

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Orchralgia
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten joint or more body aches, pain or sore
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## No provision to appoint any non-Muslim member to Waqf, Amit Shah clarifies over Waqf Amendment Bill

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 2

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today participated in the discussion in the Lok Sabha on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024. Participating in the discussion, Shri Amit Shah said that Waqf is an Arabic



word, and its history is linked to the Hadiths. The way it is used today refers to a donation of property in the name of Allah or a donation of property for sacred religious purposes. He mentioned that the contemporary meaning of Waqf came into existence during the time of the second caliph of Islam, Hazrat Umar. In today's language, Waqf is a type

of Charitable Endowment, where a person donates property for religious or social welfare. He clarified that such donations can only be of private property, and government property or someone else's property cannot be donated. Union Home Minister said that no non-Islamic member will be

## New Waqf Bill 'conspiracy against Muslims': JK politicians

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Politicians in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday said that the proposed changes made in the Waqf Amendment Bill are aimed to target Muslims and is an infringement with their faith. Peoples Conference chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone in a post on X, as per news agency said that the Waqf Bill is another right wing trespass. "Waqf by definition is the custodian of proper-

ties which are collectively owned by Muslims. It is an Islamic concept. The proposed amendment by Parliament is a blatant interference in our faith aimed at divesting rightfully custodians of their authority. Yet another right wing trespass," he said. Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti while speaking with reporters said that the proposed amendment in the Waqf bill is a conspiracy to target Muslims. "I don't have any expectations from the BJP government," she said.

"From past couple of years, Muslims are being lynched, Mosques are being destroyed and graveyards are being seized," she said. PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Para said that the Bill mirrors J&K Reorganisation Act, prioritising control over community rights. "Just like the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, which reorganised the state into union territories, the Waqf Bill seeks to centralise authority over community properties," he said.

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## MEA, Centre can decide on UN Office in Srinagar, but it's not needed: LG Sinha

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that the decision to wind up the United Nations office in Srinagar rests solely with the Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). However, he personally believes that the office is no longer needed in Kashmir.



error quickly added that he personally feels that the "office not needed any more in Srinagar." Maintaining that the peace cannot be enforced but must be established, LG Sinha praised the efforts of the security forces for successfully creating a peaceful environment in the Union Territory. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a drastic transformation.

## J&K to boost medical education with 450 MBBS, 333 PG seats this year

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir is set to boost its medical education capacity this year, with the addition of 450 MBBS seats and 333 post-graduate (PG) seats across the region. However, the ambitious expansion plan faces hurdles that could delay its implementation, particularly in terms of infrastructure development and faculty recruitment.

tary issued last December, most medical colleges in the region have applied for an additional 50 MBBS seats each. Despite the progress, administrators warn that a severe shortage of qualified faculty members could derail the approval process from the National Medical Commission (NMC), which enforces stringent staff-to-student ratios for medical institutions. Sources informed the news agency that for every 100 MBBS

## Gol helping J&K rural women to become entrepreneurs: Parliament told

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemasani on Wednesday informed the Parliament that the government has provided significant support to rural women entrepreneurs through different centrally sponsored schemes in J&K and Ladakh to boost economic growth. The Minister, according to the news agency said, "Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh have witnessed key initiatives such as the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). These schemes have provided an opportunity to women to launch small businesses, improving livelihoods in rural areas." "For 2024-25, J&K and Ladakh have received Rs 550 lakh in funds for these programs, targeting grassroots-level

In line with directives from the J&K Chief Secre-

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## 75,000 people visit Tulip Garden on Eid days; footfall crosses 1.56 lakh mark

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Nearly 75000 people visited Asia's largest Tulip Garden, located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Mountains here, on first two days of Eid-ul-Fitr, while the number of total visitors since its opening on March 26 has crossed one and a half lakh mark. In-charge Tulip Garden, Javid Masood while sharing the details with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO said, "A massive footfall of 44651 visitors was witnessed on Tuesday (2nd day of Eid-ul-Fitr) while



"Everything is going smoothly as the public is quite cooperative and have been following the rules and regulations with spirit." In the meantime, Masood said that e-ticketing has proven beneficial for the visitors as the rush outside the garden for collecting the tickets has reduced to a large extent. Also, Masood said that the garden will continue to remain open till the bloom of the Tulips. "In case the weather remains favourable, the garden can remain open for a month," he said.

## J&K's IT sector contributes Rs 42.12 crore in exports: Gol

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, on Wednesday revealed that Jammu and Kashmir had reported a total export value of Rs 42.12 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24 in software, IT-enabled services, and automobile sectors. Speaking in the Parliament, Prasada, according to the news agency said that the data pertained to software, IT-enabled services, and automobile exports from the region for the fiscal year 2023-24.

"For Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) registered units, Jammu & Kashmir reported a total export value of Rs 41.93 crore. This figure reflects the contribution of the state's growing IT sector to India's overall software export performance," he added. In the automotive sector, Jammu & Kashmir's exports were minimal, he said, adding that the export value of auto components and parts stood at just Rs 0.02 crore, while motor vehicles and cars accounted for

## J&K's power demand drops to 18,439 MU in FY25, 3.77 lakh households electrified: Centre

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

The power requirements in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh have shown a steady decrease over the past two years, with the energy demand dropping from 19,639 Million Units (MU) in the financial year (FY) 2023 to an estimated 18,439 MU in FY 2025. Along with this reduction in power demand, the energy not supplied has significantly decreased, dropping from 317 MU

in FY 2023 to 87 MU in FY 2025, showcasing improvements in energy distribution. This was revealed by the Ministry of Power in response to queries in the Lok Sabha, as reported by the news agency. The Ministry said electricity is a concurrent subject, and the responsibility for supply and distribution falls under the jurisdiction of the respective state governments or power utilities. "The Government

## J&K gets Rs 3520 cr, Ladakh Rs 318.91 cr for Panchayat development in 2024-25

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

The Government of India has allocated significant funds for the development of Panchayat infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) and the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The information as per the news agency was provided in response to a question in the Lok Sabha by Manju Sharma. In Jammu & Kashmir, 970 Panchayat Bhawans

have been approved for the current year (2024-25), while in Ladakh, 3 Bhawans have been sanctioned. Also, J&K has received a significant number of 1000 computers for enhancing digital infrastructure at the Panchayat level in the past year, with further allocations planned. Regarding the Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants, Jammu & Kashmir received Rs 2819.24 Crore in 2023-24, with Rs 3520 Crore allocated for the current fiscal year.

## J&K, Ladakh get 59 MVUs under LHDCP: Centre

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel on Wednesday informed Parliament that Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have received a total of 59 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Program (LHDCP). Of these, 50 MVUs are operational in Jammu & Kashmir, while 9 are functioning in Ladakh, providing essential veterinary services to farmers in remote areas.

As per the data, available with the news agency, Jammu & Kashmir currently has 50 operational MVUs under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Program (LHDCP), benefiting farmers and treating livestock in remote areas. Prof. Singh Baghel said that the central government has been supporting these MVUs as part of efforts to improve veterinary healthcare access for farmers at their doorsteps. "The program has been effective, with a total of 4,016 MVUs operational across India,

## India risks becoming digital colony without innovation push: LG at Sharda University Meet

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 02 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha issued a stark warning on Wednesday, cautioning that India risks becoming a "digital colony" of technologically advanced nations unless its educational institutions and youth urgently prioritize innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI). As per the news agency Correspondent, speaking at the Alumni Meet of Sharda University held at



questioning why India had yet to produce comparable breakthroughs. "While other nations are pioneering AI, we remain consumers rather than creators of this technology. If we do not act now, we risk becoming a digital colony, dependent on foreign innovations," he warned. To counter this trend, Sinha outlined several key measures. He stressed the need for universities to integrate cutting-edge research into their curricula and foster

the SKICC in Srinagar, LG Sinha identified the need for self-reliance in technology and called for a transformative approach to education and research. In his speech, LG Sinha

focused on India's lag in AI development compared to global leaders like the U.S. and China. He pointed to China's recent launch of the DeepSeek AI model as a wake-up call,

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## MLA Dr. Narender Singh, Commissioner JMC visit Sainik Colony

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Member Legislative Assembly Dr. Narender Singh and Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited Sainik Colony and held a significant meeting with the Sainik Colony Management Committee to discuss key civic issues affecting the area.

During the meeting, local residents submitted a memorandum to the Commissioner, outlining pressing concerns such as drinking water supply, street lighting, drainage systems, and the development of local parks. Acknowledging the grievances of the community, Dr. Yadav assured the Sainik Colony Management Committee that necessary actions would be taken at the earliest to address these concerns.

MLA Dr. Narender Singh



emphasized the importance of public cooperation in ensuring the effective implementation of civic projects. He urged the local community to work in tandem with the authorities to facilitate smooth and efficient development initiatives.

Furthermore, Dr. Singh stressed the need for elected representatives to collaborate closely with government departments, ensuring that developmental projects in their respective areas should be taken up expeditiously and efficiently. He reiterated his commitment to delivering

quality infrastructure and services, ensuring that the citizens do not face any inconveniences.

The meeting marked a constructive step towards resolving civic issues in Sainik Colony, reinforcing the dedication of the local administration and public representatives toward the welfare of the community.

Later, the Commissioner handed over 50 street lights to the Sainik Colony Management Committee in presence of MLA.

The initiative aims to enhance street lighting in the area, ensuring better visibility and security for

residents.

Speaking at the occasion, the MLA commended the efforts of JMC in addressing civic needs and reaffirmed the commitment to further infrastructural development in the region.

The Commissioner highlighted the importance of well-lit streets in fostering a safer environment and improving the overall quality of life. "This initiative is part of our broader effort to enhance civic amenities across Jammu. We remain dedicated to implementing projects that directly benefit the residents," the Commissioner stated.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Executive Engineers, (E), works, other senior officers of JMC, besides former Corporator and locals were present on the occasion.

## DDC inspects upcoming road, bridge, other projects in Block NSSB: Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 02

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vikas Kundal conducted a comprehensive inspection of ongoing road connectivity and other projects in Block Nangali Sahib-Sain Baba (NSSB), here today.

The DDC inspected the progress of work on New Drungali Nala Bridge on NH144A, renovation of Old Drungali Nala Bridge and the Chandak to Dahlan PMGSY road.

The Officer Commanding GREF Ashish Ranjan provided a detailed briefing on the status of work on the twin bridges. The DDC emphasized on expediting the pace of work on the projects to ensure timely completion.

He specifically directed the OC GREF to prioritize the restoration of the Old Drungali Nala Bridge, while also urging the construction team to accelerate the work on the New Drungali



Nala Bridge on NH144A.

In addition, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned executive engineers of PMGSY to up-grade drainage system from the Main Chowk to Nangali Sahib and to address road maintenance by filling potholes.

Later, the DDC inspected the newly constructed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Grameen Houses in village Kankote and participated in the Greha Pravesh ceremony of beneficiary Tariq Hussain. He lauded the beneficiaries for effectively utilizing government support and expressed his satisfaction with the scheme's impact-

ful grassroots outcomes.

Earlier, the DDC inspected the Panchayat Ghar and Common Service Centre (CSC) in the village. He directed the concerned officials to expedite the recruitment of the operator for the CSC and ensure its functionality, thereby enhancing the delivery of essential services to the local community.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Block Development Officer NSSB, and other relevant officials, emphasizing a coordinated effort to improve local governance and community welfare.

## Power shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chatha Mill, Chatha Pind, Brij Nagar, SKUAST, Chatha Bhour, Lower Gadigarh, Dharap, Indranagar, Sudan Heart Care, Airport, Airforce Station and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 07 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Bathindi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 03, 05, 08 and 12 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Vijaypur Town, Kolpur, Bandral, Sarore, Jakh, Jogpur, Industry, Patil and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 03 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sehora, Kunjwani, Industrial Estate Digiana, Sanjay Nagar, Jeevan Nagar, Maha Kali Nagar, Ajit Nagar, Raina Colony, Sant Nagar, Vishal Colony and IIKV feeders emanating from Babliana will remain affected on April 03 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Satriyan, Flora, BOP and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 03 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-III, JPDCL Batote has informed that the power supply to Batote and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 03 and 04 from 9 am to 4 pm.

These roads are vital for

## Satish Sharma inaugurates photo exhibition on Ambaran "Buddhist Citadel" in New Delhi

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 02

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated 40 day long photo exhibition on Ambaran "The historical Buddhist Citadel" at Ajanta Hall of National Museum in New Delhi.

The exhibition was jointly organised by the National Museum of India and Centre for Himalayan Asian Studies and Engagement (CHASE) New Delhi. The photographs have been clicked by veteran photographer Vijay Kranti and his son Akshat Kranti.

While speaking on the occasion, the Minister remembered the efforts of his father late Madan Lal Sharma, who was also Member Parliament, in preserving his historic site which has religious significance to Buddhists.

Satish Sharma said that the photographers of this exhibition acknowledge years of dedicated efforts of former MP late Madan



Lal Sharma and his efforts at putting Ambaran and Akhnoor on the national map of Buddhist tourism.

The Minister said that the site is known for its terracotta figures that include Buddha heads of various sizes and ornately dressed male and female statues, with clearly seen

influences of the Graeco-Buddhist and Gandhara schools of art.

The Minister, while sharing the message of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, asserted that the government has placed special emphasis on promoting the rich cultural heritage of J&K and its tourism.

Satish Sharma said that Akhnoor is blessed with five extraordinary cultural historical natural and technological specialities which are the Buddhist Monastic site of Ambaran, the Akhnoor fort, the Jia Pota Ghat, Chenab river and peaceful facet at Akhnoor. It is government's commitment to promote and place Akhnoor on the tourist map of India, he added.

Satish Sharma also informed that similar kind of photo exhibitions will also be held in Jammu and Srinagar after the conclusion of this exhibition.

The Minister concluded that this exhibition is a photographic tribute to the archeologists of India and people of Akhnoor.

Pertinent to mention that, Ambaran is one of the latest historical findings of Archaeological Survey of India and the oldest Buddhist site found so far in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh which is situated at the bank of Chenab river. The highest spiritual leader and head of Tibetan Buddhism, 14th Dalai Lama had visited this ancient site in November 2012.

## Over 300 projects receive forest clearance in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

In a significant push to infrastructure and economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir, over 300 development projects, pending clearances at different stages, have received forest clearances.

From key road networks to water supply schemes, tourism, defence and 4G saturation, these approvals will pave the way for enhanced connectivity, economic progress and improved public services.

A total of 302 cases have received final approval and 84 cases have received In-Principle approval from the government between January to March this year. The signifies government's broader vision of development, prioritising projects that address long-standing infrastructural gaps and further improve the public services.

Delay in land acquisition and forest clearances were some of the reasons for these projects being stalled or running behind schedule and at times leading to cost overruns. A number of projects related to road development have been granted approval, enabling timely implementation of key initiatives.

The diversion of forest land will support construction and improvement of roadways, including highways and local roads. These roads are vital for



enhancing connectivity and facilitating the movement of people and goods across Jammu and Kashmir.

Major road and highway projects approved recently included clearance of the remaining patch of Package-17 of Delhi-Katra Expressway in Jammu, Kishtwar-Nildori-Bangus-Gali-Lokut-Bangus Dangiari Road in Kupwara district by BRO, Jallary to Badharkat Khaitan road by PWD in Poonch district.

Additionally, the forest land has been cleared for establishment of various water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission. These projects aim to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every household, especially in rural and remote areas.

The approval for these schemes will contribute significantly towards improving the water infrastructure, making water more accessible to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Across the UT of J&K,

in the past three months, 271 Water Supply Schemes have been approved in 7 districts of J&K including Baramulla, Budgam, Doda, Jammu, Kishtwar, Ramban and Udhampur.

Further, in order to ensure 4G Saturation under USOF, 11 proposals for construction of communication towers and 4 proposals for laying of OFC have been approved recently across 8 districts of J&K.

In line with the Forest (Conservation) Act, compensatory afforestation will be undertaken for the forest land diverted for these projects. This will include reforestation of degraded forest land to maintain ecological balance and mitigate any potential environmental impact caused by these developmental activities.

These environmental clearances have been approved following a high level meeting between J&K Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana and Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, in New Delhi in January 2025.

Rana had urged the Union Minister to expedite clearance of over 400 pending cases under the Forest Conservation Act related to various projects, which were awaiting approval at the regional office.

The Union Minister had assured that the propos-

als would be considered on priority and necessary steps would be taken to expedite the approvals and fund allocations.

However, the clearances also come with environmental considerations, ensuring a balance between development and sustainability.

Javed Ahmed Rana, while reiterating the government's commitment towards expanding opportunities for growth and modernising infrastructure across the Union Territory, directed the authorities to undertake aggressive compensatory afforestation to arrest any ecological imbalance.

"We will ensure that ecological balance is maintained and steps have been taken to ensure that forest area is not reduced and compensatory land is provided by the concerned authorities for afforestation," he said. If we are using forest area for any developmental project, the same amount of forest land will be given for compensatory afforestation, he added.

Rana further said that government is determined to ensure that all development initiatives are executed with minimal environmental disruption. The Forest Department is working closely with other concerned authorities to expedite implementation of these crucial projects, he maintained.

## DC reviews stock supply position, working of FCS&CA Department in Poonch District

JNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 02

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to assess the working of the Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department, including stock and supply position in the District.

Assistant Director FCS&CA Adil Shabir and all Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) of the district attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Assistant Director FCS&CA gave a detailed presentation regarding the functioning of the department. He said that the district boasts ample reserves of essential commodities including wheat, rice, LPG, petrol and diesel. "To ensure widespread accessibility, the department utilizes seven stores and 167 fair price shops and 20 Government sale depots for ration distribution," he added.

A thorough discussion ensued and the DDC reviewed the implementation of e-KYC/e-Shram/NFSA/Non-NFSA & PMFSS schemes focusing on three



categories of Non-Priority Households (NPHH), Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). He reviewed the current status and issues faced by the TSOs in their respective zones.

The DDC reviewed E-KYC reports from each zone and asked the TSOs to complete the E-KYC registration in their jurisdic-

tions. He also discussed issues related to online transactions, instructing officers to only provide ration through online mode. Manual or offline ration provision is not permitted only in areas having network issues. The Assistant Director was asked to review the network location of the offline PoS Machine again.

## Commissioner SMC reviews Swachh Survekshan 2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed, held an in-depth review today to evaluate the progress and preparations for the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2024.

During the meeting, Dr. Owais emphasized the critical importance of upholding high standards of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the city as part of the Swachh Survekshan initiative.

Commissioner reviewed previous performance metrics and highlighted



the necessity for continuous improvement in sanitation practices and public awareness campaigns. The officials were encouraged to prioritize sustainable waste management solutions and to cultivate a strong culture of cleanliness among the residents of the Srinagar city.

Dr. Owais

reiterated that achieving a high ranking in the Swachh Survekshan not only demonstrates the city's commitment to cleanliness but also significantly contributes to the well-being and health of its citizens. The meeting concluded with actionable points aimed at enhancing the city's sanitation efforts, ensuring that Srinagar stands out as a model city in the nationwide cleanliness survey. The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Adm) SMC, Secretary SMC and other senior officials of the Corporation.

## CS reviews ERA projects for their completion by extended deadline

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level review meeting where CEO of the Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Aijaz Asad, presented a comprehensive update on the Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

This update comes after the World Bank granted an extension to complete the remaining works.

Present in the meeting were Secretary, PWD; Commissioner, SMC; Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the ERA to ensure regular monitoring of progress on the ongoing works. He asked them to make sure the works are completed in time with no laxity at any level.

Regarding maintenance of quality and adherence to specific timelines, the Chief Secretary asked the R&B department to take penal action against the defaulting contractors as per law or blacklist them for taking up any future contracts.

The Chief Secretary asked for ensuring completion of 130-bedded additional block at the Government LD Hospital



within the extended timeline.

The CEO informed that this additional block aims to significantly enhance the healthcare infrastructure and patient capacity at this crucial healthcare facility. He further apprised that the authorities are closely monitoring the progress to ensure timely completion of this vital project within the extended project time-frame.

Regarding the remaining work of 5 bridges in North Kashmir, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, informed the meeting that the LoA stands issued for each of the bridge to be constructed at Wahidina, Waza Mohallah, Shrakwara and Wagoora. These works are expected to be completed by December 2025.

Regarding completion of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) at Humhuma, it was

divulged that the dormitory building, service block and warehouse have been completed. It was added that the delay in procurement of electromechanical components by the contractor lead to termination of the contract with the remaining works to be re-tendered and expected to be completed in seven months at a cost of Rs 40.16 crore.

About the 160-bedded new block of Bone & Joint Hospital, the meeting was apprised that the construction has been fully completed. It was given out that the procurement of additional equipments are in progress and scheduled to be completed by the end of this month.

Regarding upgradation of 49 Dewatering Stations, Commissioner SMC, Owais Ahmad, informed the meeting that 45 stations are fully functional with 2 stations at Khan Colony and Surnai Mohal-

la dropped while 2 at Zero Bridge and Peerbagh foreclosed.

With respect to status of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for these dewatering stations, it was told that the same had been completed at a cost of Rs 32.12 crore and handed over to SMC. This system aims at monitoring and controlling dewatering stations in Srinagar for their efficiency and effective output.

It is worth mentioning here that the total expenditure incurred on JTFRP till date stands at Rs 1,547.5 crore, with the World Bank reimbursing an amount of Rs 1,465.86 crore. The project has been extended until August 31, 2026, allowing completion of the remaining works that were not completed till December, 2024 for different reasons.

## DDMEO, NITI Aayog visits Govt ITI Baramulla for Evaluation Study

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 02

Director, Development, Monitoring and Evaluation office, NITI Aayog, Sanjeev Kumar along with his team and representatives from IPE Global Limited, visited Government ITI Baramulla today as part of an ongoing evaluation study and impact analysis of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs).

The visit aimed to assess the effectiveness and impact of various CSSs initiatives in the skill development sector. The team interacted with officials, faculty, and trainees at ITI Baramulla to gain

insights into the implementation and outcomes of the schemes.

As part of their study, the team will visit other Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Training Centers (TCs) across District Baramulla in the coming days.

The evaluation exercise will also extend to Udhampur and Ganderbal districts to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

The study will help in identifying best practices, addressing implementation challenges, and formulating strategies to enhance the effectiveness of skill development programs under CSS.

## District Administration Poonch accords farewell to outgoing ACR



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 2

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a meeting to review the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The meeting aimed to assess the implementation status, address bottlenecks, and strategize for enhanced outreach and participation. Nodal Officer HADP/Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Amjad Hussain Malik, presented a detailed report on the programme's execution.

He provided insights into the initiatives undertaken, progress achieved and challenges encountered in the implementation process.

During the review, the DC emphasized the need for effective coordination among departments to maximize the impact of the

programme. He directed field officers to intensify efforts for better outreach, ensuring higher participation from farmers and stakeholders. The review also included an assessment of both physical and financial progress across key sectors, including Horticulture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry and Animal Husbandry.

The DC instructed all allied departments to ensure that the pending approved beneficiaries are covered in the upcoming financial year. He further directed concerned officers to adhere strictly to the set targets to achieve top rankings within the Union Territory (UT).

Among others present in the meeting were Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Sajid Mustafa, District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) along with other officials from the agriculture and allied sectors.

## District administration Jammu hosts training session for Resource Persons under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Additional District Magistrate Anusya Jamwal today chaired a training session for resource persons under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, aimed at intensifying anti-drug awareness efforts in urban local bodies across the district.

The initiative is part of the administration's broader strategy to combat drug abuse through education, counselling and community-

driven interventions. During the session, the ADM highlighted the critical role of trained personnel in educating communities about substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society. She urged resource persons to actively engage with local stakeholders to ensure effective outreach.

The session was attended by SDMs, Tehsildars and officers from the Police and Social Welfare Department, along with other concerned officials.

## District Administration Poonch accords farewell to outgoing ACR



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 02

District Administration Poonch organized an impressive function today in the conference hall of the DC office to bid farewell to the outgoing Assistant Commissioner Revenue Qadeer Ul Rehman.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal extended best wishes to the officer for his future endeavors.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, specifically recognized the hard work

and dedication of ACR Rehman, emphasizing the positive impact he made while serving the community.

Other officers also appreciated his commendable efforts as Returning Officer in the recent elections, underscoring his dedication and commitment towards his job.

The outgoing ACR expressed his gratitude for the support and collaboration he received from the district administration, officers and staff members during his tenure.

## DLC approves 2 CLU cases



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 02

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee for Change of Land Use (CLU) to review the cases received.

A total of 11 CLU cases were discussed in the meeting. Out of these, 02 cases received approval from the committee, while 07 cases were reverted for further review, and 02 cases were

rejected after extensive deliberation concerning compliance with existing policy.

The DDC stressed the importance of timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and instructed the members to ensure thorough verification of all documents related to submitted CLU applications. He emphasized the need for all departments to process each case with due diligence to avoid delays in approvals.

## DDC Baramulla chairs District Level Committee meeting, approves 1,280 cases across key sectors



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 02

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a District Level Committee meeting, and approved 1,280 cases under various beneficiary-oriented schemes in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, and Horticulture (Planning & Marketing).

With this latest approval, the total number of sanctioned cases in the district has reached 30,205. Reviewing the progress, the DC noted that 95% financial progress has been achieved, emphasizing the administration's commitment to ensuring timely disburse-

ment of benefits. DDC also reviewed the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), and directed the concerned departments to accelerate efforts to maximize outreach and impact.

During the meeting concerned officers provided updates on sectoral progress and discussed strategies for effective implementation of government schemes aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods and the local economy.

Meeting was attended by Dean SKUAST- Wadoora, Joint Director Planning Baramulla and Assistant Commissioner Development besides various other concerned officers.

## CSIR-IIIM Field Station Pulwama hosts Tulip Show

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, APRIL 02

In a significant step towards revitalizing the floriculture sector in the district, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Field Station Bonaera, Pulwama organized a grand Tulip Show today.

CSIR-IIIM has initiated a strategic programme for indigenous tulip bulb production under the overall supervision and mentorship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology and Minister of



Earth Sciences.

As part of this strategic intervention, over one lakh tulip bulbs have been successfully cultivated on 12 kanals of land at the Field Station. The programme is aimed at reducing import dependency, promoting domestic tulip cultivation and fostering an agritech ecosystem.

The Field Station was

opened to the public today, allowing visitors to witness the breathtaking bloom of tulips. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with a large number of people, including children and students, attending the festival.

The event showcased breathtaking displays of tulips in full bloom, offering a glimpse into the region's floricultural potential and the success of indigenous innovation.

This step aligns with the national mission of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', reducing reliance on imported

bulbs while creating economic opportunities for local farmers," said a scientist from CSIR-IIIM.

CSIR-IIIM officials emphasized the importance of scientific intervention and innovation in agriculture, stating that this initiative will pave the way for self-sufficiency in tulip production, benefiting both local farmers and the economy at large.

The initiative is expected to strengthen the floriculture industry, providing new opportunities for research, commercial cultivation and employment generation in the sector.

## KVK employees meet Dy CM; highlight service issues, seek resolution



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

A delegation of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in rural areas to promote agricultural innovation and support farmer welfare schemes. They urged the university to address these disparities by ensuring timely promotions and releasing the pending allowances, including the NPS contributions.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation that he would raise the matter with the Agriculture Minister to seek a resolution.

explained that these reductions have caused financial strain for KVK staff, who work tirelessly in rural areas to promote agricultural innovation and support farmer welfare schemes. They urged the university to address these disparities by ensuring timely promotions and releasing the pending allowances, including the NPS contributions.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation that he would raise the matter with the Agriculture Minister to seek a resolution.

## Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Adil Fareed assume charge of ADCs Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz and Adil Fareed Wednesday assumed the charge of Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) Srinagar respectively. Prior to this, Mir Imtiaz served as the Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar and successfully conducted the elections for Lok Sabha and J&K Legislative Assembly. While, Adil Fareed was holding the charge of Assistant Commissioner Central in the Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. After assuming the charges as ADCs Srinagar, both the Officers were welcomed by the senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar and other Officials with assurance of full cooperation for development of the District. Interacting with the Officials, the Officers stressed on adopting a coordinated approach to achieve goals set for development of the District, besides mitigating public issues on priority. Meanwhile, Umar Gulzar also joined as Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Srinagar.

## MEA, Centre can...

There was a time when mothers used to mourn, and households struggled for survival,” he said, adding, “Today stone-pelting and shutdown calls given on the directions of our neighbor have become a history. Businesses are thriving, and educational institutions, cinemas, and universities are fully operational. This is all due to peace.”

Highlighting the change in public sentiment, he said, “The youth of Kashmir are dreaming big, just like their peers across the country. Statistics reveal a significant drop in violence, and assembly elections were conducted in a peaceful environment. For the first time in 40 years, election campaigns continued till midnight.”

### **NORMALCY ORGANIC, NOT FORCED**

LG Sinha said that people who are saying that “forced normalcy” has been established in J&K are giving a wrong notion. “Not a single commander of any terror outfit is alive. Local recruitment into terror groups has reduced to zero. Had this been a forced normalcy, schools wouldn’t have reopened, Bollywood and Hollywood wouldn’t be shooting films here, and the industry wouldn’t be investing in Kashmir. Cinema halls have reopened, and Muharram processions were allowed after more than three decades,” he said, as per KNO.

LG Sinha said that Kashmir has moved past its turbulent past. “If you visit the riverfront along the Jhelum at night, you’ll find youngsters playing the guitar and enjoying coffee. We have established a ‘Balidan Stambh’ in Lal Chowk, where Army and security forces officers now pay tribute to their fallen colleagues. The number of stakeholders in peace has increased significantly,” he added.

### **ALL WERE ON BOARD TO DISMISS ANTI-NATIONALS**

The LG emphasized the government’s commitment to eliminating terrorist sympathizers from state institutions. “We have adopted a whole-of-government approach to dismantle the terror ecosystem. Those within the government who support terrorism have to be removed.”

On the termination of Syed Salahuddin’s sons and Syed Ali Shah Geelani’s grandson from government service, LG Sinha said, “All were on board that they had to be removed. Terrorist outfits played a key role in destroying J&K, and I fail to understand why previous governments engaged in talks with them. Under this regime, there will be no dialogue with such elements.”

LG Sinha took a dig at politicians for claiming that unemployment in J&K has increased, he said, “So far, we have provided more than 40,000 government jobs in a transparent manner. No one has been appointed through a backdoor.”

Referring to the assembly elections held in 2024 in J&K, he said, “The Centre has stood by its commitment to hold polls in J&K. Our goal was to establish peace and drive development, and I hope the elected government will continue on this path.”

He said that the J&K Reorganization Act has clearly defined the roles of the elected government and the LG administration. “We must work within our respective boundaries to take Jammu and Kashmir forward on the path of development,” the Lieutenant Governor said, as per KNO.

### **INDIA’S GLOBAL STATURE HAS RISEN**

LG Sinha said India’s global stature has risen, and the world recognizes Pakistan as a failed state exporting terrorism. “Bharat ki awaz suni jati hai... the world understands that our neighbor is a failed state exporting terror,” he asserted.

Regarding Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), he said that people there are disillusioned with Pakistan and are increasingly expressing their desire to join India.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed optimism about the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. “The issues of Kashmiri Pandits are being resolved, and the day is near when they will return to their homeland,” he said.

On the economic front, he highlighted Jammu and Kashmir Bank’s turnaround. “When I took over, J&K Bank was running at a loss of Rs 1,200 crore. Today, it is making a profit of Rs 1,700 crore,” he added.

LG Sinha credited Prime Minister Modi’s leadership for ensuring the completion of long-pending connectivity projects. “Connecting Kashmir with the railway network was a tough challenge, but PM Modi’s strong leadership made it possible. Connectivity plays a vital role in development, and this will accelerate further,” he said. “Rail connectivity will bridge emotional distances as well.”

### **NO ORGANIZATION IS BANNED WITHOUT EVIDENCE**

On the question of the government imposing a ban on the Awami Action Committee (AAC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, LG Sinha said, “No organization is banned without evidence.” “Earlier, banned organizations would rebrand themselves under a different name. Today, not only are organizations banned, but individuals associated with them are also blacklisted to prevent them from forming new groups,” he said.

The LG urged politicians to refrain from making irresponsible statements. “Leaders who have held high positions and taken oaths on the Constitution must be mindful of their words,” he said. KNO

## No provision to...

included in religious charity-related activities in the Waqf Board. He emphasized that there is no provision for involving non-Muslims in the administration of religious institutions, and they do not wish to create such provisions. Shri Shah further mentioned that the opposition is spreading misconceptions, claiming that this Bill is being introduced to interfere with the religious activities of Muslims and the properties they have donated. He asserted that the opposition is trying to create fear among the minority community to build its vote bank.

Union Home Minister said that any non-Muslim members appointed in the Waqf Board or its premises will not be involved in religious activities. Their role will be solely to ensure that the administration of charity-related matters is being conducted in accordance with the regulations. He said that Waqf in India functions like a trust, where there are trustees and a managing trustee. In Waqf, there are Waqif (donor) and Mutawalli (administrator), who are followers of Islam. Shri Shah pointed out that the word Waqf itself comes from Islam, so only those who follow Islam can manage Waqf. He further clarified that while Waqf is a religious matter, the Waqf Board or Waqf properties themselves are not religious institutions. According to the law, a Charity Commissioner can be from any religion, as they are not managing a trust; their responsibility is to ensure that the Board operates in compliance with charity laws. Shri Shah emphasized that this is an administrative matter, not a religious one.

Shri Amit Shah said that the primary role of the Waqf Board should be to identify and remove those who are exploiting Waqf properties. It should focus on individuals who have leased out properties in the name of Waqf at extremely low rates for hundreds of years. He mentioned that the income from Waqf is decreasing, whereas this money should be used for the development of the minority community and to strengthen the institutions of Islam. The main task of the Waqf Board and its premises should be to stop the theft of these funds. He further stated that the opposition wants to maintain the ongoing collusion during their rule, but now, that will no longer be the case.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that if the Waqf law had not been amended in 2013, this bill would not have been necessary. However, before the 2014 elections, in 2013, the Waqf law was drastically altered overnight for the sake of appeasement, which led to the allocation of 123 high-profile properties in the Lutyens’ Zone of Delhi to Waqf. The Delhi Waqf Board transferred the land of Northern Railways to Waqf. In Himachal Pradesh, land was illegally converted into Waqf property and used to build unauthorized mosques. In Tamil Nadu, 400 acres of land belonging to the 1500-year-old Tiruchendur temple were declared Waqf property. Shri Shah mentioned that according to a report from a committee in Karnataka, 29,000 acres of Waqf land were leased for commercial use. Between 2001 and 2012, Waqf properties worth Rs 2 lakh crore were leased to private institutions for 100 years. He also stated that the High Court in Bengaluru had to intervene to stop the acquisition of 602 acres of land. In Honwad village, Vijaypur, Karnataka, 1500 acres of land was made controversial, and this land, worth Rs 500 crore, was leased to a five-star hotel for just Rs 12,000 per month.

Shri Amit Shah said that all this money is meant for the welfare of poor Muslims, not for the plundering of the wealthy. In Karnataka, a claim was made on the Dattapeeth temple. In Taliparamba, an attempt was made to seize 600 acres of land based on a 75-year-old claim. Even properties belonging to the Christian community were seized. He mentioned that many churches in the country have opposed the Waqf Bill because they see it as a means to win the sympathy of the Muslim community. However, in four years, even the Muslim brothers will realize that this bill is actually in their benefit.

Union Home Minister said that in Telangana, a claim was made on 1700 acres of land worth Rs 66,000 crore. Similarly, in Assam, a claim was made on 134 acres of land in Morigaon district. Fourteen Marla land related to a Gurudwara in Haryana

was handed over to Waqf, and the Chandrashekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj was also declared Waqf property. In Maharashtra, a claim was made on the Mahadev temple in Vadange village, and in Beed, the Waqf Board forcibly took 12 acres of land from Kankaleshwar.

Shri Amit Shah said that the government has no intention of interfering in the religious activities of Muslim brothers or the trusts they have established, including Waqf. He clarified that the Mutawalli, Waqif, and Waqf will remain under their control, but it is essential to ensure that Waqf properties are being properly maintained and used lawfully, rather than for personal gain. He questioned the justification of leasing centuries-old donated property for a five-star hotel at a mere Rs 12,000 per month. Instead, he emphasized that this money should be utilized for the welfare of poor Muslims, divorced women, orphaned children, and unemployed youth, helping them become self-sufficient and skilled. He further pointed out that while Waqf owns land worth lakhs of crores of rupees, its annual income is only Rs 126 crore, raising concerns about mismanagement and misuse.

Union Home Minister stated that when the 2013 amendment bill was introduced, senior leaders in the then government had advocated for stricter laws to prevent the misuse of Waqf property and ensure that the culprits were held accountable. Shri Amit Shah emphasized that the current bill aims to establish a transparent audit system for Waqf properties. He pointed out that the opposition had proposed an amendment stating that Waqf Board orders could not be challenged in court, whereas the truth is that the bill does allow legal challenges. He further clarified that this bill will not have retrospective effect, but the opposition is misleading and creating fear among Muslims regarding its implications.

Regarding the role of the District Collector in the Waqf Bill, Shri Amit Shah stated that whenever land is purchased for a temple in the country, it is the Collector who determines its ownership. He questioned why there is opposition to the Collector investigating Waqf land, emphasizing that only the Collector has the authority to verify whether Waqf land belongs to the government or not.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the Modi government follows a clear principle—no law will be made for vote-bank politics, as laws should serve the purpose of justice and public welfare. He highlighted that in this very House, the Modi government passed the law for 33% reservation for women and granted constitutional rights to backward classes. He further emphasized that while everyone has the right to practice their religion, religious conversion should not take place through greed, temptation, or fear.

Shri Amit Shah said that the 2013 amendment bill was discussed for a total of 5.5 hours in both Houses, whereas the current bill is being debated for 16 hours. He emphasized that the government formed a joint committee, which held 38 meetings, engaged in 113 hours of discussion, and consulted 284 stakeholders. Additionally, one crore online suggestions were received from across the country, analyzed thoroughly before drafting this law. Therefore, it cannot be dismissed lightly. He further asserted that every member has the freedom to speak in the House. No single family holds control here. MPs are elected representatives of the people, not present in the House by anyone’s favor, and they will raise the voice of the public.

Union Home Minister stated that this law has been enacted by the Parliament of India, making it binding on everyone, and thus, it must be accepted by all. He highlighted that from 1913 to 2013, the total land under the Waqf Board was 18 lakh acres. However, between 2013 and 2025, this land increased by 21 lakh acres, bringing the total to 39 lakh acres, with 21 lakh acres being added after 2013. Shri Amit Shah further revealed that while 20,000 properties were originally recorded as leased, official records in 2025 now show zero leased properties, indicating that these properties were sold off. He also mentioned that Catholic and Church organizations have extended their support to this law and have termed the 2013 amendment unjust.

Shri Amit Shah said that this bill will safeguard land, ensuring that no land will become Waqf merely by declaration—it will be protected by law. He emphasized that land belonging to the Archaeological Department and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will be secured, and as per Schedules 5 and 6, tribal lands will also be protected. Additionally, the private property of ordinary citizens will remain safe under this bill. Shri Shah clarified that only one’s own property can be donated, meaning Waqf cannot acquire private property without ownership. To ensure transparency, the bill includes a mandatory information disclosure process in the Waqf Act.

The Home Minister stated that the authority to declare a property as Waqf has been abolished, and now such declarations must be verified by the District Collector. Additionally, any new Waqf property will have to be registered through a transparent process. He further mentioned that Muslims now have the option to register their trusts under the Waqf Trust Act, making a separate Waqf law unnecessary for this purpose.

Union Home Minister emphasized that it has become a trend to instill fear among the minority community. He pointed out that similar attempts were made during the discussions on the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, Triple Talaq, and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to create panic among Muslims. However, he asserted that the Muslim community is well aware that there is nothing to fear. He criticized the opposition, reminding them that they had falsely claimed that Muslims would lose their citizenship due to CAA, yet even after two years, not a single person has lost their citizenship. He challenged the opposition to present evidence in the House if anyone had been stripped of their citizenship due to CAA. Shri Amit Shah further stated that similar fear-mongering was attempted after the abrogation of Article 370, but today, Jammu & Kashmir has an elected government, terrorism has declined, development is progressing, and tourism is flourishing.

Shri Amit Shah stated that the opposition party and its allies have sought to build their vote bank by intimidating the Muslim community. The Home Minister emphasized that the Modi government is firmly committed to ensuring that no citizen of this country, regardless of their religion, will be harmed.

## J&K to boost...

seats, the NMC mandates one professor and a sufficient number of assistant professors for each department. This means that a medical college with 150 MBBS seats would require dozens of additional specialists. However, many institutions in J&K are grappling with chronic faculty shortages, with recruitment efforts at Government Medical Colleges (GMC) in Srinagar and Jammu lagging behind for several years. Concerns are growing that, if NMC inspections are carried out rigorously, these staffing deficits could lead to a reduction in the proposed number of seats.

The challenge is especially pronounced in newly established colleges in remote areas such as Handwara and Doda, which struggle to attract qualified faculty due to their location. Although 50 permanent and 51 temporary faculty positions have been filled recently, insiders contend that this is far from sufficient to meet the growing demand for medical education.

Furthermore, there remains a significant gap in staffing, with 275 medical officer positions and 582 non-gazetted staff vacancies—ranging from lab technicians to administrative personnel—referred to recruitment boards for hiring.

One of the most pressing concerns is the over-reliance on temporary hires and deputations, which compromises the stability and quality of the academic environment.

Experts argue that without a strong foundation of permanent appointments, the long-term sustainability of the medical education expansion is at risk.

Infrastructure also presents a major hurdle. According to NMC guidelines, each medical college with 150 MBBS seats must have at least 430 hospital beds, along with state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms, and hostels. Older institutions such as GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu are already operating at full capacity, raising doubts about their ability to accommodate the influx of additional students without substantial upgrades.

As the expansion plan moves forward, stakeholders are urging the government to prioritise faculty recruitment and infrastructure development to meet NMC standards and ensure the success of this critical investment in the region’s healthcare and medical education system. KNO

## J&K’s power demand...

of India has been supporting various initiatives to improve the power supply infrastructure in these regions, including schemes such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA). These programmes are designed to enhance the quality of power supply and ensure access to electricity for all consumers, it said.

Under the DDUGJY, 129 villages in Jammu and Kashmir have been successfully electrified. Furthermore, the SAUBHAGYA scheme has facilitated electricity access

for 3,77,045 households in the region. Despite these significant strides, remote and mountainous areas continue to experience intermittent power supply due to existing infrastructure limitations.

Additionally, the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) has provided Jammu and Kashmir with financial support to improve household electrification. “A total of Rs 238.86 crore has been allocated for the region, with the Government of India contributing Rs 143.32 crore in Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). As a result, 35,467 households in Jammu and Kashmir have been sanctioned for electrification under this scheme,” the ministry said.

The Ministry of Power further said power demand for Jammu and Kashmir, including Ladakh, has seen steady increases over the years. “In FY 2023, the energy requirement stood at 19,632 MU, with 19,525 MU supplied, resulting in a shortfall of 107 MU (0.6%). In FY 2024, the energy demand rose to 19,852 MU, and 19,825 MU was supplied, resulting in a marginal deficit of 38 MU (0.2%). The projected energy requirement for FY 2025 is 19,125 MU, with an estimated shortfall of 37 MU (0.3%). While the deficit has gradually reduced, seasonal shortages, particularly in the winter months, continue to affect supply,” it said.

In addition to these initiatives, Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated a significant number of smart meters under the RDSS. These include 14,07,045 consumer meters, 88,207 distribution transformer (DT) meters, and 896 feeder meters. These smart metering works are aimed at enhancing the monitoring and management of electricity consumption across the region.

While there has been notable progress in improving power access and reducing energy deficits, challenges persist in ensuring consistent supply to all areas, particularly in remote and high-altitude regions. The government said it continues to work towards addressing these issues and upgrading the power distribution network in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. KNO

## New Waqf Bill...

In the meantime, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen has strongly opposed the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, terming them as a direct assault on the religious rights of Muslims and an infringement upon their faith.

He asserted that such amendments are unjustified and go against the secular ethos of the Indian Constitution.

“India is a secular country, and the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all its citizens. Muslims from Jammu and Kashmir and across the country have made immense sacrifices for India’s independence, and the government must respect their rights and aspirations,” Yaseen said.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in post on X also said, “As one watches the ruling party defend the indefensible Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament, it is very unfortunate and disturbing that not even one of the serious concerns and reservations raised by Muslim organisations, including the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) which I lead, before the JPC in New Delhi, was addressed by them. Today, crores of Muslims in India, like mute spectators, are helplessly watching their rights and institutions being blatantly undermined and feel greatly let down.” (SIC)

Minister Sakina Itoo while reacting to the Waqf Amendment Bill told reporters that, “NC will not support the new Waqf Bill that has been tabled in the parliament. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah already clarified it.”

Jammu and Kashmir state president of BJP Sat Sharma while talking to reporters said, “Previously, there had been amendments in the Waqf Bill from time to time. However, this time there have been irregularities and there was a mismanagement in maintaining the Waqf land. So in order to overcome the loopholes this bill has been introduced to bring the transparency.”. KNO

## J&K’s IT sector...

Rs 0.17 crore. The figures highlight the relatively small contribution of the region to the country’s automobile export sector. KNO

## J&K, Ladakh...

including Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These units have benefitted millions of farmers, providing essential veterinary services, especially in areas with limited access to traditional veterinary hospitals.”

“In Ladakh, 9 MVUs have been operationalized, catering to the region’s unique needs. Both UTs have received substantial funding for these initiatives, with Jammu & Kashmir alone receiving Rs 13.33 crore for the operation of 50 MVUs,” the data reads. KNO

## GoI helping J&K...

entrepreneurship,” he said.

“Also, the Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles (STREE) initiative is providing electric bikes to women entrepreneurs, reducing transportation costs while promoting sustainability. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector is also benefiting from policies requiring 3% of government procurement to come from women-owned businesses, helping them secure market access,” he added.

“With a total allocation of Rs 1,806.25 lakh for SVEP from 2015 to 2024, the initiative has resulted in the formation of thousands of women-led enterprises in districts like Kathua and Anantnag. These government efforts are paving the way for economic empowerment and sustainable growth for women in J&K and Ladakh,” he said. KNO

## 75,000 people...

With 1.7 million bulbs, the garden was thrown open for the general public on March 26.

The famous Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is having two more varieties imported from the Netherlands this year. 100 gardeners and casual labourers have made hectic efforts to complete all the processes and make the garden ready for the public.

On the inaugural day (March 26), the garden witnessed an overwhelming response from tourists. It recorded an unprecedented footfall of 17,259 visitors, setting a new record.

Pertinently, 4.5 lakh visitors visited the garden last year, surpassing all the previous records.

It is worth mentioning here that Tulip Garden in summer capital earned a spot in World Book of Records (London) as Asia’s largest in 2023.

In 2024, Asia’s largest Tulip Garden experienced an extraordinary surge in tourism, with a staggering 4.45 lakh visitors flocking to witness its vibrant blooms, including approximately 2,000 from foreign shores. KNO

## J&K gets Rs 3520 cr, Ladakh...

In Ladakh, Rs. 318.91 Crore was allocated in the last fiscal year, and the state has been included in the efforts to strengthen Panchayat institutions under the central schemes.

“The government’s commitment to strengthening local governance through infrastructure and capacity building aims to improve governance standards and empower the Panchayats in these regions,” he said. KNO

## India risks becoming...

stronger ties with industries. He praised the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a transformative step toward promoting critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning.

Additionally, he highlighted the growth of Jammu and Kashmir’s startup ecosystem, noting that over 1,000 startups, including many led by women, have been registered in the region. “I have had the privilege of attending convocations in nearly every university in Jammu and Kashmir. The most satisfying thing for me is that in every convocation I attend, at least 70% of gold medals are won by girls. Over 70% of graduates are girls. The youth are full of energy. We must ignite the fire within them so they can move forward with new energy and strength.”

Referencing Kalhana’s 11th-century work Rajatarangini, which described the region as the sacred abode of Goddess Sharada, the embodiment of knowledge, Sinha linked this historical legacy to modern-day challenges, urging students and educators to reignite India’s tradition of innovation.

## Samsung's New Bespoke AI Laundry With AI Home Enables Smarter, More Efficient Laundry Care

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

Samsung Electronics today announced the launch of its new washers and dryer products – the Bespoke AI Laundry with AI Home – that integrate screens and Bespoke design to elevate the user experience. The Bespoke washers and dryers come in various forms of size and heating methods to meet a wide range of customer needs across diverse regions. The pair is available in both large and small capacities, making them suitable for different types of family and living arrangements. Samsung is also launching the dryer with two types of heating methods – the vent and the heat pump – to meet the needs of various environments around the world.



This year's Bespoke AI Laundry products incorporate the 7" AI Home screens, extending Samsung's "Screens Everywhere" vision that was first presented at CES 2025. These screens

offer intuitive control and monitoring of essential information related to the laundry experience, such as wash cycles and remaining detergent levels. They also remember user habits and consider periodic and seasonal needs, suggesting appropriate cycles to free users from having to consider the right cycle every time. The AI Home also functions as a central hub allowing users to monitor and control connected appliances, while also enjoying online videos or music.

"Last year's launch of the Bespoke AI Laundry Combo marked the beginning of integrating screens into our products, providing users access to essential information about laundry and home control," says Jeong Seung Moon, EVP and Head of

the R&D Team for Digital Appliances Business at Samsung Electronics. "This year, we are excited to unveil the complete Bespoke AI Laundry lineup, which caters to a wider range of customer needs and enables them to take advantage of these convenient screens.

"The Bespoke AI Washer & Dryer sets are designed to simplify laundry routines with advanced AI algorithms and sensors, optimizing washing and drying performance while enhancing energy efficiency. The original AI Wash and AI Dry are upgraded to AI Wash+ and AI Dry+, with enhanced fabric detection abilities to ensure efficient and high-quality washing and drying for a wider variety of fabric types.

## IGNOU extends the last date for submission of assignments and other academic works to April 30, 2025; big relief to working learners.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the submission deadline of assignments, project reports and other academic works for the June 2025 Term End Examination to April 30, 2025.

The decision has been communicated through a notification issued by the Student Evaluation Division (SED) under reference number F.No. IG/SED/June, 2025 TEE/2025/15568 which aims to provide students with additional time to complete their coursework amid ongoing academic demands.

According to the notification, the last date for submitting assignments, project reports, field work

journals, practicums, dissertations, and internship reports has been extended to April 30, 2025. This extension applies to students enrolled in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programs, online programs, as well as those under the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and the Education via Broadband (EVBB) initiatives. The decision was approved by the Competent Authority, reflecting IGNOU's commitment to supporting its diverse student base.

The extension is expected to benefit thousands of learners who manage academic pursuits with professional and personal responsibilities. It is worthwhile to note that a huge student-base of Regional Centre Jammu belongs to far off places of

the region and a substantial number of students are working professionals which makes them duty bound to personal and professional commitments. Keeping this in consideration, IGNOU has consistently adapted its policies to ensure flexibility and student-centric approach.

"This extension comes as a relief to many of our learners, reinforcing IGNOU's reputation as an institution observant to the needs of its students. Students are, therefore, advised to utilize the additional time efficiently and submit their work through the designated online portals or Learner Support Centres well before the revised deadline", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu.

## GIEO Gita Sansthanam to Organize 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran' on April 4 at Manhas Biradari Ground

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 2

In a grand initiative to celebrate the ongoing Navratri festival, GIEO Gita Sansthanam, Jammu & Kashmir, is set to organize a Vishal Jagran on April 4, 2025, at Manhas Biradari Ground, Jammu, from 7:30 PM onwards. The event, titled 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran,' will feature an enthralling bhajan performance by world-renowned singer Kanhiya Mittal, known for his soulful and devotional renditions that have inspired millions across the country.

To apprise the general public of this auspicious event, a press conference was held today, where GIEO Gita Sansthanam Jammu & Kashmir State Convenor Chetan Wanchoo, along



with prominent members Atul Sharma, Ravish Mengi, Ankush Sharma, and Tejas, addressed the media and emphasized the significance of the event in reinforcing spiritual and cultural values within society.

Speaking on the occasion, Chetan Wanchoo highlighted that Navratri is a time of immense spiritual energy, devotion, and divine blessings. The festival, dedicated to Maa

Durga, symbolizes the victory of good over evil and is celebrated with great enthusiasm by devotees across the nation.

"The upcoming 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran' will be a sacred occasion for devotees to immerse themselves in devotion and seek the blessings of the Divine Mother," said Wanchoo. "With the presence of Kanhiya Mittal, whose bhajans resonate with deep spiritual meaning, we aim to

make this a truly divine experience for all attendees." Kanhiya Mittal's Presence to Elevate the Spiritual Atmosphere

Kanhiya Mittal, a celebrated devotional singer, is widely revered for his bhajans, particularly "Jo Ram Ko Laye Hain, Hum Unko Layenge", which has become a spiritual anthem among devotees. His ability to connect with audiences through his melodious voice and devotion is expected to make the Vishal Jagran a deeply enriching experience for all.

"Devotees can expect an evening of divine music, where bhajans and kirtans

will create an atmosphere of positivity, devotion, and divine bliss," added Atul Sharma, one of the key organizers.

The organizers extended a heartfelt invitation to all devotees, families, and spiritual seekers to attend this grand Jagran in large numbers. "This is an opportunity for all of us to unite in devotion and strengthen our Sanatan Dharma," said Ravish Mengi. He further stated that special arrangements have been made for the convenience of the devotees, ensuring a safe, comfortable, and spiritually fulfilling experience.

"We request everyone to come with their families, participate wholeheartedly, and seek the divine blessings of Maa Durga," added Ankush Sharma.

## Indian Army conducts Motivational Lecture for Youth at Dessa, Doda



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA: 02 APR 2025

The Indian Army conducted an inspiring Motivational Lecture at High School, Gei, aimed at guiding and encouraging the youth of the region towards a career in the armed forces. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young aspirants across the Dessa. During the session, the attendees were introduced to the

recruitment and commissioning procedures, providing them with a clear roadmap to join the esteemed ranks of the Indian Army. The lecture emphasized the values of discipline, dedication, and patriotism, inspiring the youth to serve the nation with honor and courage. The interactive session also addressed queries from the participants, offering them valuable insights into career prospects, eligibility cri-

teria, and preparation strategies. The initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to engaging with and empowering the youth, fostering a sense of national pride and responsibility. Such outreach programs play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the Armed Forces and aspiring candidates, ensuring that motivated individuals receive the right guidance to pursue their dreams of serving the nation.

## Max Fashion makes a Grand Debut at Lakmé Fashion Week with Kalki Koechlin Owning the Runway

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 2

Max Fashion made a bold and transformative debut at the 25th edition of Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI, with their muse Kalki Koechlin leading the way. This moment marked a pivotal change in Indian fashion, with Max Fashion redefining high-street style on one of the country's most prestigious runways. More than just a runway moment, this was a cultural reckoning—A statement that global fashion is for everyone, embracing style that is accessible, trend-driven, and effortlessly wearable. With the launch of its Sicilian Summer and Amalfi Escape collections, Max Fashion didn't just redefine high-street fashion—it leveled the playing field, turning aspiration into accessible for millions.

From the moment the first model stepped onto the runway, it was clear that this wasn't just another collection launch—it was a movement. A collective breath was held, a ripple of awe coursed through the audience as Kalki Koechlin stepped onto the runway. Draped in a statement look that radiated confidence, rebellion, and effortless style, Kalki didn't just walk



the runway—she owned it. There was no theatrics, no forced grandeur—just raw, unshakable presence. The moment transcended fashion—it was about transformation. Every step revealed a fresh side of you, inviting the world to meet your New New You.

As the beat of the viral track #IYKYDK dropped, rappers Irfana and MC Panda set the runway ablaze with their high-energy performance, amplifying the rebellious yet effortless spirit of the collection. The energy in the room was electric as Sicilian Summer took center stage, immersing the audience in a sun-drenched dream of bold hues, classic prints, and breezy silhouettes. The collection blurred the lines

between city-edge and coastal charm, with flowing dresses catching the breeze, off-shoulder tops swaying effortlessly, and impeccably styled co-ord sets redefining summer chic.

Then, the atmosphere shifted—a hush fell over the crowd, anticipation thick in the air. The runway came alive with the essence of the Mediterranean as Amalfi Escape unfolded, capturing the spirit of relaxed elegance and modern travel. Sun-kissed neutrals, soft linens, and warm terracotta hues painted the runway in serene sophistication. This was resort wear at its finest—fluid ruffle dresses, tailored co-ords, and linen-infused menswear designed for the modern

wanderer.

The audience—editors, influencers, industry leaders—leaned forward in their seats. Phone cameras flashed, whispers turned to applause, and applause turned to an uproar. This was more than a debut—it was a disruption.

"Max Fashion's debut at Lakmé Fashion Week isn't just a milestone; it's a bold affirmation of who we are as a brand," says Pallavi Pandey, Vice President and Head of Marketing, MAX. "We've always believed that fashion should be accessible to all. With Kalki Koechlin as our muse, we're celebrating style as a form of self-expression that belongs to everyone. This debut is about making trend-driven fashion available to millions, whether

they shop in-store or online. It's a celebration of style, confidence, and individuality."

Adding to the sentiment, Sumit Chandna, Deputy CEO of Max Fashion, says, "This debut represents the next big step in our evolution. Max Fashion has always been about making great fashion available to everyone—whether that's through our over 520 stores or our growing online presence. Lakmé Fashion Week is a natural extension of our vision to make fashion not just about aspiration, but about accessibility and inclusivity. This is more than a show; it's the start of a new era for fashion in India." With over 520 stores across 210 cities and strong online presence, Max Fashion is not just selling clothes—it's rewriting the rules of Indian fashion. This was a watershed moment, the kind that turns first-time runway appearances into legendary industry shifts. As the brand takes its place on India's most prestigious fashion platform, it signals something bigger—the start of a transformation, where high-fashion energy meets high-street accessibility, and where style is no longer a privilege—it's a right.

## Lecture on International Zero Waste Day conducted for Locals at Mendhar, Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 02 APR 2025

A lecture on International Zero Waste Day was conducted by Indian Army at Govt Higher Secondary School Gursai Moori about emphasizing the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. The lecture was attended by 30 students and 12 faculty members & covered various aspects of zero waste living, including sustainable consumption patterns, waste reduction strategies, and the benefits of recycling. We must recognize the impact of our daily choices on the environment, take responsibility for reducing our waste footprint by working together, and we can create a cleaner, green-

er future for all addressed the representative of the Indian Army. The lecture was organized by Indian Army as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and environmental awareness among its students and faculty members.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const./Doubling/Northern Railway, Jammu Tawi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system for the following work:	
1. Name of work and location	Channelization of upstream and desilting of barrels/boxes of Br. No-246 and other protection works for improvement of yard drainage in connection with 2" Entry of Jammu Tawi railway station
2. Completion period of the work	6 (Six) months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 4,85,34,644.46
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,92,700.00/-
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on date 24.04.2025 on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 24.04.2025.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 09.04.2025 to 24.04.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No. 2-WDYCECDJAT-24-25 Dated 01.04.2025 995/2025	
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## EDITORIAL

## Empowering women: A welcome initiative

The launch of the zero-ticket travel initiative by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is seen as a progressive step towards gender-inclusive mobility and reflects the government's dedication to women's empowerment. Announced as a key Budget commitment, this initiative allows women to travel free of cost on Smart City e-buses and J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) buses across the Union Territory, reinforcing the government's resolve to support women's welfare. The significance of this initiative extends beyond providing free transportation. It is a bold and strategic move towards making public spaces more accessible and safe for women. Lack of affordable and secure transportation has long been a barrier to women's economic participation, educational pursuits, and social mobility. By removing this constraint, the government is actively fostering an environment where women can move freely and participate in the workforce, education, and public life without financial concerns. During the launch event at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Chief Minister underlined the far-reaching impact of the scheme. He emphasized that the initiative is not merely about cost reduction but about ensuring accessibility, security, and greater independence for women. He further highlighted the government's vision of inclusive development, where no woman is left behind due to mobility constraints. A particularly commendable aspect of the scheme is its extension to schoolgirls, ensuring they have safe and reliable transport to and from educational institutions. In many areas, girls drop out of school due to the challenges associated with transportation costs and safety concerns. By eliminating these obstacles, the Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative helps safeguard their right to education and contributes to building a more educated and empowered female population. The government's proactive stance in fulfilling this election commitment demonstrates a keen awareness of the socio-economic hurdles women face. The initiative is part of a broader policy framework aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering women through targeted measures. Such policies not only benefit women directly but also contribute to the overall development of society by enabling greater participation of women in economic and social spheres. While this initiative is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, it should be complemented with other measures to enhance women's mobility and safety further. Investments in well-lit bus stops, women-friendly infrastructure, and increased deployment of female staff in public transport services will reinforce the scheme's impact. Moreover, expanding similar benefits to rural areas where women face even greater mobility challenges will ensure that empowerment reaches every corner of the Union Territory. In a society where mobility is synonymous with opportunity, the Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative is not just a welfare measure—it is an empowerment tool that unlocks new possibilities for women. By fulfilling election commitments that directly enhance women's lives, the government has set a precedent for prioritizing gender-focused policies. It is now essential to ensure that such initiatives are implemented effectively, monitored for impact, and expanded to maximize their benefits. As the scheme rolls out, it is expected to inspire confidence among women, enabling them to step out of their homes without the financial burden of transport costs. By championing policies that break down barriers and promote inclusivity, the government has taken a decisive step towards creating a more equitable and progressive Jammu and Kashmir.

## Mukhbir - A delightful Bouquet of Stories

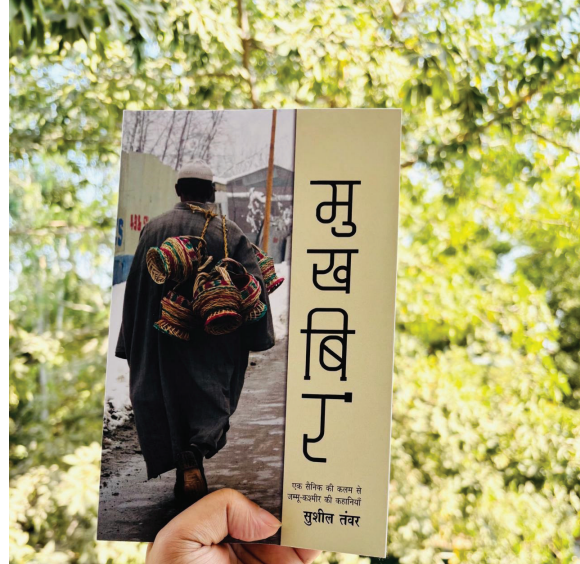
Mukhbir, a collection of short stories based in Jammu and Kashmir has captured the attention of book readers across the country.

The book, written by Brigadier Sushil Tanwar, a decorated serving Indian Army Officer, is an eclectic mix of seemingly true tales.

This fabulous collection of seventeen short stories brings to life the everyday challenges of not only the security forces operating in the conflict zone of Jammu and Kashmir, but also vividly captures the existential dilemmas of local people of the strife torn region.



While the title story "Mukhbir" is a simple account of the human



intelligence operations bringing out the delicate relationship between an

informer and his handler, "Mujahid" is a riveting tale of the intricate risks

which confront a young military intelligence officer as he plans to use a young boy for penetrating in a terrorist organisation.

The richness of emotions, delicate balancing of perspectives, sheer simplicity of prose and layered complexities of the characters makes this book a masterpiece of story telling.

The book also captures the beautiful culture of Jammu and Kashmir and takes the reader on an unforgettable journey of human emotions.

The author is brutally honest in his portrayal of security forces and their relationship with locals population, and, has mas-

terfully stayed away from any rhetoric that is usually found in any discourse on Jammu and Kashmir.

Stories like Naya Sawera, Love Jihad, Sena Medal, Twenty Twenty and Yeh Manzil Nahi Asaan amongst others keep a crisp plot which keep the reader guessing about the narrative till the very end.

Overall, it is a thoughtful portrayal of human emotions and will be a valuable addition to any collection of books.

The book has been published by Rajpal and Sons, Delhi and is available at a very affordable price on all major e-commerce sites.

## "Decoding the Waqf Bill: Myths vs. Facts Uncovered"



HARSH RANJAN  
SENIOR JOURNALIST

With certain political entities and vested interest groups within the Muslim community deliberately spreading misinformation to stir unrest, the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 has become a lightning rod for controversy. The bill, aimed at ensuring transparency, curbing corruption, and streamlining the administration of waqf properties, has been distorted beyond recognition by these groups, who seem more concerned with protecting their own privileges than the welfare of the community.

The Truth Behind the Amendment

The resistance to this bill primarily comes from

those who have long benefited from the lack of transparency in waqf institutions. Historically, certain groups have held significant control over waqf assets, and their identities are well known. Their opposition is not driven by genuine concerns for religious rights but by a desire to maintain their hold over vast properties and financial resources that have been mismanaged for years. If their intentions were truly aligned with the welfare of the community, can they explain why the income from waqf properties has been consistently declining year after year?

One of the main distortions being peddled is the claim that the bill enables the government to seize legitimate waqf properties. In reality, the amendment merely empowers the District Collector to review misclassified properties, especially cases where government or private lands have been wrongly designated as waqf. This

measure ensures rightful ownership and protects against fraudulent claims, benefiting both the community and the larger public interest.

Another widely circulated myth is that the bill abolishes the survey of waqf properties. On the contrary, it strengthens the process by assigning the responsibility to the District Collector, who will conduct surveys using established revenue procedures, thereby eliminating inaccuracies and potential manipulation by vested interests.

Exposing the Hypocrisy of Opponents

The most vocal critics of the bill, have long been the principal beneficiaries of waqf assets. Their opposition is a calculated move to safeguard their financial empires built on these properties. These organizations have historically monopolized waqf resources, diverting funds meant for the underprivileged sections of the community towards their own

agendas.

The hypocrisy is stark! While they claim to champion the cause of the Muslim community, they have, for decades, manipulated waqf boards for personal gains. Many waqf boards in India are staffed by individuals affiliated with these groups, who continue to exploit these endowments for political and financial leverage. It is this unchecked exploitation that the amendment seeks to end, making them the loudest opponents of reform.

Strengthening Waqf for the True Beneficiaries

Beyond breaking the monopoly of select groups, the bill enhances inclusivity by mandating representation from various Muslim sects, including Sunni, Shia, Bohra, Aghakhani, and backward Muslim communities, ensuring fair and democratic governance of waqf assets. Furthermore, the introduction of non-Muslim experts to the waqf

boards does not threaten Muslim control but rather enhances accountability, bringing in external oversight to prevent mismanagement.

The bill also introduces financial audits and transparent accounting practices, preventing misuse of waqf funds. Periodic reporting requirements and the ability to appeal waqf tribunal decisions in High Courts will further strengthen legal oversight, ensuring that waqf properties serve their intended purpose, benefiting the needy and preserving India's rich syncretic heritage.

The Need for Reform

The government's move to remove the 'Waqf by User' provision is another crucial step toward eliminating ambiguity in waqf property claims. This provision has been misused to illegitimately claim lands without formal waqf dedication, leading to endless legal battles and land encroachments. By streamlining registration

processes, the amendment safeguards both private and public lands from wrongful claims, ensuring that only legally declared waqf properties receive recognition.

The Way Forward  
The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a progressive step toward ensuring the transparency and efficient management of waqf properties. Its provisions are designed to protect legitimate waqf assets, improve governance, and dismantle the entrenched interests that have long profited from these resources.

It is imperative for the Muslim community to see through the misinformation and recognize that those opposing this bill are doing so for their own benefit, not for the greater good. By supporting this reform, we can ensure that waqf properties are used for their true purpose—uplifting the underprivileged and preserving the cultural and religious heritage they were meant to serve.

## NEP 2020's Three Language Formula catalyst for Linguistic Diversity

OMKAR DATTATRAY

National Education Policy 1986 has envisaged three languages formula and stipulated and provided for the three language formula but made Hindi language as a compulsory subject. But NEP 2020 more or less is similar to NEP 1986, but with one glaring modification that Hindi was no longer stipulated as a compulsory language to be taught in all states and UT's. Thus three language formula as provided by the NEP2020 is a major departure from the earlier education policy mainly because new education policy 2020 did not make Hindi language compulsory and thus the NEP 2020 is really a catalyst for ensuring linguistic diversity and thus all languages are fine and need to be taught for ensuring linguistic diversity. Hindi is our official language and majority of the people in India speak and know Hindi and it being the language associated with the history of country's freedom struggle should be given the status of national language which this language deserves. But then Hindi should not be thrust and imposed on non Hindi speaking people and states. All languages are rich and divine and should be respected and there should be no conflict and row on the issue of languages. It is good to teach local/regional languages along with official language Hindi. The NEP 2020's three language formula encourages students to learn three languages, with at least two being native Indian languages, including one regional language, and the third being English or another modern Indian language, promoting multilingualism and national unity with flexibility in

language selection. NEP 2020 retains the three language formula, originally introduced in the 1986 NEP, but with greater flexibility, allowing states, regions, and students to choose the languages they learn, as long as at least two are native to India. NEP2020 has the following characteristics—A Flexibility—States and students have the freedom to choose the three languages they learn, promoting multilingualism and respecting cultural and regional diversity. B—No Imposition—No specific language is mandated for any state, ensuring that states can tailor their language education to their specific needs and contexts. C—Emphasis on Mother Tongue—The policy encourages the use of the mother tongue/local language as the medium of instruction, at least until Grade 5, and preferably until Grade 8. D—Promoting Multilingualism—The three language formula aims to promote multilingualism, linguistic diversity, enabling students to communicate effectively across the country and in globalized world. E—National Unity—By promoting the learning of multiple languages, the policy aims to foster national unity and understanding. It is pertinent to mention that the three language formula was first proposed by the Kothari Commission [1964-65] and was later adopted in the National Education Policy 1986. The NEP 1986 mandated Hindi, English, and a regional language, but NEP 2020 offers greater flexibility in language selection. The following benefits accrue from the New Education policy 2020—1—Cognitive Development—Multilingualism can enhance cognitive flexibility, problem solving skills, and memory. 2—

Cultural Awareness—Learning multiple languages can foster cultural awareness and understanding. 3—Global Competitiveness—Students who are multilingual are better prepared for a globalized world. The three language formula is one of the vital approaches under NEP2020 that necessitates all Indian students to learn at least three languages. It states that they will learn two native Indian languages, including one regional language. They will also learn English as the third and essential language. The 1961 meeting of the several chief ministers of the Indian states resulted in a consensus that led to the implementation of the three-language formula. The Three-Language Formula was intended to be a handy starting point for the examination of the country's developing Knowledge base and emotional integration, rather than a goal or restriction. Language formulas are appropriate across India has been reopened by this action. The CM of Tamil Nadu rejected it, and it merely reaffirmed the state's staunch stance on a sensitive and political matter. The Three Language Formula states that every student in India should learn three languages, two of which should be native Indian languages, including one regional language and the third should be English. The formula is applicable to both government as well as private schools, and the medium of instruction can be any of the three languages. The national education policy of 1968 introduced the three-language formula, meaning that apart from Hindi and English, there should be a third language which is a part of modern India and must be used for edu-

cation in Hindi speaking states. The Three Language Formula is as under—1—One Indian native language [Hindi] 2—One Regional Language 3—English Language. The primary aim of the Three language Formula is to promote multilingualism in India and enable students to communicate effectively across the country. It also aims to strengthen national integration by exposing students to different cultures and languages and fostering respect for linguistic diversity. That a child's cognitive growth includes acquiring languages, which are significant. Promoting multilingualism and international concord is the main goal. It further helps with—a Bridging the linguistic gap and enabling effective communication across the country. b—Providing career opportunities and a competitive edge in the job market through proficiency in English. c—Fostering respect for linguistic and cultural diversity. d—Promoting the use and learning of regional languages can help preserve them for future generations. e—Enhancing cognitive development through learning multiple languages. A comprehensive foundation for implementing the Three Language Formula in Indian schools is provided under NEP 2020. The following are the policy's key points—A—Early Childhood Education—The policy places a strong emphasis on the value of early childhood education in helping children learn languages. It suggests that kids between the age of 3 to 8 study in their native language or in regional tongue. B—Flexibility—The policy provides a wide range of language option. The third language can be English or any other language of the students choice,

while first two languages must be native Indian languages from the state or region. In non-Hindi speaking states where there have been worries about imposition of Hindi, this clause is anticipated to lessen opposition to formula. C—Teachers Training—The policy acknowledges the necessity of trained educators in order to successfully apply the Three Language Formula. It suggests that teachers be given multilingualism training and that attempts be made to find teachers fluent in the local languages. Examination System—According to the policy, students should be evaluated on their command of all three languages, including English. Online Resources—To enable students to learn in their native tongues, the policy encourages the creation of online resources and instructional materials in native languages. NEP 2020 Views on The Three Language Formula—The home language, mother tongue, local language or regional language will whenever possible be the medium of instruction up until at least Grade 5, but preferably up to Grade 8 and beyond. The three language formula will still be used but it will be done so while promoting both national unity and multilingualism. This system will have more freedom, according to NEP and no state will be forced to use a certain language, so long as at least two of the three languages are indigenous. Hindi will not be imposed in non-Hindi speaking states. Unfortunately the three language formula proposed in the NEP 2020 is at the centre of the political row and storm between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the central government.

## Women's safety in India improved with legal measures, financial allocations, support services: Govt

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Saturday said that the government has made remarkable strides to ensure the safety and security of women across the nation with legal measures, financial allocations, and support services.

This includes the Nirbhaya Fund, a women's helpline (181) number, one-stop centers (OSCs), an emergency response support system (ERSS -112), SHe-Box, and women help desks that provide legal, medical, and psychological assistance to women.

"A multi-pronged approach integrating law



enforcement, helplines, rehabilitation, and mental health support is crucial for creating a safer and more empowering environment for women," the Ministry said.

The Ministry noted that Rs 7,712.85 crore was allocated under the Nirbhaya Fund in the financial year 2024-25, of which Rs 5,846.08 crore have been

utilised -- nearly 76 per cent.

The fund supports various projects and schemes such as OSCs, ERSS, women helpline, fast track special courts (FTSCs), anti-human trafficking units (AHTUs), women help desks, cyber forensic cum training labs, safe city projects, rail and road transport safety ini-

tiatives, and the Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) to enhance women's safety and security.

Notably, the government also provides support for women's mental health, impacted by domestic and gender-based violence.

"Violence, especially domestic and intimate partner violence, can lead to depression, anxiety, PTSD, panic disorders, and suicide risk," the Ministry said.

"There is a need for these services to be sensitive to the psychological needs of women facing violence and to be able to provide culturally informed and effective interventions that are context-specific," it added.

## Aerobic exercises, resistance training key to reduce breast cancer recurrence: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Indulging in moderate-to high-intensity aerobic exercises twice to three times weekly, with resistance training added in a few times per week, may potentially reduce the recurrence rate of breast cancer, according to new research.

While aerobic exercises like swimming, running, and climbing stairs, resistance training includes pushups and bench presses.

Researchers from Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Australia said that despite the advances made in breast cancer treatment, recurrence remains common and continues to contribute to higher mortality risks.

In more aggressive cancers, the risk of recurrence



Bettariga said. While the exact mechanisms behind the reduction in inflammation are still being examined, Bettariga noted that one theory being examined is that exercise results in the body's muscles releasing a chemical that could reduce inflammation.

can be as high as between 20 per cent and 30 per cent.

The study found that a combination of resistance exercise and aerobic exercise could reduce pro-inflammatory biomarkers caused by various cancer treatments.

"The treatment of breast cancer, which can include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or endocrine therapy, could increase inflammation in the body. Chronic inflammation may increase the risk of the recurrence of breast

cancer, as inflammation may promote cancer cell progression and development," said Francesco Bettariga, ECU doctoral student.

In the paper, published in JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Bettariga and team investigated the effects of exercise in women with non-metastatic breast cancer.

"Our research found that three markers of inflammation were significantly reduced by consistent exercise, which is a very encouraging result,"

Another working theory is that the reduction in inflammation markers could be a result of increases in muscle mass and reductions in the body, as both could contribute to modulating inflammation.

"While there are currently no guidelines on how much exercise to do, we would suggest moderate- to high-intensity aerobic exercises twice to three times weekly, with resistance training added in a few times per week," Bettariga said.

## India's diagnostic imaging market to surpass \$7 bn by 2033: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India's diagnostic imaging market is poised for substantial growth, and is set to exceed \$7 billion in 2033, according to a report. The growth at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 7 per cent will be driven by rising healthcare expenditure, increasing chronic disease burden, and a growing demand for accessible diagnostic solutions.

The report by Global-Data, a data and analytics company, revealed that in 2024, India accounted for around 20 per cent of the Asia-Pacific (APAC) diagnostic imaging devices market.

The increased adoption of portable imaging solutions is expected to be a key driver of market



expansion, especially in underserved and rural regions where traditional infrastructure is limited.

"Portable imaging devices are transforming healthcare delivery in India. In emergency and trauma situations, these devices enable rapid on-site diagnostics, reducing the need for patient transfers and enhancing care delivery," said Rohit Anand, Practice Head - Medical Devices at Global-Data.

"Moreover, for smaller

healthcare centres, they may offer a cost-effective alternative to full-scale imaging setups, improving access without substantial capital investment," he added.

The recent technological advancements are further propelling the clinical impact of portable imaging.

Innovations such as AI-powered image analysis, miniaturisation, and wireless connectivity are improving diagnostic accuracy and data sharing.

In addition, portable MRI and CT systems, enhanced by technologies like photon counting and compact MRI magnets, are delivering higher resolution and lower radiation exposure.

"The integration of portable imaging into point-of-care settings enhances early disease detection and supports real-time diagnostics, leading to timely interventions and improved patient outcomes," Anand said.

"This is particularly vital for extending healthcare access to remote and resource-constrained communities," he added.

However, the widespread adoption of portable imaging in India still in nascent stage. High ownership costs, complex import regulations, and limited-service infrastructure are the key barriers.

## Study of cardiac cells in space to help repair heart damage on Earth

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A new study of cardiac cells at the International Space Station (ISS) is set to pave the way for repair of the heart damage on Earth.

Researchers from Emory University looked at cancer cells that proliferate -- grow and divide to produce more cells -- much more quickly in microgravity. Spaceflight also triggers cancer cell survival mechanisms, helping the cells better cope with the stressful



environment.

In the paper, published in the journal Biomaterials, the researchers hypothesised that heart cells might exhibit similar behaviour.

This would address

two current roadblocks in developing cell-based therapies for heart disease, said Chunhui Xu, a professor in the department of paediatrics.

After successfully testing the theory in a ground-

based study using simulated microgravity, Xu and her team conducted two spaceflight investigations.

The first examined how stem cells differentiate into heart muscle cells, while the second looked at the maturation of heart muscle cells into tissue-like structures.

The insight gained from the team's space-based research could significantly advance methods to produce cardiac cells for regenerative therapies, helping to transform the landscape of heart disease treatment.

## SE Asia sees decline in maternal mortality ratio, on track to achieve SDG target by 2030: WHO

Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) -- deaths due to complications from childbirth or pregnancy per 1 lakh live births -- has declined significantly in South-East Asia, including India, said World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday, ahead of the International Women's Day.

International Women's Day is marked annually on March 8 to raise awareness of the issues impacting women all over the world. MMR includes any maternal death that happens immediately or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, whether through childbirth, abortion, or miscarriage.

"MMR has declined significantly -- between 2010 to 2020, a 41 per cent decline in the region versus a 12 per cent decline globally," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia.

"In fact, our region is on track to achieve the SDG target on MMR by 2030," she added.

Notably, India has



reduced MMR by an impressive 70 per cent between 2000 and 2020. The country's MMR fell precipitously by 82.5 per cent between 1990 and 2020. The MMR under the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for 2030 is 70.

Further, Wazed also noted improvements in women's labour force participation.

"In our South-East Asia region, the gender gap in women's labour force participation has narrowed in most countries," she said. In the past

decades, the total fertility rate has decreased for most of the countries in the region.

However, Wazed also raised concerns over gender inequality and sexual violence against women in the SE Asia region.

"In our region, all countries rank high on the global Gender Inequality Index. Nearly 40 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime," said Wazed.

"This aggravates the risks of communicable

diseases like HIV and STI, along with mental health challenges," the Regional Director said.

The theme of Women's day this year is "For all women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment".

"It calls for actions to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for all women and girls, for a future where no one is left behind," said Wazed, noting that "empowering youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls is central to this vision".

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 01 of 2025-26

Dated: 02.04.2025  
Due : 09.04.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	COMPLETE CLEANING AND SERVICING OF WINDOW/SPLIT AC'S OF DIFFERENT CAPACITIES (FOR UPCOMING SUMMER SEASON) INSTALLED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OF GMCH, JAMMU.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	2.407 LACS	Rs.5000.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	15 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).

Sd/-  
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-30/25  
Date: 2-4-25

## Students Display Talent as 26 Events organized on Day-2 of UDAAN-2025 in CU Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 2

The highly anticipated cultural festival of Central University of Jammu "UDAAN-2025: Virasat aur Vikas Ki", which is four days event from 1st April - 4th April 2024 commenced its second day bringing together students from thirteen different clubs to showcase their creative abilities and talents. After a spectacular opening ceremony yesterday, which featured Saraswati Vandana and group Bhajan, the university embraced its theme of culture and development, aiming to connect the youth with their cultural heritage. Today's events showcased a variety of performances and competitions, transforming the campus into



a vibrant center of artistic and intellectual activity.

The event, organized under a grand shade at the university sports ground along with the DDE building, featured vibrant competitions in multiple categories. The Fine Arts Club hosted poster-making, painting, and terracotta competitions, providing students with a

platform to express their artistic visions following the Dance Club and Music Club mesmerized audiences with their energetic performances, while the Quiz Club engaged participants in an exciting test of knowledge and intellect.

Adding a cinematic touch, the Film Club conducted a short filmmaking competition, challenging

students to create 2-3-minute films centered on the theme of Udaan 2025. The event also featured several other clubs contributing their unique creative expressions, ensuring a diverse and engaging experience for all attendees. Apart from competitions, the event offered a delightful culinary experience with numerous stalls serving food, drinks, desserts, and ice cream, adding to the festive spirit. The office of the Dean Students' Welfare ensured the events were well organized with proper arrangements of venues for all competitions in the DDE building and sports ground for a seam-

less experience for both participants and as well as spectators.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain expressed his appreciation for the students enthusiastic participation and the seamless execution of the event. Prof. Jain said "UDAAN is more than just an event; it is a journey through culture, art and innovation and an approach to connect youth with their culture and traditions". With an electrifying atmosphere and an overwhelming response from students, UDAAN 2025: Virasat aur Vikas Ki continues to inspire and celebrate talent, marking another milestone in the cultural calendar of the Central University of Jammu.

## Indian Army organizes Interaction with Village Defence Guards Members at Kijai, Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR: 02 APR 2025

In a continued effort to strengthen community ties and enhance regional security, the Indian Army Dul successfully organised an interaction with Village Defence Guards. Members at Kijai in the Paddar

region. The event was aimed at fostering collaboration, improving communication, and bolstering the security preparedness of the region. A total of 24 Village Defence Guards. And one State Police representative were present. During interaction, Village Defence Guards

Members were briefed on the latest security challenges and threats faced in the region. The Village Defence Guards Members lauded the initiative and expressed hope that such initiatives by the Indian Army will give a boost to communal harmony in the region.

## Kavinder slams Omar Govt's contradictory policies, says fuel, fare hikes undermine free Travel for Women



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has expressed concern over the National Conference (NC) government's recent policy decisions, highlighting a contradiction between offering free bus travel for women and simultaneous increases in fuel prices and public transport fares.

Speaking at the meeting held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the BJP stalwart acknowledged the initiative to provide free travel for women in government-owned buses across Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing it as a step toward women's empowerment. However, he pointed out that this benefit is overshadowed by the government's decision to reduce rebates on petrol and diesel, leading

to a price increase of Rs 1 per liter for petrol and Rs 2 per liter for diesel.

"While the NC government claims to support women by offering free bus rides, they simultaneously burden the general public with increased fuel prices," he stated. "This move not only affects individual vehicle owners but also has a cascading effect on the economy, leading to a proposed 7% hike in public transport fares."

Kavinder lambasted the NC government for its economic mismanagement and deceptive tactics. "These back-to-back financial assaults on the people of Jammu and Kashmir reveal the NC's utter disregard for the hardships faced by everyday citizens. Their strategy is clear: give with one hand and take away much more with the other, all while expecting applause for their so-called generosity."

The senior BJP leader further emphasized that the cascading effect of fuel price increases extends beyond transportation, inflating costs across all sectors and deepening the financial strain on households. "This isn't just about bus fares; it's about the skyrocketing cost of living that the NC government is directly responsible for. Their policies are a masterclass in hypocrisy, punishing the very people they pretend to help."

Kavinder called upon the NC government to immediately reverse these detrimental policies and adopt a transparent, honest approach that genuinely prioritizes the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir people. "The people deserve governance that is forthright and truly supportive, not a regime that hides punitive measures behind hollow gestures," he added.

## Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on Harmful Effect of Drug Abuse for Local Youth at Kotranka, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 02 APR 2025

Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on harmful effects of Drug Abuse at JNV, Kotranka. The event was conducted under the theme of 'Protecting the youth and promoting welfare of humanity. Drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking are significant issues that plague societies worldwide. Drug abuse refers to the harmful or excessive use of substances for non-medical purposes, leading to physical, mental and social harm. Illicit drug trafficking involves the illegal production, distribution and sale of drugs, contributing to a range of negative consequences for individuals and communities. To effectively address the intertwined challenges of



drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, a multi-faceted and holistic approach is essential. Governments, communities, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies and individuals play crucial roles in prevention, intervention and treatment efforts. Drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking are complex challenges that require a comprehensive and coordinated response from all sectors of society. Drug

abuse has wide-ranging harmful impacts on health and well-being of individuals, families and society. A total of 04 teachers and 54 students attended the awareness lecture. The students and local residents of expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude towards Indian Army for organising such awareness programmes and seminar on social issues which have greatly affected the youth and people of remote area.

## Safdarjung Hospital, Sushakti Charitable Trust jointly organize Autism Awareness Walk on World Autism Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

On the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Safdarjung Hospital, in collaboration with Sushakti Charitable Trust, organized an Autism Awareness Walk to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from doctors, healthcare professionals, caregivers, students, and families of individuals with autism.

The walk commenced from Safdarjung Hospital and proceeded through key areas of the hospital premises, drawing attention to the importance of early diagnosis, therapy, and community support for individuals with autism. Participants carried placards with messages advocating for inclusion, accessibility, and the need for greater awareness of neurodiversity in society.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sandeep Bansal, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, emphasized the hospital's commitment to supporting neurodivergent individuals. "Autism is not a disability; it is a different ability. As one of the leading public healthcare institutions, we are dedicated to spreading awareness, providing early intervention, and ensuring that

individuals with autism receive the care they deserve," he stated.

Highlighting the importance of education in fostering inclusivity, Dr. Geetika Khanna, Principal, VMMC, said, "Medical students and healthcare professionals must be equipped with the knowledge and sensitivity to interact with and support individuals with autism. Events like this walk are essential in fostering empathy and understanding."

Dr. Ajay Gupta, Head of the Department (HOD), PMR, Safdarjung Hospital, stressed the need for multi-disciplinary intervention. "Autism requires a holistic approach involving medical, psychological, and social support systems. Through continued awareness and policy advocacy, we aim to create an environment where individuals with autism can thrive and lead fulfilling lives," he remarked.

The event served as a platform to educate caregivers and the general public about the symptoms of autism, the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of therapy and support systems in improving the quality of life for individuals on the spectrum. By encouraging open conversations and community involvement, the awareness walk aimed to challenge stereotypes and reduce the stigma often associated with autism.

## Movement Kalki Delegation Meets Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, Submits Memorandum

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 2

Today, a delegation from Movement Kalki met with Doda MLA Mehraj Malik and submitted a memorandum demanding strict laws for the protection of cows in Jammu and Kashmir. The memorandum emphasized the urgent need to curb cow smuggling completely.

The delegation was led by Rajkumar Lalotra and included Movement Kalki's founder member Deepak Singh, Legal Advisory Board member Advocate Someshwar Kohli, board members Pawan Sharma, Sapna Hindu, Sunita Kundal, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, and Sukhdev Singh.

During the meeting, the



delegation detailed the serious issues surrounding cow smuggling and explained that Movement Kalki's initiative is not targeted at any particular community but aims to maintain social harmony and peace.

In response, MLA Mehraj Malik acknowledged the concern and stated that although time is limited in the legislative assembly, he will make every effort to raise this issue. He further suggested that addressing this problem should begin in Uttar Pradesh, where the

highest number of slaughterhouses operate. He assured that if he does not get an opportunity to speak in the assembly, he will still advocate for the cause outside the legislative forum. It is noteworthy that Movement Kalki's agitation has now reached its 164th day, demanding the recognition of Gau Mata (Mother Cow) as 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother). The members have vowed to continue their struggle until strict laws for cow protection are implemented.

## Waqf amendment bill an unconstitutional assault on Muslim religious rights: Hakeem Yaseen

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 2

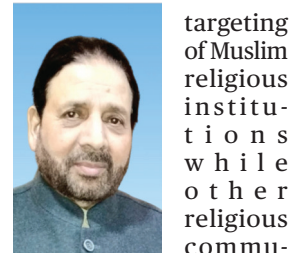
Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has vehemently opposed the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, terming them as a direct assault on the religious rights of Muslims and an infringement upon their faith.

He asserted that such amendments are unjustified and go against the secular ethos of the Indian Constitution.

"India is a secular country, and the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all its citizens. Muslims from Jammu and Kashmir and across the country have made immense sacrifices for India's independence, and the government must respect their rights and aspirations," PDF leader said.

Hakeem Yaseen expressed deep concern over the ruling government's claims of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," highlighting that such moves only serve to create division instead of fostering national unity.

He questioned the rationale behind the selective



enjoy autonomy in managing their affairs.

"If Sikh, Hindu, and Christian religious institutions enjoy autonomy, why are exclusive laws being framed to regulate Muslim institutions? This is blatant discrimination and interference in the religious affairs of Muslims. The Bill should be reconsidered in the spirit of fairness and justice," he said.

The senior leader did not mince words in his criticism, calling the Bill a serious attack on the Indian Constitution. "Through this Bill, the government aims to dilute constitutional rights, defame minority communities, divide Indian society, and disenfranchise minorities."

Their double-engine governments have even gone to the extent of restricting people from offering namaz in public spaces," he pointed out.

Hakeem Yaseen also warned that any move to interfere with religious autonomy could have serious repercussions. He urged the central government to withdraw the proposed amendments and respect the religious autonomy of all communities.

He emphasized that such unilateral decisions without proper consultations would only deepen the existing trust deficit between the government and minority communities.

"India thrives on its diversity and pluralism. Any attempt to disrupt this harmony will only weaken the country. The government must reconsider its stance and engage with all stakeholders before making such significant changes," he asserted.

The former minister called upon political parties, religious scholars, and civil society organizations to come forward and oppose the proposed amendments collectively.

He reiterated that protecting the rights of religious institutions is crucial for maintaining the social fabric of the nation and ensuring equal treatment of all communities.

### NOTICE

I Sarvjeet kour D/O Lt. Raghbir Singh R/O Udham Nagar Rani Talab Digiana Jammu, tehsil Jammu South A/P H.no.32 Sector 7, Model Town Gangyal Jammu. I applied for the registration and issuance of my birth certificate. I do here by solemnly affirm and declared as under, I was born on 15-10-1990 at home. Now I am applying for the birth certificate in the concerned Municipality/Police Station. If anyone objection if phase conveyed to concerned authority with in a weeks of publication of this notice.

## Field of Union Ministry of MSME implements Common Facility Centre for Apricot Processing

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSMEs of Ladakh.

Cluster Development Programme is a scheme under which Common Facility Centre projects with Project Cost of up to 30 Crs can be taken up for implementation for the benefit of MSEs with 15% beneficiary contribution and remaining 85% as grant. As per the scheme guidelines the scheme may be implemented with close co-ordination with Government of Ladakh. The objectives of the scheme are to enhance sustainability, Competitiveness and growth of MSEs by addressing common issues such as improvement of technology, skills & quality, market access, etc. Common Facility Centre can also be established for testing, training center, raw material depot, effluent treatment, complementing production processes. The detailed guidelines can be accessed at <https://msmedijammu.gov.in/Resource/CDP-06-22.pdf>



gov.in/Resource/CDP-06-22.pdf

Ladakh region as a whole has a long tradition of growing horticulture produce unique to its Geo climatic condition. Apricot cultivation is done in more than 900 hectares as per department of horticulture with an annual production estimated above 5000 MT. Next to apricot is the Apple crop grown in Ladakh with cultivation area of more than 500 hectare with an annual production of above 3000 MT.

The apricot produced in Ladakh often fails to reach market in the same quality which is expected by the buyers due to various reasons including unscientific

way of collection, drying method etc. Though the apricot crop from Ladakh reaches to various countries like Singapore, Mauritius, Vietnam, Dubai, USA, Bangladesh, Oman etc, still a lot of scope for improvement in value addition is available.

Cluster Development Programme can be helpful for the entrepreneurs of Ladakh. G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director of MSME DFO Jammu visited Khalsae in proposed Sham district of Ladakh to meet the entrepreneurs of the region to disseminate the awareness of MSE-CDP. To reap the benefit of the scheme Land for the proposed Common Facility

Centre was found to be the bottle neck for which Mr.Namgyal of Khalsae has agreed to offer the Land for the proposed CFC. Detailed Project Report for the CFC is to be prepared with the inputs from all the stake holders. The facilities proposed in the common facility center includes Drying of apricot, Apricot oil extraction, breaking seeds of apricot and option to use the facility for drying apples and other produce including horticulture production. As per the scheme guidelines projects with project cost up to 10 Crs can also be considered with beneficiary contribution of only 5% in case of Ladakh.

## Sat Sharma chairs preparatory meeting for Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for upcoming Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations. The event commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice and equality.

The Committee Members for this event Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra and former District President Parmod Kapahi, briefed Sat Sharma CA about the preparations for different programmes to be undertaken from April 13 to 25. They shared with the party president that ahead of Ambedkar's birthday, the party activists will clean the statue of



Dr. Ambedkar on April 13, the premises will be decorated and lighting of lamps will be done in the evening. On the next day, the Ambedkar Jayanti, on April 14, statue of Dr. Ambedkar will be garlanded and sweets distributed, besides collective recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution. Then from April 15 to 25, a series of programmes like visiting and cleaning the SC colonies, providing drinking water facility to Anganwadi Centres and schools, organizing

debates, awareness workshops etc, will be undertaken.

Sat Sharma CA emphasized the importance of organizing the celebrations with full dignity and respect, reflecting Dr. Ambedkar's lasting legacy.

He said that under the nationwide programmes, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP too has been assigned to hold a series of cultural and educational programmes aimed at promoting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of equality, justice,

and fraternity. These programmes like seminars, workshops, panel discussions, cultural performances, and exhibitions showcasing his contributions to the upliftment of marginalized communities, should be organized with wider publicity and mass participation.

"Ambedkar Jayanti is a day to honour the immense contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to our nation. Our efforts aim to ensure that his principles of social equality and justice continue to inspire future generations," Sat said.

Former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, former VC Rashpal Verma, senior leaders Rajiv Charak, S. Amrik Singh, Ankush Mahajan, and others also attended this meeting.

## ZNS NIST organizes Bridal Shoot 2025 (Chapter - 1) to Empower Makeup Students

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

ZNS NIST Academy proudly organized Bridal Shoot 2025 (Chapter - 1) for its ongoing makeup students, offering them invaluable exposure in the beauty industry. This event served as a professional portfolio-building opportunity, helping students create a strong impact on their future clients.

The event was a grand success, with more than 40 students participating and demonstrating their artistry on 40 models. This hands-on experience allowed students to showcase their skills and gain real-world industry insight, further enhancing their career prospects.

**Event Highlights:** Certification & Gifts of Beauty were awarded to all participating students to boost their confidence and recognize their dedication.

Gifted Partner: Recode Studios, a well-known



brand in the beauty and makeup industry in India, collaborated to support the event.

**Special Guests Who Graced the Occasion:**

Celebrity Guest: Sonali Dogra (Famous Singer & State Awardee)  
Special Guest: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (JKAS), Joint Director, Sheep Husbandry Department

Founder: Shabir Malik & Nusrat Malik, Founders of ZNS NIST

Special Guest: Shivangi Dogra, Director, ZNS NIST Udhampur

The Founders of ZNS NIST, Shabir Malik and Nusrat Malik, emphasized the significance of such events, stating, "These kinds of events are dedicated to our students for their great careers."

One of the students from ZNS NIST shared their excitement, saying, "This kind of event is life-changing. We gain incred-

ible learning experiences from the academy. Today is our moment to present our artistry skills to the world, and after this shoot, we see more career opportunities ahead."

ZNS NIST remains committed to fostering talent and providing hands-on industry exposure to its students, ensuring they step confidently into the world of beauty and makeup with the necessary skills and experience.

## Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on Traffic Rules for Students at Kalal, Rajouri



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, 02 APR 2025

The Indian Army organised a lecture on "Traffic Rules" at Govt Middle School, Lambari. Traffic is a paramount concern that affects everyone. Every year, millions of lives are tragically lost or permanently altered due to traffic accidents. In order to address this critical issue, an awareness campaign focused on traffic safety was conducted. The campaign was aimed at edu-

cating individuals, raising awareness about safe practices and encouraging responsible behaviour in the traffic. During the event Indian Army provided comprehensive information on traffic rules, safe driving techniques and the consequences of reckless behaviour. The attendees (38 Students, 06 Teachers, 02 Parents and 03 ESM) paid keen interest and conveyed that they felt more confident and educated after the event.

## Indian Army organizes Lecture on Physical Fitness for Students at Gursai, Mendhar, Poonch



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, 02 APR 2025

A lecture on physical fitness was conducted at Govt Higher Secondary School, Gursai under the aegis Indian Army emphasizing the importance of regular exercise and healthy lifestyle habits for students. The lecture was attended by 30 students and 12 teaching staff and covered various aspects of physical fitness including the benefits of exercise, nutrition, and stress management. Indian Army encouraged

students to adopt healthy habits and make physical activity a part of their daily routine. The aim of this lecture was to educate students regarding the significance of physical fitness and encourage them to develop healthy lifestyle habits. The lecture was made interactive, especially with students participating in discussions and asking questions. The event was part of the Army's efforts to promote physical education and wellness amongst the students of the region.

## J&K witnessed significant infrastructure progress under PM Modi, LG Govt: Col Mahan

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
BASOHLI, APR 2

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, along with MLA Basohli Th. Darshan Kumar inaugurated a vital 3-kilometer link road connecting Jait and Kharmait villages in the Ghagrore Panchayat of Basohli Sub-District. This road, built under the NABARD project, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 5.28 Crores under the Public Works Department (PWD), Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division Basohli.



others. The presence of these leaders underscored the collective efforts in improving infrastructure and connectivity in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Col Mahan Singh expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir for

their unwavering commitment to bringing development to the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the importance of the new road in ensuring smoother and more efficient connectivity for the residents of Jait, Kharmait, and surrounding areas.

The DDC Chairman also stressed the critical need for

the much-awaited improvement of the Mahanpur-Basohli 30-kilometer road section, which connects Kathua, Billawar, Basohli, and extends further to Bani. He recommended that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) take over the stretch to ensure its timely development and maintenance, given its strategic significance.

Col Mahan Singh further emphasized that under the leadership of PM Modi and the LG Government, the region has witnessed significant progress, with a focus on infrastructure development, especially in remote and underserved areas.

This initiative, along with several other development projects in the region, is set to further strengthen the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir's rural infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and boosting the region's socio-economic growth.

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

Pawan Sharma, a senior BJP leader and former state secretary, has strongly criticized the Omar Abdullah government's decision to increase bus fares for men by 7% and hike diesel and petrol prices by Rs 2. This move comes under the guise of providing free rides to women in government buses. Sharma argues that this move is contrary to the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma alleged that this decision is a clear case of cheating and injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The government's attempt to appease one section of society by burdening another is unacceptable," he said.

According to Sharma, this decision will disproportionately affect the common man, who is already struggling to make ends meet. He demands that the government reconsider its decision and explore alternative solutions that do not place an undue burden on the citizens of Jammu and

Kashmir.

It's worth noting that fare increases are often implemented to keep pace with rising costs and inflation. However, the timing and magnitude of such increases can have significant impacts on commuters, particularly those who rely heavily on public transportation.

Sharma's statement highlights the need for policymakers to carefully consider the potential consequences of their decisions on the lives of ordinary people. As the government moves forward with its plans, it will be important to monitor the impact of these changes and make adjustments as needed to ensure that the needs and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being met.

The BJP leader also questioned the timing of the decision, alleging that it was a desperate attempt by the government to divert attention from its failures. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be fooled by such tactics," Sharma said. "We will continue to fight for their rights and interests."

## RTO Jammu cracks down on overloading, wrong parking, traffic violations



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 2

In a decisive move to regulate traffic and curb violations, Team RTO Jammu, under the directions of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan and the guidance of RTO Jammu Jasmeet Singh, conducted a special drive at Bikram Chowk to tackle overloading by mini-buses, wrong parking by taxis, private cars, and three-wheelers, as well as inspections of school buses.

During the operation, three-wheeler drivers were warned against unauthorized parking in front of the Railway Station and behind Shiv Market, particularly on the main road in front of Vaishnavi Dham. Additionally, shopkeepers in

Shiv Market were instructed to avoid parking their vehicles on the main road to prevent traffic congestion.

The crackdown saw approximately 200 vehicles checked, out of which 35 vehicles were e-challaned for various violations, and two vehicles were seized. The estimated fine collected from e-challans is around Rs 60,000.

The enforcement team included ARTO FS J-1 Er. Bipen Singh Charak, ARTO Mohd Salim, MVIs Azad Hussain and Surender Kumar, and MVTA Taranjot Singh.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to maintaining road discipline and ensuring a smooth traffic flow in Jammu.

## ONOE conviction for consistent optimum governance: Arun

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 2

BJP believes with firm conviction that optimum and consistent good governance in India can only be achieved with clear focus to progress without any disruption in the working of governments.

This is possible with complete utilization of governance machinery in a fixed time frame of governments by conducting simultaneous elections for Centre and states.

This was stated by Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP while he, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, addressed a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"India got independent in 1947 and with the introduction of representation of people acts 1950-51 in India, four general elections alongwith state

assemblies were conducted simultaneously in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967. Premature dissolution of Lok Sabha on 7 occasions and premature dissolution of legislative assembly on various occasions coupled with personal interest of leaders disturbed this electoral process", said Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta said that India loses precious time and money in managing elections, where political parties in governance, their leaders, legislators and central/state governments keep focusing their efforts on preparing for upcoming elections, rather than prioritizing good optimum consistent governance for the growth and welfare of its citizens.

"As a result, even after 67 years of continued governance in the country from 1947 India remained a fragile 5 economy in the world, while small



countries progressed and improved their economy in that period. Its only in 2014, when BJP came in power, the graph of economy improved and reached upto top 5 economy," said Arun Gupta.

The gravity of the issue is very important to understand that if governments are made to work without any disruptions for their mandated tenures, accountability by citizens becomes much more effective.

In conducting elections spread over five years, besides wasting precious time, the loss of human resources quality time and huge financial loss the

country has to face is not conducive for growth and results are quite evident in being fragile 5 economies in the world.

The citizens of the country understand the need to preserve five important resources called TEGBA, which are very important for any democratic country to improve its economy and GDP. TEGBA defines time, economy, governance brain-drain and accountability, which citizens of India are eagerly looking to implement and BJP is committed with conviction to adopt this in India, giving fair opportunity to all the citizens and especially the young generation of

the country who look for their employability and growth. The urge of youth to leave the country needs to be addressed, stopping brain-drain from country. Our brain has been utilized very effectively by many nations and their needs to be controlled.

The resources of India have to be utilized in the most optimum manner and this will become possible if TEGBA concept is understood in totality and election country are conducted simultaneously for Centre and state. India has to reach the third top economy and then continue moving to the top economy in the world. This will be achieved with radical changes and understand TEGBA concept for overall growth and sustainability.

One election is important for all states and the general election to achieve all one needed programme in future.

## Waqf Bill will secure accountability, curb corruption in waqf assets: Bali Bhagat

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 2

Bali Bhagat, former minister and senior BJP leader of the Bharatiya Janata , today emphasized that the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, is a significant step toward ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the management of waqf properties, aligning with the BJP's long-standing commitment to good governance and effective administration. In a press statement issued here today, Bali Bhagat stated, "The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a landmark reform that addresses critical issues related to the administration and management of waqf properties. This legislation is essential for curbing malpractices, eliminating corruption, and ensuring that the benefits of these endowments reach the communities for which they are intended."

He further highlighted that the proposed changes would modernize the management framework, thereby safeguarding the interests of both the waqf institutions and the beneficiaries.

Linking the Bill directly to ongoing parliamentary debates, the former Minister remarked, "It is imperative that our Parliament gives due consideration to this Bill. The legislative framework set out in the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 will not only strengthen the oversight mechanisms but will also reinforce the rule of law in managing public religious endowments. The BJP remains committed to working with Parliament to ensure that these reforms are implemented swiftly and effectively."

Reflecting the core values of the BJP, he underscored that the Party firmly believes in the importance of reforming traditional institutions to

meet contemporary governance standards. "We stand for a transparent and accountable system that promotes social justice and economic development," he added. "The reforms proposed in this Bill are in line with the BJP's vision of modernizing our nation's institutions, ensuring that every citizen benefits from the prudent management of public resources."

Bali Bhagat called upon all stakeholders, including policymakers and the public, to support the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024. "I urge the members of Parliament to engage in constructive dialogue and pass this Bill at the earliest possible opportunity. It is only through such decisive actions that we can hope to achieve a more accountable and efficient administrative system that honors our traditions while embracing modernity," he added.

## Floriculture Deptt Kashmir cautions public against Illegal Photographers at Tulip Garden

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

Directorate of Floriculture Kashmir has cautioned general public and other visitors at Tulip Garden Srinagar against availing services of unauthorized photographers who manage to enter the Tulip Garden, Srinagar, clandestinely and charge visitors for photography services. In an official handout issued here, the public has been asked to stay away from such photographers, for they operate without official permission and mislead visitors for personal gain. Further, they have been advised to refrain from availing such photography services/ Social media reel making etc., from such unauthorized persons. In case any such activity is noticed, it should be immediately reported to the concerned officers viz. Assistant Floriculture Officer, Tulip Garden: 9906663555; Floriculture Officer, NMBG: 7006344500.

## DM Jammu pushes for strict enforcement of traffic rules at RTA meeting

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and issued a string of directives aimed at improving traffic management and road safety in the district.

Emphasising the need for strict enforcement of traffic rules in rural areas, the DM instructed concerned departments to conduct rigorous drives to curb violations. He further directed the School Education Department and Traffic Police to intensify awareness campaigns on road safety, particularly targeting students and young drivers.

In a move to ensure adherence to safety regulations, the DM instructed the Regional Transport Officer to convene a meeting with petrol pump owners. He mandated that fuel should not be dispensed to riders and drivers who fail to comply with basic traffic rules, such as wearing helmets and seat belts. Addressing the issue of road maintenance,

the DM ordered the prioritisation of pothole repairs on national highways. He stressed that the roads requiring urgent attention should be identified and incorporated into budget allocations for timely repair. He also emphasised the swift execution of road construction and maintenance projects to alleviate traffic congestion.

In an effort to enhance safety in school transportation, the concerned officers were directed to ensure the installation of CCTV cameras in all school buses. Additionally, the DM underscored the importance of innovative public awareness campaigns on traffic rules, through innovative media to educate youngsters effectively.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, SSP Traffic Faisal Qureshi, ADC Ansuya Jamwal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CMO Dr. Harbaksh Singh, as well as Executive Engineers from the Public Works Department, officers from the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and other concerned officials.

## DC B'la reviews implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme, directs officers to clear pendency



JNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 02

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the district.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned officers to clear pending cases to ensure the seamless execution of the scheme.

To streamline the process, the DC instructed the Principal ITI Baramulla to share the list of beneficiaries with the Lead Bank Office for the timely release of stipends. He also emphasized the need for increased outreach and awareness,

directing officials to organize awareness camps to encourage more beneficiaries to apply under the scheme.

Furthermore, the DC stressed the importance of regular monitoring and directed that at least one meeting per month be conducted to clear pendency at Stage 1 at both the Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Baramulla, Javed Ahmad besides other senior officers from various departments, including representatives from the ITI, banking sector, and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

## JKPDP leader Narinder Sharma felicitates outgoing SDM RS Pura Seema Parihar

JNEWS SERVICE  
RS PURA, APR 2

Senior leader of J&K Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) Narinder Sharma today felicitated outgoing Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) RS Pura Seema Parihar. Sharma acknowledged and appreciated Parihar's remarkable accomplishments during her tenure, wishing her good luck on her new assignment. Speaking on the occasion, Narinder said Seema Parihar's tenure as SDM of R.S. Pura will be remembered for her outstanding contributions and dedication to the tehsil. Her good work has left a lasting impact on the community.

She has indeed demonstrated exceptional governance and wisdom during her tenure. By addressing and resolving public issues in an amicable manner, she has showcased her commitment to serving the community, added Narinder.

Narinder further said that her impressive leadership skills and dedication to public service have

earned her recognition and appreciation. Parihar's life story is a testament to her strength and resilience. She is a capable and influential leader. Her experience in navigating complex social and political landscapes has likely equipped her to tackle public issues effectively.

Seema Parihar will always be remembered for her exceptional approachability and dedication to public service. She made herself available to all visitors, regardless of their background or issue, and provided a welcoming and family-like atmosphere in her office. Her willingness to lend a patient ear and provide personalized attention to each visitor's grievances has left a lasting impression on the community. Parihar's commitment to creating a congenial environment has been instrumental in building trust and fostering positive relationships between the administration and the public, added Narinder.

Seema Parihar, during her tenure, was known for her dedication to public service, inaugurating initiatives

like langer seva for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims. Narinder also lauded outgoing SDM of R.S. Pura for her outstanding efforts in organizing anti-drug programs and taking bold steps to eradicate the scourge of drugs in the region. Her initiatives have been instrumental in educating the public, especially youth, about the dangers of drug abuse, involving local residents, schools, and organizations in the fight against drugs by implementing effective measures to prevent drug trafficking and abuse.

Parihar's commitment to creating a drug-free R.S. Pura has earned her widespread appreciation and recognition. Her legacy will continue to inspire future efforts to combat this social menace, added Narinder. Narinder also welcomed the new SDM of R.S. Pura Ms Anuradha and extended his support in addressing public issues. This gesture is in line with Sharma's earlier appreciation for outgoing SDM Seema Parihar's impressive work in the tehsil.

## Dr. Narender Singh, JMC Commissioner visit Sainik Colony, address civic issues, hand over street lights

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dr. Narender Singh and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited Sainik Colony and held a significant meeting with the Sainik Colony Management Committee to discuss key civic issues affecting the area.

During the meeting, local residents submitted a memorandum to Commissioner Dr. Yadav, outlining pressing concerns such as drinking water supply, street lighting, drainage systems, and the development of local parks. Acknowledging the grievances of the community, Dr. Yadav assured the Sainik Colony Management Committee that necessary actions would be taken at the earliest to address these concerns.



MLA Dr. Narender Singh emphasized the importance of public cooperation in ensuring the effective implementation of civic projects. He urged the local community to work in tandem with the authorities to facilitate smooth and efficient development initiatives.

Furthermore, Dr. Singh stressed the need for elected representatives to collaborate closely with government departments, ensuring that developmental projects in their respective areas should be taken up expeditiously and efficiently. He reiterated his commitment to delivering

quality infrastructure and services, ensuring that the citizens do not face any inconveniences.

The meeting marked a constructive step towards resolving civic issues in Sainik Colony, reinforcing the dedication of the local administration and public representatives toward the welfare of the community.

Later, the Commissioner handed over 50 street lights to the Sainik Colony Management Committee in presence of MLA.

Speaking at the occasion, the MLA commended the efforts of JMC in addressing civic needs and reaffirmed the commitment to further infrastructural development in the region.

The Commissioner of JMC highlighted the importance of well-lit streets in fostering a safer environment and improving the overall quality of life. "This initiative is part of our broader effort to enhance civic amenities across Jammu. We remain dedicated to implementing projects that directly benefit the residents," the Commissioner stated.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Executive Engineers, (E), works, other senior officers of JMC, besides former Corporator and locals were present on the occasion.

## SCJS, VKMI jointly organize grand program highlighting significance of Navratras

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

The significance of Navratras in the life of a common man was highlighted in a grand program organized by the Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS), in association with Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI). The event, held with great enthusiasm, was graced by the presence of Vikram Randhawa, MLA, Bahu Jammu, as the Chief Guest. The program was presided over by I. D. Soni, an educationist par excellence, philanthropist, and Chief Advisor of VKMI. The event also had the distinguished presence of Rameswar Mengi, Chairman of Group of Institutions, and Rattan Lal Mahajan (Rattoo Shah), former two-time President of Ware House & Nehru Market Federation, as special invitees.

The event began with a discourse on the importance of Navratras and the New Year by Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, and H. C. Vaid, Executive Member. They elaborated on the significance of the Nine Swaroops of Maa Durga, their divine attributes, and how they inspire individuals to lead a life of virtue, discipline, and devotion.

A special highlight of the event was the birthday celebration of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman/Advisor of SCJS and President of VKMI. The occasion was marked with fervor and deep appreciation for his five decades of contribution to social welfare and yoga. The Chief Guest, Vikram Randhawa, lauded Dr. Jain's efforts in serving society and emphasized the relevance of Navratras in inculcating cultural values and social harmony.

I. D. Soni, in his speech, blessed Dr. Jain and spoke about the profound spiritual

significance of Navratras. Sh. Rameswar Mengi elaborated on the divine blessings of Maa Durga and the importance of serving society with selfless dedication. He also highlighted Dr. Jain's impactful social work.

The program witnessed the presence of many distinguished dignitaries and prominent citizens, including:

Satya Paul Sharma, State President, Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Arun Pachnanda, Vice President, Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, K. S. Samyal, President, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Shubhchander Verma, Former Corporation & President, Trikuta Nagar Development Council, Parmod Jain, Former General Secretary, SS Jain Sabha, Y. C. Thaper, Lal Singh Nag, Angrej Singh, Dr. Usha Tickoo, Vice President, VKMI, Srinagar, Prof. Virender Gupta, Rakesh Verma, Rajesh Vaid, Rishik Mengi,

Director, Pusap Vatika, B. B. Sharma, Former State President, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Arun Sharma, Regional Executive, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Sunita Mahajan, National Mahila Sahbhagita, Sunita Gupta, State President, Bharat Vikas Parishad Other members of SCJS & VKMI.

The event also featured soulful bhajans dedicated to Maa Durga, rendered by K. S. Samyal, Veena Jain, Rajesh Vaid, and Anju Bansal, which added a devotional aura to the celebration.

The program was skillfully conducted by Ashok Gupta and Ashok Khajuria, who ensured smooth coordination throughout the event. A heartfelt vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, acknowledging the active participation of attendees, their blessings, and valuable contributions. The event concluded on a patriotic note with the National Anthem.

## Real Madrid reach Copa del Rey final after eight-goal extra-time thriller

AGENCIES  
MADRID, APR 2 (UNI)

Real Madrid kept their Treble hopes alive in extraordinary fashion after Antonio Rudiger headed home an extra-time winner against Real Sociedad to book their place in the Copa del Rey final.

Substitute Rudiger climbed highest to meet Arda Guler's 115th-minute corner to flick a header beyond visiting keeper Alex Remiro, sparking wild celebrations from the home fans, the BBC reported.

In a terrific end-to-end second half, five goals were scored in 21 minutes as both sides looked to confirm their spot in the Seville showpiece.

With a 1-0 deficit to overcome from the first leg, Sociedad struck in the 16th



minute through Ander Barrenetxea.

But teenage Brazilian striker Endrick put the Madrid outfit back in front on aggregate with a fine chip for the 30th-minute leveller.

A David Alaba own goal in the 72nd minute again put the visitors ahead on the night and sparked an incredible scoring spree in an amazing climax.

Mikel Oyarzabal made it

3-1, and 3-2 on aggregate, to Sociedad eight minutes later with a low drive that also struck Alaba, but England midfielder Jude Bellingham restored parity moments later with a lovely volleyed finish.

Aurelien Tchouameni thought he had headed Carlo's Ancelotti's side into the final in the 86th minute after a horrible attempt to save from goalkeeper Remiro.

The drama was not finished there as Sociedad captain Oyarzabal rose highest to power in a header in added time to put his side back ahead, forcing extra time at the Bernabeu.

But Rudiger broke their hearts in the extra period to make it 5-4 on aggregate.

Madrid's pursuit of a first Treble still remains possible as they sit three points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona, face Arsenal in the Champions League quarter-finals and are looking to win the Copa del Rey for a 21st time.

Barcelona visit Atletico Madrid on Wednesday to determine who will play Real Madrid in the final, with their last-four tie also finely poised after an enthralling 4-4 first-leg draw.

## NSS SMVDU volunteers participated in National Integration Camp at Hisar, Haryana

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 2

NSS volunteers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently participated in the 'National Integration Camp' held at Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, from 21st to 27th March 2025. Representing the Jammu and Kashmir contingent, Ujasvi Sharma and Praveen Giri showcased their talents at this prestigious national event. The week-long camp brought together 200 NSS volunteers from across the country, providing them with a platform to interact, exchange ideas, and celebrate India's cultural diversity. Participants engaged in various activities, including morning fitness sessions, cultural and literary competitions, and academic lectures by esteemed



speakers. SMVDU's Ujasvi Sharma brought pride to the university by securing second place in the dance competition. Volunteers also explored the Agricultural Garden and Museum, gaining insights into agricultural advancements, and visited Prasar Bharati All India Radio, Hisar, on the last to share their experience about the camp. Evening cultural programs allowed participants to represent their

states' traditions through dance, music, and drama. Ujasvi and Praveen proudly showcased Jammu and Kashmir's vibrant culture, leaving a lasting impression. NSS Programme Coordinator congratulated the volunteers for their achievements, while Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, praised their dedication in bringing laurels to SMVDU and upholding the spirit of national integration.

## J&K SCARD Bank, Handwara bids farewell to Branch Head Shafqat Hussain Khan on his superannuation

JINNEWS SERVICE  
HANDWARA, APR 2

Jammu and Kashmir State cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development (SCARD) Bank, Branch Office Handwara, organized a farewell ceremony for its Branch Head, Shafqat Hussain Khan, on the occasion of his superannuation from bank service.

The event was attended by various bank officials as well as esteemed members of civil society, who gathered to honor his contributions and bid him a warm farewell. On this occasion, Tauseef War appreciated the role of Shafqat Hussain Khan during his tenure, highlighting his dedication and valuable services to the institution.

## Mitchell Hay praises New Zealand's fresh outfit after series win over Pakistan

AGENCIES  
HAMILTON, APR 2 (UNI)

After the Black Caps secured ODI series win against Pakistan, Mitchell Hay was full of praise for the young New Zealand side.

Extending their dominant run in white-ball cricket, New Zealand gained an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series with an 84-run victory over Pakistan here.

With several first team regulars away on franchise duty, the Black Caps fielded a relatively inexperienced group for the match. However, Hay emphasized that while some players may lack international caps, the team is well-rounded.

"There's some pretty experienced guys here, both



internationally and domestically, which have been great to talk to and learn from," Hay told reporters after the second ODI.

"Yeah, probably on paper, guys haven't played a lot of international cricket, but there's some experienced guys in the group still with some great knowledge to tap into, which has been

of his maiden international century, scoring a blistering 99 off 78 balls to pave way for New Zealand's win the second ODI. His partnership with Muhammad Abbas proved to be a game-changer for New Zealand, stabilizing the innings after a challenging start with the bat.

Hay acknowledged the challenging start, emphasizing the importance of absorbing pressure before taking a counter-attacking approach.

"Yeah, it was pretty tough out there to start with. It was just a time that me and Mo talked about trying to absorb a bit of pressure and then hopefully be able to apply it a bit later on," he said.

Hay fell just one run short

really cool," he said. "It's awesome that there is good competition for spots, and I think it's a good place for New Zealand cricket to be in. Hopefully, just keep pushing each other to get better and keep trying to win games for New Zealand, which is really cool," Hay said.

## 500 days to go until next FIH Hockey World Cup

AGENCIES  
LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND), APR 2

In exactly 500 days, the very first match of the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup will open the show for FIH's most prestigious global hockey event.

This edition, that will combine the Women's and the Men's World Cups, will be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.

In addition to the host countries, the teams of Germany (women) and Australia (men) won their ticket to the World Cup via the FIH Hockey Pro League last season. It is also thanks to the Pro League that the next two teams will qualify (a women's team and a men's team).

The five Continental



Championships - which will take place between July and September - will enable 5 other teams per gender to qualify.

The remaining 7 participating teams - from 16 in total per gender - will come from the World Cup Qualifiers which will take place next year, currently scheduled from February 28 to March 8, 2026.

The draw to determine the 4 pools per gender for the group stage of the World

Cup will happen shortly after these Qualifiers.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram said: "The FIH Hockey World Cup is the most prestigious of our events. This is where legends are made. A fantastic window for our top athletes to showcase their amazing skills, for the greatest delight of all hockey fans around the world. We look forward to a fantastic edition in Belgium and the Netherlands, two of the

greatest hockey powerhouses, that will involve the world's most talented female and male hockey players."

"On this symbolic day, the World Cup becomes more real than ever. With further teams qualifying soon, it really is taking shape, and I already invite all hockey fans to pencil the tournament dates in their agendas and plan a trip to Belgium and the Netherlands in 500 days," he said.

Within the two host countries, preparations are intensifying, especially in terms of the arenas that

will host the event. In the Netherlands, the capacity of the famous Wagener Stadium, located in Amstelveen, near Amsterdam, will be temporarily increased to 10,000 seats.

## MLA Akhnoor releases water in New Pratap Canal ahead of schedule to benefit farmers



JINNEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APRIL 2

MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat, today released water in the New Pratap Canal (NPC) from the Head Works Site in Akhnoor. The initiative ensures that farmers will receive ample irrigation water for the upcoming Kharif season. The event was attended by IC Xen Rajesh Gupta, AEE Mohit Bharti, AEE Sunil Sharma and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that the canal had been reopened after the completion of essential desilting and modernization works. Annually, the canal remains closed for two months for de-silting and renovation to enhance its water-carrying capacity and ensure water reaches villages at the tail end. The modernization of the New Pratap Canal worth Rs 28 Crore is being carried out in a phased manner. The works of Phase One were completed this year. The canal was closed on January 10 and has now been

reopened on April 2, ten days earlier than usual, to address the needs of farmers.

The New Pratap Canal, originating from the right bank of the Chenab River, spans 33.69 km with a discharge capacity of 438 cusecs, irrigating 9,069 hectares. Its 157 km long distribution system caters to the irrigation needs of agricultural fields in Akhnoor and Chhamb. The canal serves 96 villages and benefits lakhs of people.

MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat reaffirmed his commitment to the overall development of his constituency. He emphasized that a major portion of Akhnoor consists of agricultural land, and he is dedicated to ensuring all necessary facilities for the farming community. Furthermore, for the areas still lacking proper irrigation facilities, he is making concerted efforts to get the Kandi Canal project sanctioned to extend irrigation benefits to every corner of the constituency.

## KKR face SRH in redemption brawl at Eden Gardens

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, APR 2 (UNI)

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) will lock horns in the 15th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at Eden Gardens on Thursday, with both sides seeking a much-needed turnaround in form.

KKR's batting has been a major concern this season, with their middle order failing to click. Quinton de Kock has been the only consistent performer, while Sunil Narine is still adjusting to his role as an opener.

Venkatেশ Iyer, Rinku Singh, and Andre Russell have struggled to deliver impactful innings. The team's most recent defeat against Mumbai Indians, where they were bundled out for just 116, has further exposed their vulnerabilities.

On the other hand, SRH boasts a powerful batting unit that has the potential to take the game away in a matter of overs. However, their aggressive approach has backfired in the last two matches, leading to unexpected collapses.

Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma will be crucial at the top, while Heinrich Klaassen and Aniket Verma have shown their ability to accelerate in the middle and lower order.

Adding to the intensity

of the contest, SRH will be eager to settle scores after their heartbreaking loss to KKR in the IPL 2024 final. The memory of that defeat will serve as extra motivation for Pat Cummins' side, who will look to dominate the match from the outset.

Despite their batting woes, KKR's bowling attack remains a strong point. Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy will be crucial in the middle overs, with Narine's record at Eden Gardens—71 wickets in 60 games at an economy of 6.33—making him a formidable threat.

The pace trio of Spencer Johnson, Vaibhav Arora, and Harshit Rana has also shown promise in containing opposition batsmen.

While SRH's batting has been their biggest strength, their bowling attack has struggled for consistency. Mohammed Shami and Pat Cummins need to find their rhythm early to prevent KKR from building momentum. Young leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari, who impressed in the last game, could prove to be a key player on the Eden Gardens pitch.

Harshal Patel has been the only consistent performer, using his variations effectively in the death overs. However, Adam Zampa's struggles with length and execution

have been a concern for SRH.

Eden Gardens has traditionally favoured batsmen, with an average first-innings score of 167. However, recent high-scoring matches suggest teams batting first should aim for a total in the 190-200 range. The shorter boundaries provide an added advantage for power hitters. Weather conditions are expected to be warm with no rain interruptions.

With both teams desperate for a win, the contest is expected to be closely fought. If KKR can contain Head, Abhishek Sharma, and Klaassen early, they stand a strong chance of bouncing back. However, if SRH's batting finds its rhythm, they could emerge victorious.

SRH Predicted XI: Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Heinrich Klaassen (wk), Aniket Verma, Abhinav Manohar, Pat Cummins (c), Zeeshan Ansari, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Shami

Impact Player: Adam Zampa/Wiaan Mulder

KKR Predicted XI: Quinton de Kock (wk), Sunil Narine, Ajinkya Rahane (c), Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakaravathy Impact Player: Angkrish Raghuvanshi

## NC's Grand promises prove to be mere Election Gimmicks: Adv. Purnima Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 2

Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, has strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) for its complete failure in fulfilling the tall promises made to the people during the 2024 Assembly elections. Despite over six months passing since assuming office, the NC-led administration has not taken any concrete steps to implement its much-hyped electoral commitments, leaving the people of Jammu and Kashmir disillusioned and betrayed.

Adv. Purnima Sharma highlighted that the NC's manifesto was filled with grandiose promises aimed at misleading the public and securing votes. However, once in power, the party has conveniently ignored the very people it vowed to uplift. She pointed out that essential pledges such as providing 12 free gas cylinders annually, 200 units of free electricity per year, and free drinking water for every household remain unfulfilled.

The senior BJP leader further lambasted the NC



for its failure to generate the promised 100,000 job opportunities for the youth, a commitment that had raised expectations among the unemployed populace. Instead of taking proactive measures to address unemployment, the government has remained silent, offering no concrete policy framework or roadmap for job creation. Additionally, the much-publicized scheme of providing Rs 5,000 per month to female heads of economically weaker households has remained mere rhetoric, exposing the NC's lack of intent to empower women.

Another major area of concern highlighted by Adv. Purnima is the deteriorating healthcare scenario in the region. The NC had assured the establishment of a state-of-the-art cancer hospital, free medical insurance up to Rs 5 lakh for terminal diseases, and the creation of village and mohalla clinics. However, no tangible progress has been made

in this direction. The delay in executing these critical health initiatives is a clear indication of the party's disregard for the well-being of the people.

She also criticized the NC for failing to establish the Minority Commission, a key promise aimed at safeguarding the rights of minority communities. Furthermore, commitments such as free education up to the university level, enhanced old-age and widow pensions, and a comprehensive state health policy remain mere words on paper.

Adv. Purnima Sharma accused the National Conference of engaging in deceptive politics and making hollow promises to gain power. She asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a government that prioritizes development, governance, and welfare rather than indulging in empty rhetoric. She urged the NC-led administration to take immediate steps to fulfill its commitments or be prepared to face the ire of the public in the upcoming elections.

The BJP, she affirmed, will continue to hold the government accountable and stand by the people in their fight for justice and development.

## DC presides over Weekly Block Diwas programme at Battal Ballian- Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 02

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today visited Panchayat Battal Ballian and interacted with the local residents at the weekly Block Diwas programme.

The DC patiently listened to numerous public grievances and developmental demands raised by the local people.

The event was attended by DDC Member Udhampur-1 Puran Chand; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; Programme Officer Poshan Subash Dogra; General Manager District Industries Centre Kishore Singh Katoch along with other district officers, former Sarpanches, Panches and a large number of people



from adjoining panchayats.

During the interaction, the local people highlighted several key issues and demands including Education & Infrastructure, Additional accommodation, construction of a boundary wall and an underground water tank at GHSS Battal Ballian, installation of solar lights, addressing acute drinking water shortages, installation of transformers and electricity poles and repairing of hand pumps and the filtration plant,

blacktopping and upgradation of the local roads and the development of Balltal Chowk to ease traffic congestion, bifurcation of ration cards, clearance of pending liabilities under MGNREGA, construction of playgrounds etc. The DC assured the public that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner. She directed the concerned officers to work with dedication and commitment to ensure the timely resolution of public grievances, emphasizing

that governance must reach the doorstep of every citizen for efficient service delivery.

She also informed the public about the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, a government initiative encouraging households to install solar panels and reap the benefits of the schemes. The DC urged residents to take advantage of the scheme and directed the concerned departments to meticulously note all issues for necessary action.

## NHM J&K releases ranking of Public Health facilities on HMIS (JK e Sahaj) for Feb-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

National Health Mission J&K today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) (JK e Sahaj) for the month of February, 2025.

In the category of New GMCs of Associated Hospitals of Govt. Medical Colleges the first rank has been clinched by Govt Medical College, Kathua followed by Govt Medical College, Udhampur, Govt. Medical College Rajouri, Govt Medical College Doda and Govt.

Similarly, in the category of District Hospitals first rank has been obtained by ASYM DH Budgam, followed by ASYM DH Pulwama, DH Ganderbal, DH Reasi and DH Poonch.

Also, in the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been clinched by CHC Marh, Jammu followed by CHC Dooru, Anantnag,

CHC Bijbehara, Anantnag, CHC Banihal, Ramban and CHC Surankote, Poonch, JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration in J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat for different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres.

JK e-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Govt. of India.

Hospital Ranking has been assigned for different categories of facilities i.e. Associated Hospitals of Govt. Medical Colleges, District Hospitals and CHCs. The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of Feb, 2025, on a real time basis.

## Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out Augmentation/ stabilization of 33 KV Green land Cement tap line of Pampore-SIDCO line, the shutdown of 33KV Tapline Green Land Cement of 33 KV Pampore-SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Green Land Cement Plant, IE Khrew and IE Wuyan shall remain off while power supply to Green Land Cements, IE Khrew and IE Wuyan will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 03, 05 & 07 April, 2025.

## Chairperson DDC Baramulla distributes relief among fire affected families, appeals for further support

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 02

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, today visited Old Town Baramulla to provide aid to families affected by the recent fire in Mohalla Jalal Sahib.

During her visit, Safina Baig personally distributed two months ration kits, blankets and clothes to 31 fire victim families, contributing from her own resources.

She expressed her concern for the affected families, and urged all stakeholders to come forward and help these families rebuild their lives.

She further appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister of UT Jammu and Kash-



mir, Omar Abdullah, to provide support for the rehabilitation of these families, so they can recover from this devastating loss.

Today's visit marks the

second visit by Safina Baig to Old Town Baramulla following the fire, underscoring her continued commitment to assisting the affected community.

## Sakeena Ito reviews performance, functioning of JKBOSE

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 02

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Education and Chairman JKBOSE, Shantamanu; Director School Education Jammu / Kashmir, Special Secretary School Education department, Secretary JKBOSE and other concerned officers. The Minister evaluated key operational aspects of JKBOSE like examination processes, curriculum implementation and other IT interventions. She emphasized on strengthening board's infrastructure and streamlining



administrative mechanisms to ensure smooth academic operations and other related activities of the board. She urged the JKBOSE to incorporate advanced technological solutions for better accessibility and efficiency in the working of Board. She also underlined the necessity of timely syllabus updates, improved teacher training programs and student-centric poli-

cies to meet the evolving educational needs.

She directed the officers to declare the results of 10th, 11th and 12th classes by the end of this month so that they can join next classes without loss of any academic activities.

She called upon both the Directors to collaborate with JKBOSE for holistic development of education sector across J&K. Highlighting the need

for robust and student-friendly educational framework across Jammu and Kashmir, Sakeena Ito emphasized on continuous stakeholder engagement and proactive measures to uplift academic standards across the region.

While reviewing other measures of JKBOSE, including Equitable and Inclusive Education facility for Divyang and Children With Special Needs

(CWSN), the Minister called upon both the Directors and JKBOSE authorities to create maximum awareness among these specially abled students about benefits being provided to them. These included flexibility in academics and assessment, exemption in exam fee for CWSN with 40% or more disability of permanent nature, relaxation of 5% in pass percentage in 10th to 12th class Board examination and others. She asked them to organise regular awareness camps, involving PRIs and other tools like mass media for maximising awareness among the target group.

During the meeting, Secretary JKBOSE gave a detailed presentation on functioning of the board. She also informed the Minister about various IT interventions launched by the board for facilitation of students.

## Chief Justice for collaborated efforts to fight drug abuse

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 02

Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, today called for a collaborated and integrated approach in fighting drug menace in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

He was speaking as chief guest in a seminar on the topic "DRUG USE, ADDICTION, EFFECTS AND SOLUTIONS: A CUE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN" organised by the J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu in collaboration with the Criminologists Society of J&K at Lawyers Chambers, Jammu.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar presided over the function. The Chief Justice congratulated Advocate Rameshwar Jamwal, Balbir Singh Manhas and their team for taking up such a noble cause.

Sharing his experience, the Chief Justice revealed that during his tenure as Chairperson of SALSA, he would educate students in schools and colleges through innovative methods like nukkad natak, skits and drama in addition to interactive sessions with a panel of lawyers.



Terming lawyers as backbone of the society, the Chief Justice called upon the legal fraternity to contribute in fighting the drug menace. He also emphasized that the new criminal laws will also be instrumental in creating deterrence in the society.

Principal District and Session Judge Jammu, Yash Pal Bourney, Registrar Judicial, Sandeep Kour, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M K Sharma and a large number of Judicial Officers, Prosecution Officers and Advocates participated in the seminar.

Besides, prominent office bearers of both the organizations including Baldev Singh, Pardeep Majotra, Anshu Mahajan, Rahul Agarwal Ajay Gandotra, Sandeep Singh, R S Durswal, Ashwani Kumar, Rajiv Khajuria, Amarveer Manhas, Hemant Uppal, Deepali Kapoor, Adeep

Bandral, Chander Dev Manhas, Aman Sharma, Saksham Sharma, Hitesh Koul and Sushil Kumar.

Advocate Balbir Singh Manhas Advisor Criminologists Society, presented the welcome address while the vote of thanks was presented by Advocate Ranjit Singh.

Advocate Nirmla Kotwal, President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu highlighted the new criminal laws with special reference to dismantle terror and separatist infrastructure apart from providing strict punishment as compared to IPC.

Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, President Criminologists Society, gave a detailed key note address through a PowerPoint Presentation, elaborating how people develop criminal behaviour and how the children of the addicts are affected by their behaviour

both genetically and epigenetically. He highlighted the yogic and meditational techniques piloted by the Criminologists Society in the District Jail Jammu which have yielded 75% encouraging results. He sought the support of senior Judiciary and the Government to reach out at grassroots level to deal with this grave issue effectively. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, in his address, said that there are two major parties in the drug menace one is victim who consume it while the other who grow and peddle it. He advocated counselling and alternate therapies for the victims while suggesting deterrent punishment for the accused. He appreciated the role of some NGOs and Criminologists Society particularly and called upon the civil society to come forward to fight it in tooth and nail

## Eco-Parks thrive as local eco-Tourism Hubs in North Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 02

The Eco-Park initiatives undertaken by the Forest Department in North Kashmir are steadily transforming the region into a hub for eco-tourism.

With a significant rise in local footfall, these eco-friendly parks are playing a crucial role in environmental conservation while boosting the local economy.

These Eco-Parks, strategically established to provide sustainable recreational spaces, have become a beacon of community engagement. They offer both locals and visitors an opportunity to connect with nature while actively contributing to conservation efforts. Families, students, and nature enthusiasts are increasingly visiting eco-friendly parks such as Rajpora, Kandi, Kailwan, and Baghe-Tehseen, particularly during festive occasions like Eid-ul-Fitr.

Highlighting the success of the initiative, Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani, stated, "The Eco-Parks initiative is a part of the broader efforts to maintain Kashmir's rich ecosystem while also promoting tourism that is mindful of



environmental impact. As more locals embrace these Eco-Parks, it underscores a growing trend toward eco-conscious living and an increased understanding of the region's natural heritage."

Providing further details on the impact of these initiatives, Conservator of Forests North Kashmir emphasized that these eco-parks program have a dual impact—promoting both environmental sustainability and community well-

being. In addition to fostering awareness about conservation, the Eco-parks have also contributed to the local economy through employment opportunities and the development of small businesses catering to visitors, he added.

In a bid to further environmental awareness, the Forest Department set up special conifer sapling distribution stalls on Eid, distributing approximately 37,000 saplings among stakeholders in north

Kashmir. The success of these parks was further underscored by a cumulative footfall of 22,000 people on Eid day alone, reflecting the increasing recognition of the importance of preserving Kashmir's unique biodiversity.

With eco-tourism gaining momentum in the region, the Forest Department continues to enhance these initiatives, ensuring a sustainable and eco-conscious future for Kashmir's natural landscapes.