the creative efforts of the students and lauded the initiative as a meaningful contribution towards the national campaign against drug abuse. She emphasized that such activities not only enhance

artistic expression but also play a vital role in shaping social responsibility among future teachers. Faculty members present on the occasion also praised the initiative and encouraged students to continue using art as a medium for social awareness and positive change. They reiterated the importance of educational institutions in guiding youth away from substance abuse and towards constructive engagement.

Mega Awareness Programme under 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan held at GDC Uri



BARAMULLA, APRIL 30: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a mega awareness programme was organised today at Degree College Uri to sensitise the public, especially youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from students, faculty members, officials, and members of the local community. During the programme, participants were educated about the physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance abuse, and the importance of collective efforts in building a drug-free society.

Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. A.G. Raina, who presided over the programme, highlighted the growing concerns related to drug addiction and stressed the need for early awareness, prevention, and community involvement. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and act as ambassadors of change in society. On the occasion, an anti-drug pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to remain drug-free and to contribute actively towards eradicating the menace of substance abuse from society. The programme concluded with a strong message of unity and responsibility, reinforcing the resolve to make the society healthier and drug-free.

DLTC Meeting stresses timely completion of connectivity works in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, APRIL 30: A meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) was held here today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihaji to take stock of the progress of mobile tower installation, elimination of communication gaps, and the status of broadband connectivity works across the district.



The meeting held a detailed review of mobile tower installation by various service providers, with particular focus on areas that continue to lack adequate network coverage. It was noted that out of total identified tower sites for which land has been made available, almost all are now functional while work on the remaining a few sites is still pending, and

all concerned agencies were directed to complete these without further delay. Concern was expressed over BSNL's failure to complete assigned works despite earlier directions at previous committee meetings. The state-run operator was specifically directed to immediately take up pending tasks and provide a compliance report. Airtel and Jio were directed to expedite installation of towers at critical locations, particularly at District Hospital Ganderbal and the Darend area, where absence of reliable connectivity poses a direct challenge to healthcare access and emergency response. The meeting also reviewed the progress of BharatNet, the national programme to bring broadband connectivity to all gram panchayats. The meeting was informed that surveys across all blocks in the district have been completed, active work is currently underway in Kangam and Lar blocks. Work in

Safapora block, however, remains incomplete, and sites following installation were directed to accelerate progress there and adhere to the prescribed timeline. KPDCI was specifically directed to prioritise the provision of electricity to all telecom installation sites, as power availability remains a prerequisite for the commissioning of towers and broadband nodes. All agencies were further directed to ensure that pending work orders are issued within a week, so that ground-level execution is not stalled on account of procedural delays. Telecom companies

were also directed to carry out proper restoration of sites following installation works and to take full responsibility for protecting public infrastructure and civic assets during execution. Any damage to roads, footpaths, or utilities caused during cabling or tower installation must be made good by the concerned agency. The ADC underscored that seamless telecom connectivity is not a matter of convenience but a necessity for effective delivery of public services, functioning of healthcare facilities, coordination during emergencies, and the broader development.

PCO Kick-Starts Training for Enumerators, Supervisors for Census 2027 in Kulgam



KULGAM, APRIL 30: Training programme for Enumerators and Supervisors for Census 2027 was today kick-started in Kulgam by Principal Census Officer (PCO) (Deputy Commissioner), Shahbaz Alam here at Mini-Secretariat. The programme is aimed at equipping field functionar-

ies with the necessary skills and knowledge for accurate, efficient, and error-free data collection during the upcoming Census. Enumerators and Supervisors from across the district are participating in training sessions. Speaking on the occasion, the PCO stressed the need

to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, transparency, and strict adherence to prescribed guidelines during the enumeration process. He further emphasized that well-trained field staff are essential to ensuring the credibility and reliability of Census data. Participants were sensitized on the use of digital tools, modern data collection techniques, and ways to effectively address field-level challenges. The training programme also includes detailed sessions on the roles and responsibilities of Enumerators and Supervisors, data validation procedures, and the importance of maintaining confidentiality of collected information.

DC Anantnag visits Shampora, extends condolences to bereaved family

Sanctions cumulative financial assistance of Rs 3.6 lakh for deceased, injured victims

ANANTNAG, APRIL 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, on Wednesday visited Shampora, Qazigund, and expressed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family of Fatima Altaf, a Class 2nd student who tragically lost her life after being hit by a vehicle on April 27 at Qullibagh, Kunigam.



The young girl was on her way to school along with her sister, Tehmine Altaf, and others when the unfortunate incident occurred. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner consoled the grieving family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. He also equipped

about the health of the deceased's sibling, who was critically injured during the accident. As an immediate relief measure, Dr. Bilal sanctioned a cumulative financial assistance of Rs 3.6 lakh in favour of the affected families. An amount of Rs 2 lakh (Rs 1 lakh under Road Accident Assistance and Rs 1 lakh from the District Red Cross Fund) was sanctioned for the deceased. For the critically injured sibling, Rs 1 lakh (Rs 50,000 each under Road Accident Assistance and District Red Cross Fund) was sanctioned. Additionally,

ACD Baramulla leads Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Padyatra at Rafiabab

BARAMULLA, APRIL 30: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a padyatra and awareness programmes was successfully conducted today at Panzila and other panchayats in Rafiabab block, with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Mudassar Hussain, leading the initiative. The padyatra witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, local residents, and youth, aiming to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society. Speaking on the occasion, the ACD emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace of substance abuse from society. He urged the participants, especially the youth, to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a healthy and progressive community.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender
Sr. DEUTEROSLDEH acting in and on behalf of the President of India invites B-Tenders against Tender No 2025-26-13A. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing 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 the tender deposits (cost of tender document and earnest money) only through online payment modes available on eTenderportal.in net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Demand Receipts, FD/FCI etc are not allowed.
Tender No. : 2025-26-13A
Name of work : Supply, installation and commissioning of Thermal Insulation in form of Jute / J & Wool's Lincrete Laminates
Estt. Code : 14 14 005
Cost of tender fees : Nil
Date & time of submission of Tenders : 22.05.2026, 15:00 Hrs.
Earnest Money : Rs. 4.37 Lacs
Completion period : 18 Months
Opening of tender : 22.05.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars : www.nwr.gov.in
No. 22-Civil-TRD/2025/Thermal Insulation/2025-26-13A. Date: 23.04.2025 14:29:22
SECURITY POLICY/MSB/WS/1 A/RAI/E

GCW organizes Painting Competition to champion Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

SRINAGAR, APRIL 30: Government College for Women (GCW) today successfully organized a vibrant painting competition under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiya.



The event was spearheaded by the College Wellbeing and Anti-Substance Cell in collaboration with the Cultural Activities Committee. The event was graced by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Huda Galzai, who highlighted the powerful correlation between art and de-addiction. She noted that creative expression serves as a vital therapeutic tool for channeling youth energy away from destructive habits and toward constructive growth. Dr. Nuzhat Jan, Program Coordinator, emphasized the campaign's strategic role in sensitizing students and using visual media to advocate for a drug-free lifestyle. Dr. Asmat Ara, Convener, Cultural Activities Committee, remarked that the competition provided a significant "energy

boost" to the college's cultural spirit. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. Participants used their canvases to depict the journey from the darkness of substance abuse to the light of recovery.

DC Kulgam inaugurates Milk Value Addition Startup at Poniwah

Encourages Youth to leverage Employment Schemes for establishing Business Units

KULGAM, APRIL 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahbaz Alam, today inaugurated a Milk Value Addition Startup at Poniwah established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The unit has been set up by beneficiary Jalaludin Bhat through the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kulgam under HADP, Project-23 (Dairy Development in J&K), with a subsidy/grant of Rs 25 lakh provided to support the venture.



The inauguration was held in the presence of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Dar, along with officials from the Animal Husbandry Department and other concerned stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion, the

DC highlighted the importance of value addition in enhancing farmers' income and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He also urged the youth to actively leverage government-sponsored employment schemes to establish income-generating units and become self-reliant. Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam shared that the unit has a processing capacity of around 10 quintals of milk per day and is producing a range of value-added dairy products including curd, yoghurt, and cheese. He added that the department is committed to support dairy farmers through innovative interventions, infrastructure development, and capacity building. He added that such initiatives play a vital role in boosting local dairy production and promoting self-reliance.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Nothing but awareness can only bring change, reform

Nothing but awareness can bring real change because every reform, every movement, and every personal transformation begins at the moment people truly see and understand the problem, and without that shift in perception laws remain on paper, schemes remain unclaimed, and injustice keeps repeating itself, because a society that is unaware of its rights will not demand them, a family that is unaware of health risks will not adopt prevention, and a youth unaware of the trap of drugs will not say no, and awareness is the spark that turns information into action, for example when farmers learn about soil testing and market prices they stop selling blindly to middlemen, when girls learn about scholarships and legal protection they continue education and report abuse, when citizens learn about waste segregation and water conservation they change daily habits, and when voters learn about manifestos and track records they choose leaders on merit rather than rumor, and history shows that major changes like sanitation drives, literacy missions, vaccination campaigns, and environmental movements only gained momentum after sustained awareness built public pressure and personal responsibility, and awareness works because it removes ignorance which is the root of fear, stigma, and exploitation, and it replaces rumor with facts, apathy with empathy, and silence with conversation, and it empowers the weakest person with knowledge that no one can take away, and while funds, technology, and policies are necessary tools, they remain useless if people do not know they exist or why they matter, and therefore schools, media, panchayats, religious platforms, and social networks must all become channels of awareness that speak in simple language and local context, and awareness must be continuous rather than a one time campaign, because new challenges keep coming and old habits return if not reminded, and it must also lead to the next steps of skill, access, and support, because awareness without options creates frustration, yet it is still the first and non negotiable step, and hence nothing but awareness can bring change, because you cannot fix what you do not see, you cannot fight what you do not understand, and you cannot improve what you do not believe is possible. Awareness alone lights the path to change because it turns invisible issues into visible priorities, and once people know the truth about their health, rights, environment, or choices, they begin to question, resist, and act. Laws, funds, and technology help, but they stay unused without public understanding. Awareness breaks silence around stigma, exploitation, and bad habits, replacing fear with facts and helplessness with agency. It is the first push that makes individuals demand better, communities unite, and leaders respond. No reform succeeds unless people know why it matters, so lasting change always starts with an aware mind.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

AJIT RANADE

WHEN missiles fill the skies over West Asia, the tremors reach every household through electricity and petrol bills. The ongoing crisis in the region has exposed the vulnerability of India, which is the world's third largest consumer of crude oil. It imports nearly 89% of its requirement, ie, roughly 1.75 billion barrels a year or about 4.8 million barrels every day. Over 60% of that flows through the geopolitically sensitive Strait of Hormuz.

In 2024-25, India's crude oil import bill was \$137 billion. If prices stay at the March average of \$113.57, then the import bill would balloon to nearly \$200 billion. Every \$10 rise in the price of a barrel of crude adds \$14 to \$16 billion to India's import bill. That is money drained from our precious foreign exchange reserves.

That refined oil goes into trucks that move goods, tractors that farm fields, fishing boats that feed coastal communities. It also powers diesel generators that keep telecom towers humming across rural India.

There is a way to reduce this vulnerability. We are a nation bathed in light!

India is blessed by geography, which gives it a blazing sun for more than 300 days a year. Unfortunately, sometimes, summer heat can also be a curse. We just witnessed a scorching April week. As many as 19 of the 20 hottest places on earth were in India, and 92 of the 100 hottest cities globally. But what

is a climate burden is simultaneously an energy opportunity of historic proportions.

India leads the International Solar Alliance, a coalition of over 120 sunshine-rich nations. In 2025, India added 38 gigawatts (GW) of new solar capacity, surpassing the US, which added 35 gigawatts. Total installed solar capacity now stands at over 150 gigawatts, and annual solar generation has rocketed from 3.4 terawatt-hours in 2013-14 to 144 terawatt-hours in 2024-25.

As the brutal heatwave of April pushed temperatures into the mid-forties and air conditioners across north India ran at full blast, the electricity grid faced its highest ever demand: 256 gigawatts. Solar power alone was generating 81 gigawatts on that critical day. This was one-third of total national generation. The grid did not collapse. It passed the stress test.

Solar potential lies not just in clean energy, but also in securing our foreign exchange.

Even a 10% reduction in oil import dependence would save \$13 to \$20 billion annually, depending on oil prices. A displacement of 100 million barrels through solar-powered electricity substituting diesel gensets, electric pumps replacing diesel pumps and electric vehicles reducing petrol and diesel demand would still save \$7.5 to \$11 billion a year in foreign exchange.

But there is also an intriguing possibility that India could become an energy exporter.

India's refining capacity of 258 million metric tonnes already exceeds its domestic consumption of 239 million metric tonnes. In 2025, India exported 64.7 million metric tonnes of refined petroleum products — petrol, diesel, aviation fuel — worth over \$52 billion, a record high.

Refining capacity is set to expand further to 309 million metric tonnes by 2028. If solar power and electrification progressively reduce domestic fuel consumption, more and more of what India refines will go abroad, earning precious dollars. India would be importing crude, refining it far more efficiently and exporting value-added fuel — functioning as an energy hub for the region.

The trajectory, if pursued with determination, could see India shifting from an energy importer to a net energy value exporter. This is in the realm of possibility.

There are hurdles in the solar journey. Panels need large tracts of land. This is a genuine constraint in a country where farmland is scarce and contested. The answer lies in deploying solar panels on fallow wasteland, rooftops, highway corridors and canal banks. India already has programmes for all of these.

Solar panels also need water to wash off the thick dust that settles on them, especially in Rajasthan and Gujarat where solar potential is greatest, but water is scarce. Waterless robotic panel cleaners are an emerging solution. India should pro-

duce these at scale domestically.

Most critically, the sun sets every evening, but demand does not. Without storage, solar power has a structural limitation. India urgently needs massive deployment of storage systems. In 2025, India curtailed 2.3 terawatt-hours of clean solar power simply because the grid could not absorb it. That is both an engineering failure and an economic one.

Then, there is the China problem. India imports most of its solar panels and components from China, which deepens trade asymmetry. However, domestic solar module manufacturing capacity has grown to 172 gigawatts. The government has set a target of domestically produced solar cells and wafers by 2028. An India that makes its own solar equipment is truly energy sovereign.

Here are five action points. One: treat solar energy as a national security infrastructure, equal in priority to defence. Funding should be at least doubled. Two: invest urgently and massively in battery storage. Or else, every evening the grid falls back on coal and diesel. Three: upgrade the national transmission grid. Solar-rich states like Rajasthan and Gujarat need to be able to transmit power to demand centres in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Four: accelerate electric vehicle adoption across two-wheelers, three-wheelers and buses since transport is the single largest consumer of petroleum.

LPG crunch: Chullahs in, clean cooking out

SURESH R IYER

Across Indian cities, long queues outside LPG distribution centres are becoming a daily reality. For many households, securing a cooking gas refill now means multiple visits, uncertainty, and rising costs. Inside homes, the steady blue flame of clean cooking is flickering, replaced in some cases by smoky chullahs burning firewood, charcoal, and dung cakes. What appears to be a temporary supply disruption is, in fact, a deeper crisis, one that risks reversing years of progress in public health, environmental protection, and energy access.

India is facing a significant disruption in its clean cooking transition as a shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) forces households to revert to traditional biomass fuels. This shift has reignited concerns over air pollution and public health, particularly among vulnerable populations. The crisis has been triggered largely by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have disrupted key global energy supply routes, especially through the Strait of Hormuz—a critical transit corridor for LPG shipments. With India importing nearly 60–65 percent of its LPG requirements, such disruptions expose the country's heavy dependence on external supply chains.

As supply constraints intensified in early 2026, domestic LPG prices increased by 760 to 7130 per cylinder. Industrial consumption was curtailed to prioritise household use. Yet, shortages persist. Reports from major urban centres point to long waiting periods, panic-dri-

ven booking, and, in some cases, black-market purchases at significantly inflated prices. For low- and middle-income households, this has translated into both financial strain and energy insecurity.

The impact extends far beyond households. Commercial establishments, especially small hotels, eateries, and street vendors, are struggling to cope with erratic LPG supply. Many have scaled down operations or temporarily shut down, while others have shifted to coal or biomass to stay afloat. This disruption is not just a business concern; it has ripple effects on the broader economy, including the tourism sector, where food services are integral to visitor experience. What begins as a fuel shortage quickly cascades into lost livelihoods and reduced economic activity.

Perhaps the most alarming consequence, however, is the reversal in household energy use. In the absence of reliable and affordable LPG, many families, particularly in peri-urban and low-income areas, are reverting to traditional biomass fuels. This has led to a surge in demand for firewood, charcoal, and dung cakes in local markets. While these fuels provide short-term relief, they come at a steep cost.

The health and environmental implications of a return to biomass are severe. Burning traditional fuels releases high levels of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide, and other toxic pollutants, significantly degrading both indoor and outdoor air quality. In households using such fuels, indoor pollution levels can be 10 to 20 times higher than in

those relying on clean energy, increasing the risk of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and other chronic illnesses. In India, indoor air pollution already contributes to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths annually, this crisis threatens to worsen that burden. At the same time, household fuel combustion is a major source of ambient air pollution, accounting for a substantial share of PM_{2.5} emissions. A widespread, even temporary, shift back to biomass could lead to measurable deterioration in air quality, particularly in densely populated regions such as Delhi NCR, where residential emissions already play a significant role in seasonal pollution levels.

The current situation also exposes a critical vulnerability: the fragility of behavioural gains. Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in expanding access to clean cooking fuels through large-scale initiatives. However, access alone is not enough. Reliability, affordability, and consistent supply are equally vital. Once households revert to traditional fuels, they may not easily transition back, risking a long-term setback in clean cooking adoption.

In response, the government has taken several emergency measures, directing refiners to maximise LPG production, reallocate feedstock, and distributing additional kerosene through the public distribution system. While these steps may provide temporary relief, they are not sustainable solutions. Kerosene itself is a polluting fuel, and permitting the use of biomass and coal in commercial establishments may ease

supply pressures but risks worsening air quality.

This crisis, therefore, must be seen as a wake-up call, an opportunity to rethink and strengthen India's clean cooking ecosystem.

One promising alternative that has gained attention is ethanol. Produced domestically from agricultural feedstock, ethanol offers several advantages: it reduces dependence on imports, requires relatively lower processing, and burns more cleanly than traditional biomass. It can also leverage parts of existing fuel infrastructure, making it an attractive transitional option in certain contexts.

However, ethanol is not a standalone solution. Scaling up its use for cooking would require significant agricultural inputs, raising concerns about land use, food security, and water consumption. Infrastructure for safe storage, distribution, and household use would need substantial investment. Moreover, policy frameworks must ensure affordability and prevent unintended consequences such as competition with food production. Ethanol can complement India's clean cooking mix, but it cannot replace LPG at scale without careful planning and trade-offs. Other alternatives, such as electric cooking, biogas, and solar-based solutions, also hold potential. Electric cooking, particularly as India's power grid becomes greener, offers a clean and efficient pathway, especially in urban areas. Decentralised biogas systems can provide sustainable solutions in rural settings, while solar technologies can serve.

CEO conducts extensive one-day tour of Chenani Assembly Constituency under SVEEP initiative



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30: Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, today undertook an extensive one-day visit to Assembly Constituency 61-Chenani in connection with the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation programme. The programme was

attended by Deputy District Election Officer Babu Pardeep Kumar, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Booth Level Officers of Chenani Sub-Division, former PRI members and prominent citizens. During the visit, the CEO actively partici-

ated in a series of voter awareness activities aimed at enhancing electoral participation and promoting informed and ethical voting. He emphasized the importance of inclusive, accessible and participative elections, urging all eligible voters particularly youth, women and marginalized sections to enroll

and exercise their franchise. A range of awareness initiatives, including interactive sessions and voter pledge ceremonies, were organized at key locations across the constituency. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, students, public representatives and field functionaries of the Election Department.

The CEO also reviewed the implementation of SVEEP activities at the grassroots level and interacted with Booth Level Officers, electoral staff, former PRI members and volunteers. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration and stakeholders for conducting innovative outreach programmes to strengthen democratic participation.

Satish Greets People on Buddha Purnima, Calls for Peace and Compassion

JAMMU, APRIL 30: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, today extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima. In his message, the Minister recalled the teachings of Gautama Buddha and emphasized their enduring relevance in guiding humanity towards peace, compassion, and non-violence. He said that the values of love, tolerance, and selfless service preached by Buddha are timeless and hold greater significance in today's world, which calls for harmony, mutual respect, and understanding among all sections of society. Highlighting the importance of communal harmony and brotherhood, the Minister said that the occasion provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to peaceful coexistence and respect for diversity.

Union Joint Secretary, MoFPI concludes 5 day visit to Kishtwar; reviews PMDDKY progress in Kishtwar, sets targets for 2026-27

KISHTWAR, APRIL 30: Preet Pal Singh, Union Joint Secretary, Ministry for Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Central Nodal Officer for the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanaya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), today concluded his five day visit to Kishtwar district, aimed at conducting a comprehensive review of the scheme and finalising targets for the upcoming financial year. During his visit, on the last day, the Joint Secretary chaired a detailed review meeting with the officers of the Agriculture and allied departments at the new DC Office Kishtwar. The discussions focused on

assessing the progress on PMDDKY in the district, strengthening its implementation, addressing field-level challenges and setting realistic and achievable targets for the next financial year. As part of his field engagements, Singh visited the Padder area, where he inspected the apple orchards rejuvenated under the initiatives of the Horticulture Department. He interacted with the local farmers to understand their experiences, gather feedback on government interventions and encouraged them to adopt improved horticultural practices for better productivity and income. The senior officers from

Agriculture and allied departments accompanied the Joint Secretary during the review meetings and field visits. They reiterated their commitment towards effective and timely implementation of PMDDKY in the district. The visit highlights the government's sustained focus on enhancing the agricultural productivity, boosting farmers' income and strengthening the food processing ecosystem in the region. The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behal, ACD Manoj Kumar, CAO Kushal Chandel, DSHO Dr. Jamil Nasir, CHO Sajid Mustafa, LDM besides other officers from the concerned departments.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICERS SOIL & WATER MANAGEMENT COMMAND AREA DEVELOPING JAMMU SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.12 of 2026-27 Dated:29-04-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, tenders are 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:-

S.N.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rupees/Lacs)	Est. of Document (Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Time and Date of opening of Tender	Class of Contract or
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Name of the Project:- Construction of Field Channels in Plum Concrete on D1, DIA, D2 of Pargwal Canal							
1.	Construction of Field Channels in Plum Concrete on D1, DIA, D2 of Pargwal Canal at village Pargwal, Sajwal, Gward, hamirpur, Koono, Gujral, Pargwal, Bhalwal, Bhalwal Barth, Bhalwal, Bhalwal, Phakia Pindi, Chak Phagwart Total Length = 15808 RMT	345.80 Lacs	6000/-	2% of the Advertised Cost (Rs. 6,916 Lacs)	10 months	14-05-2026	"A" Class

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

The allotment and execution of work shall be done as and when the sanction received from CAPEX Scheme, and in case the project has not been sanctioned by the competent Authority, the Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to reject/cancel the tender/allotment without assigning any reasons.

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://tenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	29-04-2026
2.	Period of downloading of Bidding documents	From 29-04-2026 to 13-05-2026
3.	Bid submission Start Date	29-04-2026, 1800 Hrs
4.	Clarification Start Date	29-04-2026
5.	Clarification End Date	11-05-2026 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Pre-Bid meeting Date	12-05-2026 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Project Officer, S&WM, CAD, Jammu.
7.	Bid Submission End Date	13-05-2026 up to 1300 Hrs
8.	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-05-2026 up to or after 1100 Hrs in the Office of the Project Officer, S&WM, CAD, Jammu.
9.	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation

Not 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 credited to Account Head 0702 favoring the Project Officer, S&WM, CAD, Jammu.
- All the Bidders shall have to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Project Officer, S&WM, CAD, 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 with draws 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 furnish the required Performance Security within specified time period after issuance of Letter of Acceptance.
 - Failure of successful Bidder to execute the Agreement after issuance of allotment of work.
- 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/BG before award of contract favoring the Project Officer, S&WM, CAD, 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, S&WM, CAD, Jammu at the time of Award of contract.
- The 2% Earnest Money Deposit (an amount of Rs. 6,916 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 case the successful Tenderer/Bidder 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/BG 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.tenders.gov.in](http://tenders.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, S&WM, CAD, Jammu, 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.

No:-S&WM/Tend/SASCU/2026-27/49-52
Date: 29-04-2026

Sd/
Project Officer
Soil Water Management
CAD, Jammu.

DIP/J-1429/26

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Jammu
CIN NO: U40304JK2013SGC003898
Tel. Fax 0191-2543343

CORRIGENDUM-I

"Upgradation & Improvement of various Sub Stations by way of Replacement of 11 KV VCBs at Receiving Stations Paharwala, Chak Malal, Pargwal-II and Burnal under SASCI -United Scheme (Disaster Component) in respect of Sub Transmission-I, JPDC, Jammu"

e-NIT No: STD-I/JPDC/Tenders/2026-27/05/455-58 dated:21-04-2026.

Please read the following point in SBD as:

Particulars in SBD	Read Particulars in SBD as
SECTION VII: GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (GCC)	SECTION VII: GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (GCC)
22 MATERIAL & TOOLS/PLANTS: 22.2 The Relays and Equipments of 33/11 KV Receiving Station should be SCADA Compatible.	22 MATERIAL & TOOLS/PLANTS: 22.2 The Relays and Equipments of 33/11 KV Receiving Station should be SCADA Make, RUF 615.

*** Note:- It shall be the sole responsibility of the bidders to apprise themselves adequately regarding all corrigendum/addendum uploaded against the e-NIT

Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division-I
JPDC, Jammu

No: STD-I/JPDC/
Date:

DIP/J-435-P/26

NOTICE

I Anju Bala W/o Sh. Baldev Kumar R/o Batheri Tehsil Billawar Distt. Kathua J&K U.T. That the Date of Birth Certificate of my daughter Tanu Devi has been issued by the Registrar Birth and Death Station House Officer Billawar on 21-07-2015 under registration No.983/15-A in which her father name is inadvertently written AS Baldav instead of Baldev Kumar. Now I am applying for correction of her father name in DOB certificate as Baldev Kumar instead of Baldav in the office of registrar BDO Office Lohai Malhar. objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with in 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I RAKESH KUMAR S/O GOURI SHANKER R/O AGHAR JITTO TEHSIL KATRA DISTT REASI JAMMU AND KASHMIR APPLYING FOR DATE OF BIRTH WHICH IS 24.03.2020 MY SON NAMELY MUKUL DOGRA S/O RAKESH KUMAR R/O AGHAR JITTO TEHSIL KATRA DISTT REASI JAMMU AND KASHMIR 182301 APPLYING FOR DATE OF BIRTH WHICH IS 24.03.2020 OBJECTION IF ANY MAY BE CONVEYED TO CONCERNED AUTHORITY WITHIN SEVEN DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE

NOTICE

I Ranjeet Singh S/o Tej ram R/o Garh Chanderkot RAMBAN Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my name and which has been wrongly written as Ranjit Singh instead of correct name Ranjeet Singh objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Tanveer Ahmed wani S/o Bashir Ahmed wani R/o Bankoot Banihal Yeh Banihal Distt Ramban Ap Court complex Ramban Bankote Ramban lost my DL bearing no JK1920150006090 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Sarjana Devi W/o Girdhari Lal R/o Chakka Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban is applying for issuance of New Contractor Registration Card (D) in the office S.E PWD R&B Circle Doda-Kishtwar. Anybody having objection, convey in the office of S.E PWD R&B Circle Doda-Kishtwar, with in seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

Vijay Kumar S/o rattan chand (patyari)Berman Udhampur Rammagar name correction in .correct name gardhori documents naseeb chand s/o Rattan chand Pin code.182124

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1 CLASS RAJGARH

SURJEET SINGH S/O LAL CHAND R/O JHATGALLI, TEHSIL RAJGARH DISTT. RAMBAN

(Applicant)
Versus
UT of J&K THROUGH BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, RAJGARH
(Non-Applcant)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the applicant's children named as KAJAL DEVI, DEERAJ SINGH AND NEERAJ SINGH above has sought direction from Block Development Officer, RAJGARH register whose Date of Birth and name are not registered/entered in birth record.
Whereas the public at large is informed through the medium of this notice that if any person/persons have any objection regarding the registration/entry of the Birth of applicant mentioned above, he or she shall file his/her objections within 07 days to this court from the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper, falling which appropriate order shall be passed. In case the date fixed is declared as holiday, the matter shall be taken up on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 07-4-2026.

Sd
Executive Magistrate
Tehsilid Rajgarh



Hardik Pandya Handed Grim Forecast After 6th Loss As MI Captain In IPL 2026

New Delhi, Apr 30: Hardik Pandya is an IPL-winning captain. Only a few in Indian cricket can claim to have that tag. Yet, Pandya's return to the Mumbai Indians fold has not been very successful. In his first year, Pandya was booed by MI fans for replacing Rohit Sharma as skipper. In IPL 2025, the five-time champions MI entered the playoffs but failed to reach the title clash. In IPL 2026, they have lost six out of eight matches. Their IPL 2026 playoff race now faces a must-win situation, and even that may not be enough for the Pandya-led side to progress. Mpumeliso "Ponmie" Mhangwa, in a discussion on Cricbuzz, said there needs to be a review of Hardik Pandya's captaincy. Former cricketer Simon Doull, part of the same discussion, went answering to a question regarding, "which current retained players should MI release ahead of the next IPL mega auction".



"My point would be: who is your captain next year? If they are going to change something, who is going to be the captain next year? If it is not going to be Hardik Pandya, release him. Only because I don't know how he will perform in an environment where he has underperformed, his team has underperformed for three years, and then his job goes," Doull said.

When asked if Pandya can rediscover his form with the extra burden of captaincy, Doull said: "It might free him up, it might not. It might make him feel, 'I have failed.' It could go either way. When fully fit, Hardik has been one of the best all-rounders in the game. My only point is, if he is going to be the captain, is he willing to take the backseat, put in the

hard yards, and just be Hardik-the great player-*yet again*?" A premium all-rounder in world cricket in the white-ball formats, Pandya has not been able to hit top-notch form in IPL 2026 so far. In seven matches, he has scored 128 runs at a strike rate of 152.38. With the ball, he has taken four wickets in seven games. Meanwhile, Pandya admitted that his bowling resources are stretched but stressed the need to find solutions under pressure, conceding that Mumbai Indians are falling short of their own high standards this season after a six-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match on Wednesday. Despite piling up a mammoth 243 for 5, Mumbai Indians still ended up on the losing side as Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down the target with eight deliveries to spare, even as their ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah endured an off day, conceding 54 runs in his four overs and going wicketless.

Rohit Sharma Turns 39: A Look At Former Indian Skipper's Records On His Birthday

New Delhi, Apr 30: Former Indian skipper, batting heavyweight and India's "Hitman" Rohit Sharma, celebrates his 39th birthday on Thursday (April 30). Since making his debut for India in Belfast on June 23, 2007, he has shattered numerous records across formats, solidifying his legacy as one of the game's greats and continuing to inspire the next generation of cricketers. After retiring from Test cricket last year and T20Is, the "Hitman" is now also active in ODIs, continuing to shine in the 50-over format. Rohit made his Test debut in 2013 and went on to represent India in 67 matches, scoring 4,301 runs. His red-ball career includes 12 centuries and 18 half-centuries, with a career-best score of 212 against South Africa in 2019.



While he made his T20 debut in 2007 and slammed 4231 runs in 159 games, Rohit was the format's best scorer going on in 2024. He also owns the record for joint-most hundreds (five) in T20 internationals. He has won two T20 World Cups: the first in 2007 while competing and the current one in 2024 as captain. In 2024, Rohit became the first men's player to feature in over 1500 T20Is, though he announced his retirement from the format after India's T20 World Cup victory. Sharma is one of the most prolific ODI openers, amassing 11,577 runs in 282 matches at an impressive average close to 49, including 33 centuries and 61 fifties. The "Hitman" also holds the record for the highest individual score in a 50-over game, with an incredible 264 runs. Additionally, he boasts the most double centuries in ODIs, with three to his name.

Shakib Al Hasan Reignites T20 World Cup 2026 Row, Calls Bangladesh's Boycott A 'Blunder'

New Delhi, Apr 30: Former Bangladesh cricket team skipper Shakib Al Hasan called the decision to boycott the T20 World Cup 2026 a "blunder". Bangladesh requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift their group stage matches from India citing security concerns. However, the global cricket governing body made it clear that no changes will be made to the tournament fixture. As a result, the Bangladesh government decided to completely boycott the competition and Scotland was included as their replacement. Shakib said that a country like



Bangladesh not playing in the World Cup was a big loss. "I think it was a big loss. Great miss as far as Bangladesh cricket is concerned. Because we, as a country, love to see our players in the World Cup. We are a cricket-loving country. A country like Bangladesh not taking part in the World Cup is such a big miss. It was a blunder from the government side that they took the decision to not participate," he told RevSportz. Despite Bangladesh players missing the chance to represent the country at the big stage in the recently concluded World Cup, Shakib remains optimistic about the future of the sport in the country, as he feels that many young players are making waves with their performance.

Rajasthan Royals Star Receives Special Praise From Ex-India Star: 'No One Talks About Him'

New Delhi, Apr 30: Former Indian cricket team batter Aakash Chopra believes that Yashvi Jaiswal's performances are being overlooked, even though the Rajasthan Royals batter has been performing well in the ongoing IPL 2026. Jaiswal has scored 306 runs in nine matches so far, playing a major role in taking his team to the top half of the IPL points table. However, he has been overshadowed by his opening partner, 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The youngster has scored 400 runs, including a century, and enjoys a strike rate above 238. Chopra praised Jaiswal, noting that he was a part of the T20 World Cup 2024 winning team but has not been selected since, despite maintaining strong numbers in the IPL. "Look at his numbers in the



last three years. He was a part of the T20 World Cup 2024-winning team, and then he got dropped. Everyone gets selected and YouTube Jaiswal was rested for dropped, but no one talks about him. I am not saying he should be selected. I understand there is no vacant place," Chopra said on YouTube. Jaiswal was rested for the T20I series against England in 2025, and since then, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Sanju Samson have established themselves as the top choices. The left-handed batter was not picked for the Asia Cup and has not played a single T20I in the last two years. "If you see his IPL numbers for the last three years, he has scored runs and has a good average and strike rate. He is doing everything right. However, forget about selection; he isn't even part of the conversation. What was done after 2024 was like taking a fly out of milk and throwing it away. What was the guy's mistake?" he added. India will next play T20Is against Zimbabwe and Ireland but it will need brilliant IPL numbers from Jaiswal to be considered for selection in the series.

Vinod Kambli Back At Wankhede Stadium During IPL 2026 Internet Says, "Came To Support Sachin Tendulkar's MI"

New Delhi, Apr 30: Former India cricketer Vinod Kambli is still recovering from health ailments. There were serious concerns over his health a few days ago when a friend revealed that Kambli has "clot in his brain," which has started to affect his memory. However, the retired cricketer's wife, Andrea Hewitt, has labelled the claims as lies, saying someone is spreading misinformation about his health. "By God's grace, Vinod is fine. I don't know who is spreading false information about his health," Kambli's wife, Andrea Hewitt, told India Today. It was Kambli's friend and former first-class umpire, Marcus Couto, who claimed that the former cricketer is battling a serious health crisis. "Ever since he was hospitalised in Thane about 18 months ago, Kambli has had a clot in his



brain. His memory is not good. He remembers things and then forgets them. That's all due to that clot in his brain," Couto told The Times of India. "Kambli has given up drinking, but he tends to smoke at times. Smoking is completely forbidden for him because it puts him at risk of a brain stroke, as per Dr. Aadil Chagla (a famous neurosurgeon), who has been monitoring Kambli's treatment," he added.

(Kambli) seemed to be in decent health. He and his family were in good spirits. Kambli now uses a stick to walk around. His son, Cristiano, wants to become a cricketer. I requested Jatin Paranjape to enrol him at his cricket academy, and he immediately agreed. Of course, Jatin won't charge Kambli's son anything," he said. It has also been reported that a support system has been put in place for Kambli by close friends, with members of the cricketing fraternity also pitching in to help the former left-handed opening batter financially and emotionally. A WhatsApp group, led by Marcus Couto, has served as a platform to bring Kambli's well-wishers together and raise funds for his treatment. Sachin Tendulkar, one of Kambli's oldest friends, is also a part of the group.

Mitchell Starc Boost For DC Against High Flying Rajasthan Royals

New Delhi, Apr 30: Delhi Capitals have little time to dwell on what has been a bruising stretch of results as they gear up to face a confident Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League match in Jaipur on Friday. It has been a difficult run for the Asar Patel-led side this season.



They have swung between extremes in the last two games. From posting a 250-plus total only to concede a world-record chase, to being bowled out for 75 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Add to that a one-run defeat against Gujarat Titans earlier this month, and Delhi have had their share of emotionally damaging results. With three wins and four losses, they are seventh on the table and need a turnaround soon. Delhi's biggest concern has been their inconsistent batting. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all con-

BCCI May Punish Match Referee For Riyan Parag Vaping Row-Report

New Delhi, Apr 30: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) could punish the match referee for bringing disrepute to the game by allowing a banned substance to reach the dressing room unchecked, after Rajasthan Royals (RR) captain Riyan Parag was caught smoking an e-cigarette in the dressing room during his side's Indian Premier League (IPL) match, as per BCCI sources. As per BCCI sources, there is no provision in the BCCI rulebook to penalise Riyan for vaping during the Punjab Kings (PBKS) clash at Mullanpur. However, the match referee could be on the receiving end of punishment, as the banned substance was brought into the dressing room without proper checks. While RR are having a fine IPL campaign as a collec-

tion, having won six and lost three matches, and are strong contenders for the playoffs with 12 points, currently placed fourth, Riyan himself is having a poor run with the bat, having scored just 117 runs in nine matches at an average of 14.62, a strike rate of 29.46, and a best score of 22. So far, RR's impressive campaign has been dominated by the opening pair of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (400 runs in nine matches at a strike rate of over 238, with a century and two fifties) and Yashvi Jaiswal (306 runs in nine matches at a strike rate of over 158, with three fifties), along with the pace duo of Jofa Archer (14 wickets at an average of 19.50) and Nandre Burger (nine wickets at an average of 32.77).

Mumbai Indians React After Jasprit Bumrah Leaks 54 Runs In Latest IPL 2026 Loss vs SRH

New Delhi, Apr 30: Eight matches, 180 balls, 2 wickets, strike rate 90 - that's Jasprit Bumrah's numbers in IPL 2026 so far. By the lofty standards that Bumrah has set for himself over the years, this season has been a big struggle. Mumbai Indians' consistent performances have almost always aligned with Bumrah's precision bowling. This time, however, both have had to endure difficulties. This is the first time since 2015 that Bumrah's economy rate has gone above eight runs per over. It currently stands at 8.80. While many bowlers would happily take that number, for a bowling great like Bumrah, the slide may not be to his liking. More importantly, Bumrah's lack of economy rate MI's Mumbai Indians' batting coach Kieron Pollard admitted that Bumrah "hasn't been up to the mark" in the post-match press conference after MI's latest loss against SRH. "When a cricketer is



not doing well, we look at every single aspect as to why he's not doing well. And there's no difference when it comes to Jasprit Bumrah. He has done this for years. And as a human being, he is entitled as well to make mistakes, not have a good day, not have a good season, or not have a good couple of months. And I just feel that we need to sometimes remember the good things that he has done. Yes, we try to live in the present, and he hasn't been up to the mark, but he's still been a number one bowler for Mumbai Indians

and India over a period of time," Pollard said in the press conference after the loss to SRH. He was also extremely candid about his side's inability to put together a "complete game of cricket" so far. But the MI batting coach pointed out that the dressing room is willing to put up a fight and has not yet accepted defeat, despite losing six of their eight games. With six more games to go, MI still have the opportunity to reach a maximum of 16 points if they go on a winning streak from their next game. "It has not been as consistent as we would have hoped. The results are showing. It is something you cannot shy away from. Collectively, we have not been good enough. We just need to be collectively better as a unit. That is as much as you can ask. You can ask them to execute better in different areas of the game," he said. "But we need to play that complete game of cricket to win a match. It is getting difficult with the way cricket is going, but what I can safely say is going in the dressing room, we guys are wanting to fight. "We have lost games, but we have not accepted defeat. When I said defeat, I didn't want the headlines to suggest that Mumbai Indians have been eliminated, because mathematically and from a points perspective, we are still very much in the tournament. Yes, we have accepted losses because we lost the last couple of games, but we have not accepted defeat because we are not out of the tournament."

Bhagalpur encounter: Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary sends a strong message to criminals

New Delhi, Apr 30: The killing of Bhagalpur shootout accused Ramdhani Yadav in a police encounter within hours of the crime has turned into more than just a law-and-order response. It has also emerged as an early signal of Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's approach - swift, visible, and meant to send a message. The encounter came a day after a brazen daylight attack inside the Sultanganj Municipal Council office, where Executive Officer Krishna Bhushan Kumar was shot dead and Chairman Rajkumar alias Gaddu critically injured. The speed of police action, from detentions to the encounter, has set the tone for what the government is projecting as zero tolerance towards crime.

From daylight killing to encounter in hours
Police said Ramdhani Yadav, the prime accused, was taken for the recovery of the weapon used in the



shootout when the situation escalated. According to officials, he opened fire on the police team, allegedly with the help of associates, prompting retaliation. Yadav was critically injured in the exchange and later declared dead at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital. Three police personnel were also injured in the crossfire and are undergoing treatment. Senior officials, including District Magistrate Nawal Kishor

Chaudhary and SSP Pramod Kumar Yadav, reviewed the situation as security was tightened across Bhagalpur. **A test case for the new government's approach**
The development has quickly taken on political overtones, with both sides framing it as a larger statement on governance. For the ruling NDA, the swift encounter is being positioned as evidence of firm action. For the Opposition, it

raises uncomfortable questions. Leader of the Opposition Tejaswi Yadav accused the government of shielding criminals, sharing photographs of the slain accused with BJP leaders. Earlier, reacting to the shootout, he posted on X, "During the Bihar elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraged BJP goons... Now those criminals themselves are ruling." The ruling alliance hit back sharply. BJP leader Ram Kripal Yadav said that anyone committing a crime would be punished, asserting that "this is the rule of law." JD(U) leader Shrawan Kumar called the incident "very unfortunate" but warned that strict action would follow for those taking the law into their hands. Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi struck an even stronger note, saying, "This is the new Bihar... a bullet will be answered with a cannon," while praising the police response.

India drafts new National Employment Policy amid AI job disruption

New Delhi, Apr 30: The Centre is formulating a new national employment policy to energise the job market in view of recent labour surveys painting a vulnerable picture of the employment situation, lack of pay parity and possible transition of roles due to the advent of technology. AI (artificial intelligence) is significantly disrupting the job market, with an estimated 12-18 million jobs potentially affected by 2025-2026, particularly targeting white-collar IT, BPO and retail sectors, say experts. They, however, point out that the disruption is driving massive demand for AI-skilled talent, with 1.25 million professionals needed by 2027. The national employment policy is being designed to protect



the interests of people working in all sectors. A need was felt to design a new employment policy to address the gaps and help people make informed choices regarding the jobs they take up. We will soon come out with draft guidelines and eventually formalise the policy," an official of the labour ministry said. The development also comes close on the heels of the four new labour codes charted by the government last year, the rules of which are yet to be notified. Though the Ministry of Labour and Employment released draft labour policy Shram Shakti Niti-2025, a national employment policy catering to all sectors will be out for the first time.

Madhya Pradesh: Eight killed as overcrowded vehicle overturns in Dhar

New Delhi, Apr 30: A devastating road accident on the Tirla Bypass in Dhar district claimed the lives of at least eight labourers, including children, on Wednesday night. The incident occurred around 8.30 p.m. near a private petrol pump in the Chikalaya area when a pick-up truck, dangerously overcrowded with passengers, lost control and overturned. Preliminary police reports suggest the vehicle was carrying between 40 and 45 labourers, a figure that far exceeds the legal and safe seating capacity for such transport. The sudden crash transformed the bypass into a scene of extreme horror



and chaos. Following the overturning of the truck, the area was quickly engulfed in screams and cries for help as the passengers were thrown from the vehicle or trapped beneath it. The overwhelming number of victims created an atmosphere of extreme chaos and panic. Local residents were the first to respond to the distress calls, immediately initiating relief efforts and alerting the police to the scale of the tragedy. Authorities have confirmed that two children are among the dead, adding a further layer of heartbreak to the tragic and horrifying event.

Justice Anupinder Grewal appointed National Company Law Tribunal President

Chandigarh, Apr 30: Justice (retd) Anupinder Singh Grewal, former Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, has been appointed President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), with the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approving his appointment for a term of five years or till he attains the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier. Ordinarily, a former Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed as NCLT president. This is the first time a former senior judge has been appointed. Born on March 10, 1964, in an agriculturist family from Ludhiana district, Justice Grewal comes from



a distinguished background. His father retired as Chief Engineer, Punjab PWD (B&R), while his maternal grandfather was an IAS officer. He completed his schooling from St John's High School, Chandigarh, followed by

University of Delhi in 1992. Justice Grewal began his legal practice at the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1992 and went on to represent the State of Punjab in various capacities. He served as the Assistant Advocate General from 1995 to 1997, Deputy Advocate General from 1997, and was later re-designated as Senior Deputy Advocate General in 2002. He continued as such till 2005 before being appointed Additional Advocate General, Punjab. He handled important matters relating to civil, constitutional, criminal, service and land acquisition laws, besides public interest litigation, for over 19 years on behalf of the State. In November 2007, he was appointed Central Government Counsel and later designated as Senior Panel Counsel in 2009 for conducting cases for the Union of India before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He appeared in significant matters, including writ petitions challenging the vices of Central Acts, arbitration cases and service matters. Justice Grewal was also appointed amicus curiae by the High Court in several important cases, including proceedings concerning the validity of judicial orders pronounced without reasons or signatures.

ICSE, ISC Result Announced: Steps to check CISCE Class 10, 12 scorecard here

New Delhi, Apr 30: The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has officially declared the results for the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10 as well as Indian School Certificate (ISC) Class 12 results for the 2026 exams at 11 a.m. on April 30. Students can now visit the official website to check their scorecards. Notably, the examination for the ICSE was held between February 17 and March 30, while students appeared for ISC from February 12 to April 6. The Council had earlier announced its decision to cancel the ICSE and ISC 2026 exams at all centres in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Overall, the pass percentages in the examinations have exceeded 99 per cent. In the ISC Class XII examination, the overall pass percentage has been recorded at 99.13 per cent, which includes 99.48 per



cent for girls and 98.81 per cent for boys. Similarly, the overall pass percentage in the ICSE (Class X) examination stands at 99.18 per cent. The girls recorded 99.46 per cent, while boys were at 98.93 per cent. This time, the ISC Class 12 examination was held across 45 written subjects, including 13 Indian languages, two foreign languages and two classical languages. The ICSE examination for Class 10 was conducted across 67

written subjects. This included 20 Indian languages, 14 foreign languages and a classical language. **How To Check Scorecard?**
Step 1: Visit the official website at cisce.org.
Step 2: On the homepage, search for the "ICSE Examination results 2026" or "ISC Examination results 2026" options.
Step 3: Select your course and then enter your UID, Index Number and Captcha code. Later, click on "Show Result" button.
Step 4: Your scores/marksheet will be displayed on the screen. Download the same and save a copy of your scorecard for future reference. The official websites to check results are cisce.org and results.cisce.org. Besides their scorecard through Digilocker, for this, they need to download the Digilocker application or visit the official website at digilocker.gov.in. Log in to your account using your Aadhaar number or mobile number and then go to the "Education" section on the dashboard. Once it is opened, select the "Council For Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)" option. Select respective links for the ICSE and ISC marksheet. Then provide your UID number and index number. Your scorecard will be displayed on the screen.

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

New Delhi, Apr 30: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday said he would meet President Droupadi Murmu on May 5 in connection with the recent merger of seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs with the BJP. Without providing further details, Mann said the meeting had been sought over the controversy surrounding the switching of seven Rajya Sabha members to the BJP. It may be mentioned that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been seeking the removal (removal from Parliament) of the MPs who switched to the BJP. Sources said Mann had sought a brief meeting with the President to discuss the legal and constitutional aspects of MPs changing their party.



Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar termed the move as nothing more than "desperate attempts by AAP to prevent its party from breaking apart." "Besides trying to convince the President, the party has called a session here to save its already fragmenting ranks," he said. Jakhar alleged, "The real intent behind this session is to pass a confidence motion so that the government can secure a six-

IMD predicts moderate to heavy rain across Western Ghats, South TN



New Delhi, Apr 30: The India Meteorological Department's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai has forecast moderate rainfall across several parts of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Western Ghats districts and coastal regions of southern Tamil Nadu, over the coming days. According to an official statement issued by the weather department, a trough of low pressure persists at an altitude of around 0.9 km above mean sea level. This system

extends from north interior Karnataka to the Gulf of Marar, passing through south interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Meteorologists say this atmospheric condition is likely to trigger widespread rainfall activity across multiple districts of the state. The department has indicated that light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is expected at isolated places along the Western Ghats districts, coastal belts, delta regions, and Kanakal area. These weather conditions are likely to prevail through the day, with intermittent spells of rain expected in vulnerable pockets. Significantly, heavy rainfall has been forecast for the Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts for the next three days, raising the possibility of localised disruptions in hilly and adjoining areas. Authorities have advised residents in these districts to remain cautious, particularly in regions prone to landslides or waterlogging. In addition, districts such as Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri are expected to receive heavy rainfall over the next two days. The weather system is gradually shifting southward, bringing more districts under its influence. On May 1, isolated heavy rainfall is likely in Tiruppur, Dindigul, and Theni districts.

India to float AMCA RFP soon, pushes private sector role and expores sixth-gen fighters

New Delhi, Apr 30: India's push to build its fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is picking up pace, with the government preparing to invite bids from private companies, even as it quietly begins exploring partnerships for next-generation, sixth-generation fighter aircraft. The development, shared by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Thursday, signals a shift in how India plans to build and scale its future combat aviation capabilities, with an emphasis on competition and multiple production lines rather than reliance on a single entity. Speaking at the ANI National Security Summit 2.0 in New Delhi, Singh said the procurement process for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is underway and a Request for Proposal (RFP) is expected to be issued soon to shortlisted private sector players. "The procurement process is on, the RFP hopefully will be released soon to the shortlisted bidders who

happen to be from the private sector and hopefully that will then pick up pace," he said. Why government is backing multiple fighter production lines Defence Secretary made it clear that India's long-term strategy is to avoid overdependence on a single manufacturer, pointing to global practices where countries maintain parallel production capabilities. "I think most of our major defence producers in the world, the US, the Russians, the Chinese, all have two fighter production lines in two separate companies," Singh said, adding that "putting all your eggs in one basket is not a good idea." "I think most of our major defence producers in the world, the US, the Russians, the Chinese, all have two fighter production lines in two separate companies," Singh said, adding that "putting all your eggs in one basket is not a good idea." He explained that such a system would include ballistic missiles across different ranges, along with cruise and hypersonic capabilities for varied tactical roles.

he said. Singh stressed that diversification across industry partners would help reduce supply chain risks and strengthen resiliency in defence manufacturing. India explores sixth-generation fighter partnerships Looking ahead, Singh indicated that India is also exploring collaboration on sixth-generation fighter aircraft, given the massive investment such programmes require. "We've made it clear... that we are interested and we could consider partnering them for a sixth generation fighter program. Let's see what the response is," he said. Missile force to be multi-layered, says DRDO chief On the missile front, Samir V Kamat said India is working towards building a layered conventional missile force covering short, medium and long ranges. He highlighted a key breakthrough, he noted that India recently achieved scramjet propulsion for more than 1,000 seconds, which will be crucial for future hypersonic systems. "For short-range ballistic missiles, the Pralaye, which is now in the final stages of testing, that should be ready," Kamat said. He added that some existing strategic missiles could be adapted for tactical use in medium and longer ranges. On hypersonic systems, Kamat said India is working on both glide and cruise variants, with the glide missile programme currently at a more advanced stage. "The glide missile will come out first... we should be doing the first trials fairly soon," he said, adding that the cruise missile programme is awaiting formal sanction.

Alphabet's Cloud Unit Beats Quarterly Revenue Estimates On Strong AI Demand

New Delhi, Apr 30: Alphabet topped Wall Street estimates for quarterly revenue growth at its cloud computing unit on Wednesday, driven by sustained enterprise spending on artificial-intelligence infrastructure. Revenue at Google Cloud grew 63% to \$20 billion in the first quarter ended March, compared with analysts' average estimate of a 50.1% increase, according to data compiled by LSEG. The third-largest cloud services provider globally, behind Amazon Web Services and Microsoft's Azure, has continued to land major deals, including expanded AI infrastructure partnerships with Meta and cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks. The results underscore Alphabet's position as a



key beneficiary of a global surge in spending on artificial intelligence, even as investors remain watchful of whether massive outlays on infrastructure will translate into sustained growth and market share gains. Strong demand for cloud-based AI services continues to outstrip supply across the industry, pushing hyperscalers to accelerate investments in data centers, advanced chips and networking equipment. Alphabet, Microsoft, Amazon and Meta are expected to collectively spend well over \$600 billion this year to expand AI capacity, as competition intensifies and companies race to secure computing power. Google Cloud's performance comes at a time when rivals have delivered mixed signals on growth, helping ease concerns about potential market share losses for Alphabet in the highly competitive cloud market. At the same time, capacity constraints remain a bottleneck across the sector, limiting providers' ability to fully capitalize on AI-driven demand despite aggressive spending plans. Alphabet has also gained traction in its in-house AI efforts. Its Gemini models, including newer iterations rolled out this year, have seen rising adoption across enterprise and consumer

applications, strengthening the company's position in the AI race. A partnership to power Apple's artificial intelligence features, including upgrades to Siri, is expected to significantly expand Google's reach across a vast global device base. Alphabet shares have outperformed most Big Tech peers over the past year, supported by growing signs that AI integration is lifting its core search and advertising businesses. AI-driven features such as AI Overviews and AI Mode continue to boost user engagement, while opening new avenues for monetization. The company has expanded ads with AI-generated responses across multiple markets and said monetization is broadly in line with traditional search.

Rupee slips to all-time low of 95.20 against US dollar amid crude spike

New Delhi, Apr 30: The rupee weakened by 32 paise to hit all-time record low of 95.20 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, April 30, amid a sharp rise in global crude oil prices due to tensions between the US and Iran. The Indian currency reached to all-time low of 95.07 in early trade, and later slipped to an intraday low of 95.126 against the US dollar. It weakened further to around 95.20 during the session. Forex traders are expected the USD/INR pair to see further downside, as rising crude oil prices are likely to sharply impact import costs of India, while concerns regarding wider conflict in West Asia are further fuelling investor anxiety. On the other hand, the US dollar added to gains with the FED Reserve kept rates unchanged. Also, the safe-haven demand was boosted



by another diplomatic setback between Washington and Tehran. In 2026 so far, the Indian rupee has depreciated about 5.8 per cent. On Wednesday, it depreciated 20 paise to close at an all-time low of 94.88 against the US dollar. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 3.16 per cent higher at \$121.76 per barrel in futures trade. Crude oil prices have continued to surge, gaining from their highest close in nearly four years, while the US intensified pressure on Iran. As of now, the US has signalled not to ease its naval blockade and moved to seize tankers linked to Tehran. This has raised fears of prolonged supply disruptions. Brent crude continues to hover around \$120 per barrel after jumping over 6 per cent on Wednesday, reaching its highest level since June 2022.

Sensex, Nifty Slide On Oil Surge, Geopolitical Jitters

New Delhi, Apr 30: India's benchmark equity indices opened sharply lower on Thursday as Brent crude prices surged past USD 120 per barrel, weighing on investor sentiment amid escalating tensions in West Asia. The Nifty 50 fell 278.45 points, or 1.15 per cent, to open at 23,899.20, while the Sensex dropped 914.12 points, or 1.18 per cent, to 76,582.24. Market participants attributed the decline to the spike in crude prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty, which have heightened volatility and triggered risk aversion. Banking and market expert Ajay Bagga said early indicators, including GIFT Nifty, had already signalled a gap-down opening



of over 140 points, reflecting weak global cues. He added that as a major oil importer, India is facing pressure on its currency and bond markets, with the rupee weakening towards Rs 95 per US dollar and bond yields hardening. "Today marks the monthly expiry for BSE contracts, which is expected to amplify the downward volatility triggered by the

Vedanta shares slump 62% as stock turns ex-demerger; what investors should know

New Delhi, Apr 30: Shares of Vedanta Limited, owned by Anil Agarwal, saw a sharp correction on Thursday as the stock began trading adjusted for its demerger. The share settled at ₹289.5 after a special pre-open session and slipped further in early trade. The fall comes as the company's stock turned ex-demerger ahead of the record date fixed for May 1. Investors holding Vedanta shares in their demat accounts as of Wednesday's close will be eligible for the demerger benefits, while those buying from Thursday onwards will not qualify. On April 30, the stock



dropped nearly 62 per cent to ₹289.5, down from its previous closing price of ₹773.6 on April 29. The sharp decline reflects a price adjustment rather than a fundamental sell-off, as the market recalibrated valuations following the restructuring. Why Vedanta share price is falling today

of the businesses being carved out. Vedanta demerger: What shareholders get For investors, it basically means what they own today will be divided across several companies instead of being tied to a single stock. For every Vedanta share held as of the May 1 record date, shareholders will be allotted shares in each of the newly carved-out companies. The idea behind the split is straightforward. By separating its businesses into individual entities, Vedanta is looking to give each vertical its own identity, clearer financials and the flexibility to grow on its own terms. To be eligible for share allotment in the demerged entities, investors needed to purchase Vedanta shares on or before April 29. Any purchases made from April 30 onwards will not be considered for the demerger benefits. Strong earnings ahead of demerger Separately, the company reported its highest-ever quarterly revenue of ₹51,524 crore in Q4 FY26, marking a 29 per cent year-on-year growth, according to an ANI report. Profit after tax rose 89 per cent to ₹9,352 crore in the same quarter. For the full financial year ending March 31, 2026, Vedanta posted revenue of ₹1,74,075 crore and a record profit of ₹25,096 crore.

Asian Shares Fall As Brent Hits 4-Year High; Bonds Battered By Central Bank Hawks

New Delhi, Apr 30: Asian shares fell on Thursday as oil prices vaulted to four-year highs due to the risk that U.S. may strike Iran again, with mostly positive earnings from tech giants providing only limited comfort to investors ahead of Apple's results. European stocks are bracing for a lower open, with the pan-regional stock futures gauge down 0.8%. Investors fear the European Central Bank and Bank of England will likely warn of higher rates later in the day after the Federal Reserve kept interest rates steady. But three Fed board members voted to drop the central bank's easing bias in the most divided decision since 1992. Outgoing Chair Jerome Powell also confirmed he would stay on as a governor for now to defend the institution's independence as his



successor Kevin Warsh, picked by low-rate advocate U.S. President Donald Trump, moves toward confirmation. The latest spike in oil prices was a cause for concern, as Brent crude futures jumped over 6% on

was still set for a 15% gain this month. Japan's Nikkei fell 1.4% but was up 1.6% in April. South Korea's hit another all-time high before turning 0.8% lower. China's blue chips were flat and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 1.2%. "The future path of the Iran conflict is still extremely uncertain ... All outcomes are still on the table: escalation, impose peace, with starkly different implications," said Luke Yeaman, chief economist at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "Central banks are waiting to see which outcome prevails before taking decisive steps in any direction. Much like ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz, they're steering through a minefield, with danger lurking at every turn."

Iran Rial Hits Record Low As US Blockade Tightens Pressure

New Delhi, Apr 30: Tensions between the United States and Iran continue to escalate, with Washington signalling it is prepared to sustain a naval blockade of Iranian ports for an extended period, even as the financial cost to the US has crossed 25 billion dollars, according to a Pentagon assessment. US President Donald Trump issued a sharp warning on social media, urging Iran to "get smart," effectively rejecting a recent peace proposal conveyed through backchannel contacts. Deadlock Over Nuclear Programme The latest developments indicate a widening diplomatic stalemate. Washington has maintained that Iran's nuclear



programme must be included in any ceasefire framework, while Tehran has refused to negotiate under pressure. Adding to global concern, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has indicated that Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium is believed to be located at the Isfahan nuclear facility, keeping governments across Europe and Asia on alert. Economic Strain Inside Iran The economic impact within Iran is intensifying. The Iranian rial has plunged to a record low, trading at around 1.8 million against the US dollar in the open market, compared to roughly 811,000 a year ago.

Powell Era Ends With Rates On Hold, Fed Hawks On The Rise And A Vow To Keep Governor's Seat Warm

New Delhi, Apr 30: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell closed out eight years as head of the U.S. central bank on Wednesday with interest rates on hold, rising concern about inflation, and an announcement that he would stay on as a Fed governor for now to defend the institution's independence from Trump administration "battering." Speaking after the end of a two-day policy meeting, Powell said he would "keep a low profile as a governor," and did not intend to act as a disruptive "high-profile dissident" under his designated successor, Kevin Warsh,

whose nomination to lead the Fed cleared the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday and could be confirmed by the full Senate as soon as two weeks from now, just before Powell's term as central bank chief ends on May 15. Powell said, however, that a series of Trump administration legal actions, from an effort to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook to a criminal probe of Powell, put the decision-making credibility of the central bank at risk and endangered the "bright line" needed between its decisions on interest rates and the short-term concerns of

electoral politics and elected officials. "These legal actions by the administration are unprecedented in our 113-year history, and there are ongoing threats of additional such actions. I worry that these attacks are battering the institution and putting at risk the thing that really matters to the public, which is the ability to conduct monetary policy without taking into consideration political factors," Powell said in a press conference, noting that he did not object to President Donald Trump's frequent demands for rate cuts, but rather to the legal measures taken to seemingly freeze the central bank into



approving them. Powell's separate term on the Fed's seven-member Board of Governors runs through January 2028, near the end of Trump's presidency. Powell said he'd make a future decision about how long to keep his seat.

political considerations." "Jerome 'Too Late' Powell wants to stay at the Fed because he can't get a job anywhere else - Nobody wants him," Trump said in a post on Truth Social on Wednesday. Trump has threatened to fire Powell if he stays on as a Fed governor. **FOUR POLICYMAKERS DISSENT** Powell's comments about his future and the transition to Warsh's impending leadership overshadowed both the Fed decision widely expected by financial markets to keep the policy rate in the 3.50%-3.75% range, where it has been since December, and intensify-

ing concern among policymakers about rising inflation that led to their most divided vote since 1992. Following more than a year in which the Fed was cutting rates and was expected to continue doing so, three of its policymakers on Wednesday dissented because they thought language in the policy statement pointing to an "easing bias" was no longer appropriate given elevated inflation and the massive uncertainty about how the roughly one-month high and ongoing U.S.-backed war against Iran may affect global oil prices. A fourth policymaker, Fed Governor Stephen Miran, also dissented in favor of a

rate cut, as he has at every meeting since leaving the Trump administration last year to join the central bank. It also likely was Miran's last meeting as a Fed governor. U.S. Treasury yields rose to a one-month high and the dollar rose against a basket of currencies after the release of the policy statement. Futures markets were pricing in little chance of a Fed rate cut by the end of this year, and a roughly even chance of a hike by next spring. Omair Sharif, president of forecasting firm Inflation Insights, said in a note to clients that the fractious policy vote.



IIM Jammu Hosts Visionary Leadership Talk by Sanjay Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, IRCTC

Jammu, April 29: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu had the distinct privilege of hosting an insightful and inspiring Guest Lecture by Sanjay Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), at the Mandapam Auditorium, IIM Jammu on 29th April 2026. The distinguished session brought together students, faculty members, officers, and eminent guests for a transformative interaction with one of India's foremost public sector leaders.



S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, in the esteemed presence of Rakesh Wazir, Chairman, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu Region, and President, Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra; Group General Manager North Zone Naveen Dixit, Shri Arup Bhattacharya, Chief

Program Officer, IIM Jammu; along with the faculty, officers, and students of the Institute. Prior to the lecture, Sanjay Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), was taken on a comprehensive tour of the IIM Jammu campus,

including the Program Office, the state-of-the-art Nalanda Library, technologically advanced smart classrooms, and the iconic Mandapam Auditorium. Deeply impressed by the world-class infrastructure and vibrant academic ecosystem, he lauded the Institute's remarkable commitment to excellence and innovation. In his highly engaging address, Sanjay Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), inspired students to emerge as visionary, responsible, and transformative leaders who will play a pivotal role in realizing India's aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He eloquently chronicled

GDC Majalra organises parent-teacher meeting under NMBA campaign

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30: Government Degree College Majalra today organized a parent teacher meeting to sensitize the students and parents about the danger of substance abuse and addiction. The event was held under the supervision of Prof. Dr Shalini Sharma, Principal of the College and coordinated by Prof. Naresh Kumar, Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. The event served as a constructive platform for open dialogue between teachers and parents, enabling them to share concerns, experiences and suggestions regarding students' well-being and behavioral development. Faculty members highlighted the crucial role of parental guidance, emo-



to stay focused on their academic and personal goals and to adopt a healthy lifestyle free from drugs and harmful substances. The programme witnessed active engagement from both parents and students, who expressed their views and sought guidance on tackling such issues effectively. Students were encouraged

Sensitization Programme on Workplace Safety, SHe-Box held at GCOE Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 30: The SPARSH Committee of Government College of Education Jammu organized an awareness programme on SHe-Box (Sexual Harassment electronic Box) to sensitize students to workplace safety, gender dignity and mechanisms for reporting sexual harassment. The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, who highlighted the importance of creating a safe, respectful and inclusive academic environment. She encouraged students to remain aware of

their rights and responsibilities and emphasized the collective duty to ensure a harassment-free campus. The session was conducted by the Resource Person, Dr. Sonam Gandotra, Head Department of ICT. She delivered an insightful presentation on SHe-Box, an initiative of the Government of India that provides a single-window online platform for lodging complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace. She elaborated on the concept and forms of sexual harassment, including quid pro quo and hostile work environment and

explained the process of filing complaints through SHe-Box. Stressing the importance of timely reporting and documentation, she conveyed the key message that silence encourages harassment. The programme was convened by Dr. Davinder Kour, Convener, SPARSH Committee, who ensured the smooth organization of the event. A total of 79 students actively participated in the programme and engaged meaningfully in the interactive session, reflecting their keen interest in understanding the subject.

Ramban Admin intensifies Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Campaign 34 Panchayats organize Anti-Drug Padyatra

RAMBAN, APRIL 30: Continuing the momentum of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, organized a series of Padyatras and awareness activities across 34 Panchayats of Banihal, Ukhral, Khari, Ramsoo, Ramban, Rajgarh, Batote, Gandhri, Sangaldan, Gundadhar and Gool blocks. The initiative aimed at raising mass awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy, addiction-free



Block Banihal under the leadership of SDM Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from people of all walks of life, including students, youth, religious leaders and other prominent citizens. Participants raised slogans against drug abuse, spread awareness about its harmful effects and took a collective pledge to contribute towards building a drug-free society. Students from various schools, officials from different departments and

community members participated in large numbers, turning the campaign into a mass movement. Awareness messages were widely disseminated, with participants reiterating their commitment to eradicate the menace of drug abuse. As part of the 100-day Nasha Mukt campaign, Parent-Teacher Meetings were also organized in schools across the district. The parents were sensitized about the serious consequences of drug abuse and encouraged to play an active role in guiding youth towards a positive and healthy lifestyle.

Rajni Sethi Hails Vande Bharat as Symbol of 'Naya Jammu & Kashmir'

Jammu, 30 April 2026: The introduction of the Vande Bharat Express connecting Jammu to Kashmir is being widely recognized as a historic and transformative decision by the Central Government. BJP Spokesperson Rajni Sethi has strongly welcomed this landmark development, describing it as a major step toward strengthening connectivity, unity, and economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir. Rajni Sethi stated that this initiative reflects the unwavering commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party towards ensuring inclusive development and fostering brotherhood between the regions of Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that BJP has always stood for unity, harmony, and equal opportunities for all sections of society. Highlighting the efforts of the government since 2014, Sethi said that under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, the Centre has consistently worked for the betterment of citizens across all communities. She noted that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed remarkable improvements in recent years, with a visible boost in peace, stability, and development. "The launch of the Vande Bharat train is not just about improved transportation; it is a symbol of progress and integration," Sethi remarked. She added that enhanced rail connectivity will significantly ease travel for people from across India, making it more convenient and comfortable to visit Jammu and Kashmir. This, in turn, is expected to give a strong push to tourism, which has already been witnessing a positive surge. Sethi further pointed out that the increased influx of tourists will directly benefit local shopkeepers, artisans, and small business owners. "This initiative will generate new employment opportunities

and strengthen the local economy," she said. She also highlighted that sectors like agriculture and horticulture will gain momentum as better connectivity will facilitate smoother transportation of goods to wider markets. Calling it a clear message to the world, Rajni Sethi said that Jammu and Kashmir is steadily progressing towards becoming a "Naya Jammu & Kashmir." She reiterated that the Modi government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, combined with a clear developmental vision, has played a crucial role in transforming the region. She contrasted the present scenario with previous governments at the Centre, stating that earlier administrations failed to effectively address terrorism, promote brotherhood, or create sustainable strategies for economic upliftment. "Today, people of both Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing real

change and are highly appreciative of the efforts being made," she added. According to Sethi, the overwhelming response from the public reflects the success of the government's policies and initiatives. People from both regions have expressed immense faith and optimism over the commencement of the Vande Bharat train service. Concluding her statement, Rajni Sethi expressed hope that the Railway Ministry and the Central Government will continue to expand rail services in the region based on public demand. She emphasized that improved infrastructure and connectivity will further accelerate development and integration. "We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his team for consistently prioritizing Jammu and Kashmir and for taking visionary steps that are shaping a brighter future for the region," she said.

Agriculture Department Kishtwar pushes Crop diversification Distributes 72,000 Hybrid Seedlings in 3 days

KISHTWAR, APRIL 30: In a major push towards strengthening vegetable cultivation and enhancing farmers' income, the Department of Agriculture Kishtwar today concluded a 3 day sale and distribution drive of hybrid seedlings in the district. The initiative was carried out under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the guidance of Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kushal Chandel. The three-day distribution drive, conducted from April 28 to April 30, witnessed an overwhelming response from the farming community, culminating in



the sale of approximately 72,000 seedlings. Hybrid seedlings of brinjal, tomato and marigold flowers were made available to farmers at highly affordable prices through two designated sale counters-one at the AEO Office and another at the New DC Office. Farmers from various parts of the district availed themselves of the opportunity to procure high-quality planting material aimed at boosting crop productivity and improving economic returns.

Free health check-up camp hosted for drivers at Ramban

RAMBAN, APRIL 30: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting the health and well-being of the transport fraternity, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Ramban, in coordination with the Health Department, today organized a free medical health check-up camp for drivers, conductors and other members of the transport operators here at the Community Hall. The camp was organized in line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan to promote physical fitness and health awareness among the transport workers, who play a vital role in public transportation and road safety. More than 100 drivers and conductors participated in the camp and underwent comprehensive health screening conducted



by a team of doctors deputised by the Health Department, including a General Physician and an Ophthalmologist. The medical examination focused on overall physical fitness, vision assessment and other health parameters essential for safe driving. The programme also formed part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, being actively implemented across the district to create awareness against substance abuse

DC Kathua reviews Drug Control measures, implementation of NMJKA Calls for mass awareness, crackdown on narcotic trafficking

KATHUA, APRIL 30: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of drug control measures under NCORD initiative and the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan (NMJKA) in the district. The Deputy Commissioner took a first-hand appraisal of the anti-drug and anti-narcotics initiatives launched by the enforcement departments. He stressed the need to give further push to awareness campaigns at the grassroots level. The Departments of Education, Social Welfare, Youth Services and Sports and Excise were asked to organize age-group specific activities to spread awareness among youth and vulnerable sections of



the New DC Office. Similarly, the Assistant Controller Drugs was directed to keep strict vigil on the sale of scheduled drugs and ensure compliance with all prescribed regulations. The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved in areas related to rehabilitation, lifestyle counselling, parent counselling during Parent-Teacher Meetings and advocacy campaigns aimed at creating awareness against drug abuse. Highlighting the role of social and religious institutions, the Deputy Commissioner called for roping in heads of religious institutions to motivate communities and reinforce moral responsibility in combating the drug menace.

timely action can be taken for its eradication. Additionally, Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Magistrates were directed to identify drug peddlers operating in their respective jurisdictions and initiate confiscation of their properties as per the legal provisions. The SSP Mohita Sharma called upon banks to remain vigilant and promptly share information regarding suspicious financial transactions, particularly accounts reflecting sudden abnormal monetary activity, to help track and curb narcotics-related transactions and financial networks linked to drug peddling. The Agriculture Department was asked to closely monitor and report instances of illegal cultivation or wild growth of cannabis and poppy so that narcotics-related



CS inaugurates 3-day 'The Meanderings' exhibition at Jammu Kala Kendra



JAMMU, APRIL 30: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today inaugurated a three-day painting exhibition titled "The Meanderings" by Pradeep Wahule (IFS, Conservator of Forests) at Kala Kendra Jammu. Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, J&K, was the Special Guest on the occasion. Sarvesh Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL and Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra Jammu, were part of the presidium during the inaugural programme. The event was organized by Kala Kendra Jammu

under the aegis of the Department of Culture and witnessed participation from artists, writers, poets, and officers of the Department. In his address, Atal Dulloo appreciated the artistic depth of Pradeep Wahule's work, observing that his paintings make a significant contribution to environmental awareness and foster a deep emotional connection with nature. He emphasized the need for cultural institutions to actively engage younger generations with their age-old culture and heritage. He further stated that Kala Kendra would be provided full assistance to develop into a

vibrant institution of J&K's cultural landscape. He also appreciated the administration of the Kendra for transforming the institution into a centre of art and cultural activities. While making his address Brij Mohan Sharma remarked that while he has known Pradeep Wahule as an efficient officer, his high-quality artworks left a lasting impression, adding that such creativity deserves national recognition. He further noted that efforts are underway to fully utilize all the galleries of Kala Kendra for the purposes they were originally envisioned. Welcoming the guests, Javaid Rahi

stated that the primary objective of the exhibition is to provide a platform for artists of Jammu & Kashmir to interact and engage with contemporary art through the works of Pradeep Wahule. He informed that around 40 artworks are on display at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery of Kala Kendra. Speaking on the occasion, Pradeep Wahule (artist) reflected on his three-decade-long journey in the field of art. He stated that he is a self-trained artist and developed a deep interest in fine arts from an early age, drawing inspiration from nature and the works of great mas-

ters. Rashmi Rao, who curated the exhibition, shared that this is the sixth State/UT where she is managing the display of the show. She expressed hope that art lovers and the general public will visit Kala Kendra during the three-day exhibition. Kusam Tickoo conducted the programme. The exhibition will remain open to the public for three days.

Centre approves Rs.243 cr for PM SHRI Schools in J&K for 2026-27

JAMMU, APRIL 30: The Project Approval Board of the PM SHRI Schools for Rising India scheme has approved a total outlay of ₹243 crore for Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2026-27. The PAB meeting, chaired by the Union Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Sanjay Kumar, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Ram Nivas Shama, along with the Project Director and other senior officials of Samagra Shiksha, J&K. During the meeting, the Board reviewed the financial and physical progress made under the scheme in the previous year. Out of ₹200.11 crore available for 2025-26, ₹194.53 crore was utilized and released to executing agencies, including PWD (R&B),

mainly for civil works and allied activities. The Board appreciated the significant academic improvement in the UT, especially the 10 percent increase in Board Examination results at the secondary and higher secondary levels. It also commended the overall financial and physical progress achieved by Jammu and Kashmir under the scheme. The Ministry of Education, Government of India, assured continued support for effective implementation of the plans in the coming years. At present, the PM SHRI scheme is being implemented in 396 schools across J&K, mostly at the high and higher secondary levels. The officials also clarified that reports in certain sections of the media about meagre expenditure under the scheme are false.

Div Com Kashmir directs for meticulous execution of plans for seamless Nasha Mukht J&K Padyatra

SRINAGAR, APR 30: In preparation for the upcoming Nasha Mukht J&K Padyatra scheduled for May 3, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements laying strong emphasis on precision, coordination, and seamless execution. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the DIG Central Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, Director Information &



Public Relations, Director Health Services, SSP Traffic, and heads of various departments such as School Education, Higher Education, Transport, Culture, Hospitality & Protocol, Tribal Affairs, and other key stakeholders. During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of meticulous planning and effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure the smooth conduct of the padyatra and associated events.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) inspects Migrant ration depots Reviews implementation of Special Relief Ration Scheme

JAMMU, APRIL 30: Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K Dr Arvind Karwani, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Relief Jijay Sharma, Deputy Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu Sham Abrol and field officers from Relief Organization and FCS&CA, on Thursday visited Migrant ration depots to take stock of the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmir/Jammu Migrants, notified by the J&K Government recently. While interacting with a large number of migrant beneficiaries at Migrant Camp Purkhoo, the team informed that ration distribution is being carried out



by the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department in accordance with the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmir/Jammu Migrants notified vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2024 dated 05.03.2026, from all 32 designated migrant depots in District Jammu and that migrant can get ration from any nearest ration depot. "All Relief Ration Card

holders, whether PHH, NPHH, or Special Category, will continue to receive 11 kg of free ration per person per month along with 1 kg of sugar, while migrants under the non-relief category, such as pensioners, categorized as NPHH, are entitled to ration at government-approved NFSA rates," they were informed. It was further clarified that those migrant ration card

holders who may not be able to collect the ration during the current month (April) may collect the two-month ration (April and May) next month, after immediately completing e-KYC formalities. People were asked to beware of elements who are frustrated with reforms in ration distribution introduced by the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database and are spreading rumours on social media about the discontinuation of migrant status after integration into the NFSA database. "More than 450 migrant families have already availed the benefits of social security and welfare schemes after this integration, in addition to the relief benefits," they were told. Dr Karwani reiterated

that the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database is being done in compliance with relevant Government Orders and rules. "Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and National Informatics Centre is working in tandem with the Relief Organization and the department is committed to fully operationalize the new scheme for all migrants within the shortest time period," he assured. He appealed to all eligible migrants to immediately file online applications to avail benefits of social security schemes, which they were not eligible to avail earlier due to migrant cards being non-digitized and not integrated with NFSA database.

MVD Rajouri cracks down on NDPS-linked vehicles 05 DLs disqualified, 05 RCs suspended

RAJOURI, APRIL 30: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the Motor Vehicles Department Rajouri has taken stringent action against violators, particularly those involved in NDPS-related offences. Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Rajesh Gupta has disqualified 05 Driving Licences (DLs) and suspended 05 Registration Certificates (RCs) of vehicles found involved in NDPS cases. The action was taken on the recommendation of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gaurav Sikarwar. Five individuals whose driving licenses were suspended are Mohammad Danish R/o Chowkan, Darhal, Mohammad Manir R/o

Budhal, Razak Ahmed R/o Ward No. 2, DC Colony Rajouri, Mohammad Razak R/o Draj Budhal and Aqib Khan R/o Sagrawal Darhal. Similarly, Registration Certificates (RCs) vehicles owned by Nazar Hussain R/o Manjakote; Ala Ud Dn Dar R/o Kheora; Mohammad Shahir R/o Dandote Budhal; Rahilla Manhas R/o Darhal and Aqib Khan R/o Darhal. In addition, acting on the recommendations of the Traffic Police, the department has suspended 2232 Registration Certificates of non-transport vehicles and 15 Certificates of transport vehicles for violations of traffic norms. The initiative reflects a coordinated effort between the Motor Vehicles Department and the District Police to curb

drug abuse and enforce strict compliance with traffic regulations. The stakeholder departments have reiterated their commitment to continue such strict measures to ensure road safety and support the broader objective of a drug-free society. Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma said that the district administration is adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards drug abuse and associated illegal activities. He emphasized that strict enforcement measures will continue to be implemented across the district and any individual found involved in such offences will face firm legal action. He further urged the public to cooperate with the administration and contribute towards making Rajouri a drug-free district.

Census 2027: 3-Day training for field functionaries concludes at Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, APRIL 30: The District Administration Kishtwar (Principal Census Office) under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner (Principal Census Officer) Pankaj Kumar Sharma and in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations (DCO) J&K, on Thursday successfully concluded the comprehensive three-day Phase-I training programme for field functionaries of the district. The last training session was presided over by the ADC Pawan Kotwal. The training programme conducted from April 28 to April 30, 2026, aimed to equip field functionaries with the necessary skills and knowledge for the effective execution



of duties related to Census 2027. A total of 12 field trainers participated in the programme and underwent intensive training during the three-day schedule. The sessions were imparted to the participants by Balbir Singh, Assistant Director from the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, along with Ramesh Kumar, Lecturer/Master Trainer and other resource persons. The participants were acquainted with key

aspects of census methodology, data collection techniques, use of digital tools and field-level coordination mechanisms to ensure accurate and efficient enumeration. The first phase of the Census, focusing on the House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), is scheduled from 01.06.2026 to 30.06.2026, would involve door-to-door data collection on housing conditions and socio-economic indicators across all households.

NCORD meeting held at Kishtwar DC Calls for intensive crackdown on perpetrators of drug abuse

KISHTWAR, APRIL 30: The District-Level NCORD (National Coordination Centre) meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma to comprehensively review the district's response to drug abuse and to further reinforce ongoing anti-narcotics initiatives. The discussions primarily centered on strengthening the institutional framework for drug de-addiction and evaluating the progress achieved under the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaign being implemented as part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and 100 Day



Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan. At the outset, District NCORD Welfare Officer Tariq Parveez Qazi presented a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR), highlighting the implementation status of decisions taken at the previous

NCORD meeting. The Deputy Commissioner undertook an in-depth assessment of the prevailing drug abuse scenario across the district. He sought comprehensive inputs on vulnerable pockets, affected demographic

groups and identified hotspots requiring urgent and targeted interventions. He also reviewed the spectrum of preventive, rehabilitative and enforcement measures being executed by various departments. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Heads of Departments (HoDs) of line departments to ensure the active participation of designated resource persons and officials in the IEC campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat/JK Abhiyan. He cautioned that any instance of negligence or non-compliance would invite strict action. The DC directed the School Education Department to ensure that all remaining institutions are declared Tobacco-Free Zones in strict adherence to TOFEI guidelines. To bolster grassroots-level interventions, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to expedite the declaration of Panchayats as "Nasha Mukht" in accordance with prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs), ensuring due verification and active community participation. The DC HoDs of line departments were asked to organize activities as per the notified schedule under 100 days Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. "Also ensure timely submission of photographs of activities conducted by each offices and educational institutions."

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