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**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
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Severe fatigue
- Severe skin rash
- Severe vomiting
- Severe diarrhoea
- Severe bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Lok Sabha passes Waqf Bill amidst stiff opposition



**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Notwithstanding the strong opposition and huge controversy, the landmark and controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha late tonight, with 288 members voting in its favour and 232 against it.

The legislation, which the government said seeks to improve the administration of Waqf properties and introduce technology-led management to create transparency, was passed by the Lower House of Parliament after an extensive debate which began at noon on Wednesday and went on till over 1 AM.

During the debate, which was interspersed

by heated exchanges and banter, the BJP-led government insisted that the aim behind amending the law was to make things related to the Muslim Waqf properties better.

The Opposition parties, however, expressed apprehensions, saying the move amounted to trampling upon the religious matters of Muslims.

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, while moving the amendment bill with suggestions from a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) said there was nothing in the bill that would hurt the interests of Muslims.

He said the consultation process of the JPC was the largest ever exercise carried out by a

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## RS takes up the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, APR 3

After getting approval from the Lok Sabha, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday moved The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Musliman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 in the Rajya Sabha, to get its approval.

The Bill is aimed at providing transparency in the management of the Waqf properties.

Home Minister Amit Shah and senior Ministers were present at the time of tabling the Bill in the upper house.

After moving the Bill, Kiren Rijiju said that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) had a thorough deliberation on the Bill.

He appealed to Congress party and other Opposition parties to support the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025.

Rijiju stated that the new legislation will ensure representation from all Muslim sects -- Shia, Sunni, Bohra, Aghakhani (Ismaili) -- in the Waqf Board, along with members from backward classes, making it more inclusive.

He said that in the proposed Central Waqf Board, out of 22 members, a maximum of four will be non-Muslims, while at least two members will be women. Similarly, in the State Waqf Boards, which will have 11 members, not more than three will be non-Muslim.

The Minister said that the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025, will have a new and a beautiful name, which no body will have any objection, and it will be called as "UMEED" (Unified Waqf Management

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## LG Sinha addresses Balaji Foundation's 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' at New Delhi

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' organised by Balaji Foundation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh also graced the occasion.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of Ethics, Values and National Identity in education and pointed out that Ethics and Values, guides us for the welfare of society and nation-building.

He said the deliberations and exchange of



ideas during the Summit on overarching issues in education will explore challenges and opportunities and prepare a future roadmap for educational institutions.

"In the educational journey, students develop

consciousness and their moral values become sharper. During this journey, students adopt life values like compassion, peace, truth, love, virtuous life, harmony and benevolence and collect all the experiences. All

these physical, intellectual and emotional experiences together develop student's knowledge" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the aim of National Education Policy 2020 is that

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CM to chair crucial meeting of ruling alliance MLAs today

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has convened a crucial meeting of legislators of J&K's ruling alliance on Friday morning here. The meeting is likely to discuss the alliance's response over recent transfer of 48 officers of J&K Administrative Service (JKAS) by Lieutenant Governor and "delay" in restoration of statehood.

In a sudden move, National Conference chief whip Mubarak Gul on Thursday morning informed party MLAs that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would chair



an important meeting of MLAs of the ruling alliance on Friday at Deputy Chief Minister's Fairview residence here.

"Keeping in view the importance of the meeting, all the Hon'ble mem-

bers are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting on the aforesaid date, time and venue," reads the notice, a copy of which is in possession of news agency.

Sources said the meeting has been convened to discuss recent transfers of 48 JKAS officers by LG Manoj Sinha-a move the elected government views as encroaching on its mandate.

When questioned about the emergency meeting of legislators called by the Chief Minister, NC spokesman and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said that the Prime Minister and other central leaders in Delhi have praised the mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that no one has the right to disregard this mandate. "We demand that the

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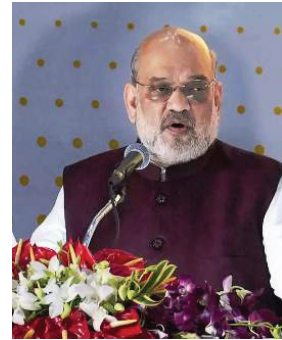
## Amit Shah to visit J&K for 3 days, arrive on April 6

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from April 6, sources told the news agency on Thursday.

They said that Shah will arrive in Jammu on April 6 and will stay there for 2-days. On April 7 evening, he will leave for Srinagar and stay there for a night. The Union Home Minister would return to New Delhi on April 8.

Sources said that during his stay in Jammu, Shah is likely to visit some of the border areas and hold separate review meetings with senior officials of var-



ious security agencies and the local administration.

"He (Shah) will discuss the progress made on various centrally sponsored developmental projects and discuss other important issues with the officials. Sources said that Shah will also review

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## Details about Kela Tunnel being gathered: Gadkari

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03 (KNO)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has stated that the information regarding the Kela Tunnel in Ladakh is being collected.

Member of Parliament Raja Ram Singh raised the question about the tunnel's approval, funding, estimated cost, timeline, and its impact on connectivity and strategic mobility in Ladakh.

He also inquired about environmental assessments conducted for the project and consultations held with key stakeholders before its approval.

In response, Minister of



Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari, as per the news agency, stated that the ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of national highways across the country.

He added that details about the Kela Tunnel

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## CM fulfils another promise: Govt raises marriage assistance to Rs 75000 for AAY category girls

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 3

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has enhanced the Financial Assistance under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) for poor girls, increasing the amount from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 for families holding Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards.

An order issued by the Department of Social Welfare stated that in partial modification of



Government Order No.49-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated March 22, 2022, the financial assistance has been increased to Rs 75,000 (one time) for eligible

AAY category girls of marriageable age under the scheme.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that it

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## Northern Railways introduces Budgam-Banihal Vistadome special train

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
QAZIGUND, APR 03 (KNO)

To accommodate the rising demand for train travel in Kashmir valley, the Northern Railway has announced the introduction of a Vistadome special train service between Budgam and Banihal.

According to an official directive, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the train service will operate six days a week, excluding Fridays, from April 5 to June 3 this year. A total of 52

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## J&K Govt enhances social pensions, fulfilling CM's another Budget Promise

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 3

In a significant step towards social welfare, the Jammu and Kashmir Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has ordered the enhancement of pensions under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS).

This move marks the fulfillment of a key commitment made by the Chief Minister in the J&K Legislative Assembly on March 7.

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## J&K guarantees smooth rollout of New Criminal Laws: MoS Home

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a comprehensive strategy to ensure the effective implementation of three new criminal laws in the region, emphasising training, technological integration and public awareness.

In Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, as reported by the news agency, revealed that several key measures have been taken, including the formation of a steering committee under the Chief Secretary and an Empowered Committee under

the Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir. These committees aim to oversee the smooth rollout of the new legislation.

He said training programmes have been organised across various platforms, including the Police Academy, Police Training Institutes, District Police Lines, and Battalion Training Centres. The translation of the new criminal laws into regional languages such as Urdu, Dogri and Kashmiri has been completed to ensure better understanding and accessibility for local communities, he added.

To raise public aware-

ness, the Jammu & Kashmir Police, in collaboration with other state departments, has been conducting joint awareness programmes across all 282 blocks, the minister said, adding that these programmes are held in the second and fourth weeks of each month, as part of an ongoing effort to engage with citizens about the new laws.

Rai said the government has also integrated cutting-edge technology into the process, with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) fully operational. This includes tools

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## 3,090 MW hydropower under construction in J&K: Govt

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03 (KNO)

Union Minister of Power, Manohar Lal informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday that Jammu and Kashmir has five under-construction hydroelectric projects with a total installed capacity of 3,090 MW.

The projects include Ratle (850 MW), Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW), and Parnai (38 MW). No under-



construction hydroelectric projects were reported in Ladakh.

As reported by the

news agency, the information was provided in response to a question raised by Sanjay Uttamrao

Deshmukh and Arvind Ganpat Sawant.

The four major projects in Kishtwar district-Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiru and Kwar-are being developed under a mix of central and joint venture models.

Ratle Hydroelectric Project, initially stalled, has been revived through an MoU between NHPC, JKSPDC, and PDD, J&K.

Meanwhile, the Parnai Hydroelectric Project

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## DLSA, Srinagar organizes awareness programme on UTRC

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 03

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) at Central Jail Srinagar.

The initiative was conducted under the able guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary of J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arif, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The primary objective of the event was to educate jail inmates about the role and significance of the UTRC in safeguarding their rights and ensuring they are not unduly detained.

The programme witnessed the active participation of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) from the Prison Legal Aid Clinic, alongside jail inmates.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel, served as the resource person and provided in-depth insights into the mandate of the UTRC.

She highlighted the committee's role in reviewing the cases of undertrial prisoners, ensuring that their legal rights are upheld, and emphasizing the importance of swift justice.



The session also covered legal remedies available to inmates, the necessity of speedy trials, and their constitutional rights within the criminal justice system.

A key focus of the programme was to inform inmates about the upcoming 2nd UTRC meeting scheduled for 15th April 2025.

Tasneem Kausar urged the inmates to come forward with their cases, particularly those falling under the 15 specified categories eligible for review under the UTRC framework.

She reassured them that the legal aid system is committed to addressing their concerns and ensuring that deserving cases are brought before the committee for consideration.

The interactive session saw enthusiastic participation from the inmates,

who engaged in discussions with the resource person and sought clarifications on various legal matters. Their involvement reflected a growing awareness and willingness to exercise their legal rights.

The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority to upholding justice, promoting legal literacy, and ensuring access to legal aid for all, particularly those within the prison system.

DLSA Srinagar remains dedicated to its mission of fostering a fair and equitable justice system. Through such initiatives, it continues to address the challenges faced by inmates and strengthen the collaborative efforts of legal services authorities in ensuring justice for all.

## District Admin Ganderbal accords farewell to outgoing officers



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 03

The District Administration Ganderbal, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Jatin Kishore, today organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony to honor the services of Additional Deputy Commissioner Gulzar Ahmad; SDM Kangan, Nuzhat Qureshi, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohammad Altaf on their transfer.

The event was attended by senior officials, including the Chief Planning Officer, ACD, ACP, and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Jatin Kishore lauded the contributions of the outgoing officers, acknowledging their dedication, professionalism, and

commitment to public service. He extended his best wishes for their future assignments and expressed confidence in their continued excellence.

In his farewell speech, ADC Gulzar Ahmad expressed gratitude to the district administration for its support during his tenure. SDM Kangan and ACR also shared their experiences, appreciating the cooperation and teamwork that contributed to their achievements.

Officials present at the event also shared their reflections, praising the leadership and dedication of the outgoing officers.

The ceremony concluded with a token of appreciation being presented to the officers as a mark of gratitude for their invaluable service to the district.

## MD JJM directs officials to upload data of works on PM Gati Shakti portal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 03

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah urged the Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of J&K to speed up the process of mapping the pipelines laid under JJM and uploading the same on PM Gati Shakti portal.

He gave these instructions today while chairing a preparatory meeting which was attended by Chief Engineers, Jal Shakti (PHE) Departments Jammu/Kashmir, Superintending Engineers (Hydraulic) Circles J&K and Executive Engineers of Civil as well



as Mechanical divisions of the UT of J&K. The meeting was held in virtual mode and all the officers attended the meeting from their respective stations.

On the occasion, he enquired about the progress achieved in uploading the pipeline and Water Testing Infrastructure created under JJM on PM Gati Shakti portal. He urged

the executive engineers to ensure that the targets set in this regard are achieved well in time.

The chair also directed the officers to rectify the errors related to data (Dump data) uploaded on IMIS portal of Jal Jeevan Mission so that a clear picture of work done is uploaded and put in the public domain.

## Chief Justice e-inaugurates Munsiff Court Complex, Ukhral

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 3

In a significant development aimed at enhancing access to justice and improving the legal infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the newly built Munsiff Court Complex, Ukhral in district Ramban, was today virtually inaugurated by Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Ransan, in presence of Justice Puneet Gupta, Administrative Judge for Ramban district.

Deepak Sethi, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ramban, Anjana Rajput, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ramban, Priyanka Mahajan, Secretary, DLSA Ramban, Suraj Singh Parihar, Bar President Ramban, Tehsildar Ukhral, Nasir Javaid besides officers and officials from High Court of J&K and Ladakh, district Judiciary, district administration and district Police, Ramban were present in the ceremony.

Deepak Sethi, Principal District & Sessions Judge, in his welcome address, expressed optimism regarding the positive impact this new facility will create in terms of reducing delays in case processing. He said that this step was not just the



opening of a new court building but enhancement of our judicial system, a commitment to justice and a promise to uphold the rule of law.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice emphasized the importance of expanding the judicial facilities across the region. He stated that this is a momentous occasion that will significantly improve the accessibility of justice for the people of Ukhral, which is a rural and far-flung area.

He also remembered the Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur who had laid down the foundation stone for the building.

Manzar Muneer, Munsiff, Ukhral presented vote of thanks.

that with establishment of this court, we are taking a crucial step towards ensuring that the legal needs of our citizens are met efficiently and fairly.

Amarjeet Singh, Bar President, Munsiff Court Ukhral, emphasized that the new Court building will play a vital role in expediting the delivery of justice, especially for the people residing in the Ukhral area and surrounding villages. He also appreciated the role of Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur who had laid down the foundation stone for the building.

Manzar Muneer, Munsiff, Ukhral presented vote of thanks.

## DC inaugurates Senior Citizens Club/Old Age Care Home at Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 03

In a significant move to bolster welfare services for the elderly, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated the Senior Citizens Club/Old Age Care Home here in the heart of Kishtwar town.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed a large gathering of Prominent and Senior citizens of the District, who expressed their heartfelt appreciation for this thoughtful initiative. The event was marked by warmth, gratitude, and a strong sense of community.

The DC highlighted the importance of such facilities in ensuring the well-being and dignity of the elderly. He acknowledged the invaluable contributions of senior citizens to society and emphasized the administration's commitment to their welfare.



The gathering lauded this initiative, describing it as a "gift to the senior citizens" by the DC, designed to provide them with a comfortable and supportive environment.

The newly inaugurated facility is equipped with modern amenities, including sports facilities, medical care services, and homestay accommodations, all aimed at promoting a healthy, active, and fulfilling lifestyle for senior citizens.

The DC urged the community to actively participate in making this initiative a success, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and support for the elderly.

The event was attended by DSWO Zubair Ahmed; CMO Dr Rajinder Kumar; MS DH Kishtwar Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; TSWO Rajesh Kumar, Senior Citizens, Prominent Citizens, besides staff from Social Welfare Department and other concerned.

## Drug de-addiction awareness programs held in Shopian schools



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 03

A Mega drug de-addiction awareness programme on thursday was organised by School Education Department District Shopian at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Shopian besides various other schools of the District.

On the occasion, Chief Education Officer Shopian Bashir Ahmad Malla, Principal BHSS Shopian other officers and officials of Department, and a large number of students participated in the important awareness programme.

The speakers emphasized on the ill effects of drug abuse and highlighted the need of taking immediate preventive and remedial measures for combatting and eradicating the menace of drug addiction and other social evils in the district.

The organisers said that the main aim of the programme was to spread awareness amongst the student community to take necessary steps for curbing the rising drug menace.

CEO Shopian, who was the chief guest on the occasion, advised the students not to indulge in drug

abuse and other social evils and instead be a role model in the field of education, sports and other activities.

Highlighting the harmful effects of drugs, he said that it starts merely as an amusement but ends up becoming addiction. The young generation is the most-affected section of drug addiction that needs to be eradicated completely from the society, he said seeking cooperation of all stakeholders.

CEO further said that the Shopian administration would lend a helping hand to anyone who was feeling stressed and ensure that youth instead engage in academic, co-curricular and sports activities.

Principal BHSS Shopian, Mohd Ashraf Allai and other speakers also spoke on the occasion and appealed to the students to stay away from the tobacco and other harmful drugs and live a healthy and peaceful life. Later a rally with participating students and teachers was taken out for the mass awareness of the people. The programme was managed by Sajad Ahmad Bhat Cultural Coordinator Shopian.

## DIPR artists promote anti-drug campaign among GDC Sidhra Students

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

A Nukkad Natak cum Cultural Awareness Programme on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Say No to Drugs) campaign was organised by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information & Public Relations here at Government Degree College Sidhra. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and encourage a drug-free society.

Artists of the Cultural Unit presented the theme-based songs and Nukkad Natak depicting real-life consequences of substance abuse and the importance of rehabilitation and awareness. The performers skillfully highlighted how drug addiction impacts individuals, families and society at large.

Speaking on the occasion, the College Principal Dr G.S. Rakwal shared his views and also made the students and the audience aware of the topic. He

appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising such a meaningful event to raise awareness among the future of the nation.

Among others, officials of different departments, staff members and students witnessed the programme.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu Atul Gupta and supervision of Cultural Office Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

## Status of Registrations on JK Samadhan Portal 2.0 reviewed in Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 03

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal today chaired a meeting to review the progress of registrations on the JK Samadhan Portal 2.0. The meeting focused on evaluating the current status of registrations, identifying gaps, and implementing measures to enhance the process.

The ADC emphasized the critical role of the portal in streamlining grievances redressal mechanism, promoting

transparency, accountability, and efficiency in addressing public complaints. He directed the line departments to maximize outreach and ensure active public participation in the registration process.

He specifically instructed Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to register left out citizens within the next five days to achieve the targets set by the government.

Furthermore, the ADC directed the Election Registration Officers (AEROs) to closely monitor the registration progress and

submit daily reports to ensure timely completion of the process.

Stressing the importance of public awareness, the ADC urged all stakeholders to actively sensitize citizens about the JK Samadhan Portal, highlighting the benefits of timely grievance registration and resolution through the platform.

The meeting was attended by ACR Idrees Lone, Tehsildars/AEROs, Deputy CEO, Supervisors, BLOs, and other concerned officials.

## DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting to review measures for curbing drug menace

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, APRIL 3

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the meeting of the District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review the measures put in place for curbing drug abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal from concerned officers regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, various issues related to menace of drug addiction, its control and rehabilitation and areas of concern.

Deputy Commissioner meticulously reviewed

the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling. She took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug-addiction and drug trafficking in the District.

DC also emphasized the Officers including Enforcement agencies for identification and close vigil of entry points, hot spots of drugs, public places and abandoned buildings.

She also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill-effects of

drugs. She sought close coordination between Health, Police, Education and other line depart-



ments for consolidated efforts towards eradication of drug menace. DC meticulously

reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treatment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara and stressed for upscaling of the therapeutic management and proper counseling of the drug addicts which can help the addicts to come out of the menace.

She also reviewed the progress of providing self employment opportunities to the drug victims who have been recovered so that they can live a dignified life in the society.

Nodal Officer for NMBA Campaign, Mudassir Ahmad also spoke and briefed the officers about the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abiyani Campaign which

is set to be launched on April 7th in the district.

Further, she impressed upon all the concerned departments to ensure their participation in the campaign for mass awareness among the people about ill effects of drugs. She directed the officers to take separate review meeting of their respective subordinate staff and field functionaries for smooth conduct of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Campaign.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kupwara, ASP Handwara, CMO, CEO, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara, Assistant Drug controller, Tehsildars, besides other concerned Officers.

## LA Speaker inaugurates Royal Health, Wellness Centre at Srinagar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 03

Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, inaugurated the Royal Health and Wellness Centre at Poloview here today.

Speaking after the inauguration ceremony, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of accessible and innovative healthcare solutions. He lauded the initiative for bringing advanced wellness practices to the region. He expressed hope that the Centre would serve as a significant step towards holistic health improvement for the community.

On the occasion, Owner of the Royal Health and Wellness Centre, Srinagar, Dr. Hamid Sofi, briefed the Speaker about the facilities being provided at the Centre.

Pertinently, the newly

launched facility aims to provide advanced healthcare and wellness services to the patients, enhancing holistic well-being in the region.

The Centre has been equipped to offer modern medical services, diagnostics and specialized wellness programs, integrating traditional therapeutic techniques with contemporary healthcare solutions to cater to the diverse health needs of the community. One of the key highlights of the Centre is its range of therapeutic services, including cupping therapy and aromatherapy.

The launch of the Royal Health and Wellness Centre marks a milestone in strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Srinagar, offering the residents a dedicated space for preventive and therapeutic wellness services.

## Sakeena Itoo conducts extensive tour of Shangus-Anantnag East Constituency

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, APRIL 03

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted an extensive tour of Shangus-Anantnag East Constituency to assess the public healthcare facilities and educational infrastructure in the area.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larimi); Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid; Director Health Services Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Social Welfare Kashmir besides other district officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While inspecting the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Shangus, Sakeena took stock of medical services, availability of essential supplies and overall patient care at the facility. She engaged with the hospital staff and enquired about the overall healthcare



delivery at the hospital. She assured them that necessary interventions would be made for infrastructural and other advanced medical care services at the facility to provide world-class healthcare facilities to the public.

The Minister also interacted with the patients and had on-spot feedback from them about the ser-

vices being provided at the hospital.

Later, the Minister visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nowgam, assessing its operational efficiency, availability of medicines as well as other facilities.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Itoo also inspected the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS),

Shangus, and took stock of its functioning.

She inspected the classrooms, laboratories and other facilities at the institution. She also interacted with the staff and the students.

Interacting with the Principal and other staff, Sakeena Itoo stressed on the importance of ensuring a conducive learning

environment in line with the NEP-2020. She assured them all possible support from the government for necessary infrastructure upgrades at the institution.

Sakeena Itoo also engaged with large number of locals at Shangus, assessing their issues and concerns.

Addressing the large gathering, Sakeena Itoo reiterated that the government is strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring that essential services reach every household and section of the society. "Healthcare and education are among the top priorities of Omar led government. We are committed towards strengthening these sectors for a brighter future of Jammu and Kashmir", she stated.

She assured the people of Shangus that their concerns regarding healthcare and public welfare will be addressed on priority.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan also addressed the gathering.

## Tawi, Ravi Canals being recharged on April 7-2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

The Irrigation Department has geared up to release waters in Tawi and Ravi Canals on the coming Monday, a departmental notification stated today.

"It is notified for the information of the public in general and farmers in particular that the water in Tawi and Ravi Canals of this department shall be released from 07.04.2025. The Executive Engineers of RCC U/Division, Kathua/RCC Lower Division Hiranagar besides TCC Division Jammu are directed to plan their activities to ensure completion of all the ongoing works well before the recharging of the canals", it stated.

The Executive Engineer concerned have been asked to constitute teams in their respective jurisdiction which shall monitor flow in canals/distributaries system during release of water as it reaches their jurisdiction to ensure its safe passage right up to tail and to avoid any untoward incident.

## DC reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Poonch District

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 3

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to evaluate the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. The meeting aimed to streamline the installation of solar rooftop systems and enhance public awareness regarding the scheme's benefits.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDCL delivered an in-depth Power-Point presentation detailing the objectives and advantages of the scheme. It was reported that out of 570 applications received, 61 solar units have already been installed, with 48 cases approved for loan schemes by banks.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer to ensure the installation of 100th solar units by April 12, 2025. He urged vendors to commence the installation of Solar Rooftop Systems (SRTs) for sanctioned appli-



cants methodically.

The DC emphasized the need for public awareness and participation. He instructed the Executive Engineer to actively involve stakeholders and enlighten them about the numerous benefits and incentives associated with the solar energy scheme.

This initiative represents a strategic effort to empower consumers and

facilitate their access to the government's solar energy program, reinforcing the commitment of the administration to sustainable energy solutions.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the pivotal role of collaborative efforts in achieving maximum outreach and ensuring the successful execution of the scheme across Poonch district.

## Sakeena Itoo inspects OPD, IPD sections of MCCH at GMC Anantnag



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, APRIL 03

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted inspection of OPD and IPD sections of Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) here today, currently functioning from newly constructed block of Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag.

During the inspection, the Minister took stock of the facilities being provided for the newly born babies and children. She interacted with the doc-

tors, staff and attendants and took appraisal from them about the facilities available.

While speaking on the occasion, Sakeena highlighted the government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that the construction on newly announced 250-bed Maternity and Child Care Hospital will commence soon. "This new facility will significantly boost the Pediatric healthcare services in South Kashmir, ensuring better treatment and care

for our children", she stated.

The Minister said that due to the congestion at MCCH Sherbagh, we have shifted some sections of the hospital to this building, adding that in coming days more facilities will be developed here for the ease of patients.

MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larimi); MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Principal GMC Anantnag, Medical Superintendents and other concerned officers accompanied the Minister during the visit.

## MLA Sonawari, DC Bandipora visit Semi Ring Road Project site Shadipora to address public concerns



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 03

In a significant step towards addressing public grievances and expediting infrastructural development, Member of Legislative Assembly for Sonawari Constituency of Bandipora District Hilal Akbar Lone, along with Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today visited under construction semi Ring Road project site Shadipora sumbal.

The visit was aimed to assess the progress of the project, address concerns raised by local residents, and ensure timely completion of the project.

During the visit, the MLA and Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals to understand their grievances regarding land acquisition, compensation, and road connectivity.

The MLA emphasized the importance of the project in enhancing transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and boosting economic activities in the area.

He assured the public that their concerns would be addressed in coordination with NHAI and other concerned departments.

Qadri, while reviewing the progress of the project, emphasized the adherence to the deadlines while maintaining quality standards. He highlighted the administration's commitment to resolve any pending issues in a transparent and time-bound manner.

During the visit, engineers and officials of NHAI briefed regarding completion timeline, challenges faced, and measures required to ensure smooth execution of the project.

MLA and Deputy Commissioner urged the officials to expedite the work while ensuring minimal inconvenience to the public. They assured continued engagement with the stakeholders to facilitate the seamless completion of the project.

SDM sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Lok Sabha passes...

parliamentary panel in India's democratic history. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his intervention, also insisted that there would be no interference in Muslim matters or properties.

Describing such apprehensions as fear-mongering for vote-bank politics, he said non-Muslims in Waqf councils and boards are only for administration, not religious affairs.

The highly contentious bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2024.

It proposes 40 amendments to the provisions of the Waqf Act, including modifications such as Muslim women and non-Muslim representation in the Waqf boards and sweeping changes in the regulation and governance of India's Waqf boards.

At present, the majority of the Waqf board members are elected, but once the new Bill formally becomes law, all the members will be nominated by the government.

The new law will make it mandatory for Waqf boards to register their properties with district collectors to ensure their actual valuation.

As per the 1995 Act, Waqf means "the permanent dedication of movable or immovable property for the purposes enshrined in Islam as pious, religious, or charitable."

Ruling NDA partners Telugu Desam and Janata Dal (United) backed the bill.

Urging the opposition to speak responsibly, Shah said a misconception was being spread, that the legislation would have a retrospective effect. He said the Bill clearly states that the Law will come into effect after the notification is issued by the Government when the Bill is passed.

Earlier in the day, Rijju introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 in the Lower House amidst pandemonium as Opposition members resorted to sloganeering and tried to disrupt the proceedings.

Rijju said the government wants "a secular and an inclusive Waqf Board" with non-Muslim members as well as women.

Rijju rebuffed Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi's allegation that this Bill is aimed at defaming and disfranchising minorities and dividing the country.

Vehemently opposing the bill on his social media handle X, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi described it as a "weapon aimed at marginalising Muslims and usurping their personal laws and property rights."

Gandhi alleged that the legislation was pushed by the RSS, BJP, and their allies and was part of a larger attack on the Constitution and undermined the rights of religious minorities. "The Waqf (Amendment) Bill is a weapon aimed at marginalising Muslims and usurping their personal laws and property rights," he posted.

"This attack on the Constitution by the RSS, BJP and their allies is aimed at Muslims today but sets a precedent to target other communities in the future," he said.

In his speech, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said, "In 2023, there were five meetings of Minority Affairs Ministry but never was there any discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill. I even doubt whether this Bill has been brought by the Minority Affairs Ministry or some other department".

He said the situation of minorities in the country has reached a point where the government now asks them to prove their religion.

He asked whether similar proof would be demanded from people of other religions to verify if they have completed five years. "Why is this requirement included in the bill? Why is the government intruding into religious matters?" he posed. UNI RBE JA AKK SSP

## RS takes up the Waqf...

Empowerment Efficiency and Development) Bill. Alleging that the UPA government engaged in "appeasement politics," Kiren Rijju stated that just before the Model Code of Conduct came into effect for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the then Congress-led UPA government denotified 123 prime properties in the National Capital belonging to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry and handed them over to the Delhi Waqf Board.

Kiren Rijju said that the Muslim community is largely welcoming the bill, and despite some opposition, he invited critics to meet with Muslim delegations who have expressed strong support for the bill.

The Minister said that the Bill was drafted following wide discussions with various stakeholders across the country. He further mentioned that over 280 organisations provided suggestions, and more than one crore individuals submitted memorandums.

It may be mentioned that the landmark and controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha late Wednesday night, with 288 members voting in its favour and 232 against it.

The legislation, which the government said seeks to improve the administration of Waqf properties and introduce technology-led management to create transparency, was passed by the Lower House of Parliament after an extensive debate which began at noon on Wednesday and went on till over 1 AM.

## LG Sinha addresses...

students should become a living source of knowledge rather than a storehouse of memories obtained from books.

"National Education Policy promotes creative imagination, ethical values and a sense of determination to contribute towards building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society," he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the educational institutions to focus on developing personalities that are perfect blend of compassion and innovation.

"Three 'H' - Head, Heart and Heritage- will help in this mission and they will also restore the broken moral link in the education system.

We need students who are proficient in algorithms, talented in their chosen field, sensitive towards social issues and also realise their duty towards nation building.

Our students should be a selfless individual as well as a skilled researcher, writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the teachers need to integrate moral values with skills needed in the modern world so that qualities like strong character and intellectual curiosity can be nurtured.

"Without unprecedented inventions, moral values alone will have no value. But it is also true that without ethics and values, cutting-edge education and skills would be aimless.

There should be conversations and not monologues in the classroom. There is a need to link innovation and growth with the ethical values of the society and integrate them with the course curriculum," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further called for encouraging hands-on, experiential and project-based learning. The young minds should be exposed to challenges of the real world. Now the time has come to take education out of the lab and into the real world, he said.

During an interactive session, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the educational reforms taking place in J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the innovative programmes launched in the UT have ensured inclusive and quality education for all.

"The talent pool within Jammu Kashmir is being provided with better opportunities. Dedicated efforts have been made to promote multidisciplinary learning, and skill development of youth. We have also actively initiated campaigns to bring dropout students back to school. Through Mission Yuva, we have prepared a blueprint to foster entrepreneurship culture at college and university level.

Schools, colleges and universities are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now. Today, J&K, with its full potential, is moving ahead towards a prosperous and brighter future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the prominent personalities and institutions are also conferred with the Bharat Shiksha Samman for their valuable contribution in the field of education.

Shri Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament; Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities; Ms Rajshri Rai, Chairperson, Balaji Foundation; educationists, experts, heads of various institutions, teachers and youth in large number were present.

## CM to chair crucial...

elect government be allowed to function without interference. As for the agenda of the meeting, it will be clarified tomorrow," he added.

On April 01, LG ordered posting of 48 JKAS officers as Additional Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners Revenue.

Sources said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is upset over the move, perceiving it trespass in the domain of elected government.

Insiders suggest that Omar today wrote to the Union Government to express his displeasure over the transfers.

Sources said the issue of restoration of statehood is also likely to come up for discussions during the meeting. "The Waqf bill and ongoing session of J&K assembly can also be discussed," he said. KNO

## Amit Shah to...

the security situation and will also inaugurate some projects in Jammu and Kashmir regions. "The security review meeting will be attended by senior officials of the Police, Army and other paramilitary forces," they added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is also likely to meet the Union Home Minister during his three-day visit to J&K, sources told KNO.

Pertinently, on Tuesday Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had told reporters that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit is not linked to the anti-terror operation underway in Kathua and its neighbourhood. "Do not link his visit to the Kathua operation. His programme was finalised before the encounter. It is a coincidence that his visit comes around this time," Omar had said. KNO

## Details about...

are being gathered and will be presented in the House. The Kela Tunnel is expected to improve connectivity in Ladakh, benefiting both civilian and defense movement.

However, specifics about funding, environmental impact, and stakeholder discussions remain unavailable for now. The government has not provided a timeline for when the details will be shared. KNO

## CM fulfils another promise...

is "a step towards dignity and empowerment. "Our government stands committed to uplifting every household in need. This support will be directly credited before marriage via DBT," he remarked.

The decision follows Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Budget Speech on March 7, in which he announced a series of pro-poor initiatives, including the enhancement of marriage assistance for AAY-category girls. The revised scheme will take effect from April 1, 2025.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the financial aid will be directly transferred to the beneficiary's bank account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system before the marriage.

In another major welfare initiative, the J&K government has approved the distribution of additional food grains free of cost to AAY households with four or more members under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

This move aims to strengthen food security for the region's most vulnerable families and fulfills a key commitment made in Budget 2025-26.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hailed the initiative as a significant pro-people decision, emphasizing that the government is delivering on its promises. "We are committed to ensuring food security for our most vulnerable families. Under this initiative, all AAY households will receive additional food grains free of cost. Each beneficiary in a family with 4 or more members will get up to 10 kg of food grains, reinforcing our commitment to social welfare," he stated.

Furthering his Government's commitment to wom-

en's empowerment, the Chief Minister had also flagged off the Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative—a free Government bus service for women—on April 1 from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Speaking at the launch event, CM Omar Abdullah said, "This initiative will create an environment where women feel empowered to travel freely, without financial constraints. It marks another step towards ensuring gender equality and mobility for women across Jammu and Kashmir." The Omar Abdullah-led Government has fulfilled yet another promise by implementing Zero Stamp Duty on property transfers through Gift Deeds within blood relations. In this regard, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued S.O. 75, dated 27th March 2025, under Section 9(a) of the Stamp Act, 1977, to remit Stamp Duty on such transfers.

The term "Blood Relations" includes parents, siblings, children, and grandparents. This notification has come into force w.e.f. 1st April 2025.

## Northern Railways...

trips in each direction will be conducted during this period.

The special train will feature a Vistadome coach, offering passengers panoramic views of the picturesque Kashmir Valley, along with other standard coaches.

The train from Budgam will depart at 08:35 AM, halting at Srinagar, Awantipura, Anantnag, and Qazigund before reaching Banihal at 10:40 AM. The return journey from Banihal will commence at 6:40 PM, reaching Budgam at 8:20 PM.

Railway officials said that this initiative aims to facilitate smooth passenger movement and boost tourism in the valley.

The Vistadome coach, known for its glass roof and large windows, will enhance the travel experience by providing breathtaking views of the valley.

"This initiative will not only boost local tourism but also encourage travellers from across the country to explore Kashmir in a unique and comfortable way," officials said. KNO

## J&amp;K Govt enhances social...

As per the revised structure, effective from April 1, 2025, pension beneficiaries will receive increased financial assistance.

"This is not just assistance—it's our commitment to an inclusive and caring welfare state," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated.

Individuals below 60 years of age will now receive Rs 1,250 per month, while those aged between 60 and 79 years will be entitled to Rs 1,500 per month.

Senior citizens 80 years and above will receive a monthly pension of Rs 2,000, ensuring better support for the elderly. As per the order, the government has announced significant enhancements in social pensions under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) to provide better financial support to vulnerable sections of society.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), the pension for individuals aged 60-79 years has been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500, while those aged 80 years and above will now receive Rs 2,000 instead of Rs 1,000.

Similarly, under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), widows aged 40-59 years will receive Rs 1,250 (earlier Rs 1,000), those aged 60-79 years will receive Rs 1,500 (earlier Rs 1,000), and widows 80 years and above will now receive Rs 2,000.

Additionally, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) has been revised, with pensions for disabled individuals in the 18-59 years category raised to Rs 1,250, those 60-79 years receiving Rs 1,500, and those 80 years and above now receiving Rs 2,000.

Furthermore, under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), which is UT-funded, pension rates have been revised across multiple beneficiary groups.

Old Age Pensions have been increased to Rs 1,250 for females aged 55-60 years, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those aged 80 years and above.

Similarly, Widow/Divorcee Pensions have been enhanced to Rs 1,250 for widows below 60 years with a legal marriageable age, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

The Disability Pension has been revised to Rs 1,250 for those below 60 years, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

A similar structure applies to the Transgender Pension, ensuring increased financial assistance across all age categories.

## J&amp;K guarantees smooth...

like e-Sakshya, an audio-video recording application for Investigation Officers (IOs), as well as the functionality to send e-summons, SMS, and emails.

In terms of training, 975 Gazetted Officers, 60,890 police personnel, and 254 Judicial Officers have already received instruction on the new criminal laws, the minister said, adding that 191 Master Trainers have been trained through the Training of Trainers (ToT) program, and 118 personnel received specialized training at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar. Jammu & Kashmir Police have also embraced the iGoT Karmayogi platform, with 50,984 personnel completing over 121,000 courses, including 110,773 focused on the new criminal laws. Rai said.

To monitor the implementation, review meetings are held regularly. "The Chief Secretary conducts bi-weekly meetings, while the Principal Secretary (Home), DGP, and senior police officials meet weekly. Reports from these meetings are circulated internally within the government to ensure continuous oversight," the minister said. KNO

## 3,090 MW hydropower...

(38 MW) in Poonch is being implemented under the J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

The minister also outlined several government measures aimed at ensuring the timely completion of hydroelectric projects, including IT-based monitoring, dispute resolution mechanisms, and policies to minimize delays and cost overruns. KNO

## Indian Army distributes Blankets to Bakarwal Community at Satharban, Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 03 APR 2025

In a heart-warming display of humanitarian efforts, a Goodwill event was conducted today in Satharban, where blankets were distributed to the Bakarwal community from the remote areas of Satharban, Rathanpathri, and Barari. This initiative exemplifies the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the Bakarwal community, who are often subjected to the harshest of weather conditions, especially during their migratory journey. The event was organized with the aim of providing immediate relief to the Bakarwals, ensuring they received essential winter gear to combat the extreme cold, which is particularly difficult during the migratory period. By offering these blankets, the Indian Army has not only addressed the practical needs of the community but has also reinforced its long-standing bond with the people of this region. The

distribution of the blankets was accompanied by a series of interactions between Indian Army and members of the Bakarwal community, fostering greater understanding and goodwill. This initiative underscores the continued effort to build strong, lasting relationships between the armed forces and local communities. The Indian Army is committed to the welfare of the Bakarwal community, and this event is a small part of our larger efforts to support them in times of need. The Indian Army will continue working towards strengthening the ties between the armed forces and local communities and ensuring their well-being, especially during challenging times like the winter season. The event not only exemplifies the Indian Army's humanitarian spirit but also demonstrates the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring the well-being of all citizens, particularly those living in remote and challenging conditions.

## NSS SMVDU organized a creative session to express gratitude towards Parents



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

The National Service Scheme (NSS) successfully organized the heartfelt event 'Grateful Hearts, Loving Hands', where 80 enthusiastic participants enthusiastically participated in the event. The event aimed to recognize and honor the relentless efforts of parents by encouraging students to create personalized gratitude cards. Participants poured their emotions into beautifully crafted cards, using colors, heartfelt messages, and creative designs to express their deep appreciation. The event fostered a sense of gratitude and strengthened the bond between parents and children and their parents. Speaking about the

initiative, Abikash Gupta and Kriti Mahajan came up with this idea to help students recognize the efforts done by parents. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, mentioned that, "In today's fast-paced world, we often forget to acknowledge the sacrifices our parents make for us. This event was a small but meaningful effort to remind students of the importance of expressing gratitude." The event concluded with participants sharing their experiences and emotions, making it a truly touching and memorable occasion. NSS continues to promote such initiatives that inspire kindness, appreciation, and social awareness among students. Our other volunteers Mudit Sharma and Rishiv Bhargav also helped in coordinating the event.

## Indian Army conducts Lecture on Youth Career Counselling at Dharamkot, Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA: 03 APR 2025

As a part of ongoing process of educating the local population lecture on "Youth Career Counselling" was conducted at Dharamkot by the Indian Army. This is a critical aspect of your personal growth, development and the direction in life of youth. Career awareness is about exploring

your options learning about different fields and choosing a path that aligns with your interest's skills and values. During the campaign. Mr Trun Singh elucidated various points about government schemes. He educated them in detail on various schemes like PMKVY, Financial assistance for skill training Vidya Kaushal and skill Development for minorities etc.

## Doda celebrates Milestone in Education and Sustainability

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 03

In a groundbreaking achievement, Doda district has successfully delivered 5,000 recycled school desks to government schools across the region, marking a significant milestone in education and sustainability. This innovative initiative, implemented by Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA), funded by SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited under their flagship CSR initiative MASS (Mantra for Advance Sustainable Solution) and supported by the District Administration Doda, showcases a pioneering approach to environmental conservation and resource utilization.

The culmination ceremony, held here in Community Hall, was attended by DDC Chairman Dhanan Singh Kotwal; Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh; DDC Vice-Chairperson Sangeeta Bhagat; Founder & Director, IPCA Ashish Jain and Secretary IPCA Ajay Garg and other Officers of District



Administration. The event featured a lamp-lighting ceremony, the inspection of a stall showcasing a skit on "Plastic Waste Management," and the release of a booklet titled "Shaping the Future of Waste Management."

In his address, DDC Chairman Dhanan Singh Kotwal highlighted the need for better infrastructure in schools, calling this initiative a significant step towards enhancing the education system in Doda.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh praised the contributions of all stakeholders and empha-

sized the importance of these steps in enhancing the education system in the district. "A student's bright future is our aim," he added.

The Director IPCA, while promising further collaboration, stressed on the need for plastic waste segregation and reuse to prevent soil and water pollution.

The flagship MASS Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative has successfully transformed low-value plastic waste into high-impact recycled products, promoting sustainable waste management practices and

improving educational infrastructure.

Certificates were distributed to acknowledge the efforts of contributors and stakeholders, and a cultural program was held to celebrate this achievement.

In a pledge to further environmental conservation, attendees vowed to promote waste segregation, recycling, reducing, and making the environment free of pollution.

This initiative serves as a model for innovative approaches to education and sustainability, and its impact is expected to be felt for years to come.

## GCOE Jammu organises awareness rally themed "Stay away from drugs"

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

NCORD Committee of Government College of Education, in collaboration with Social Reform Charitable Trust on Thursday organised a Rally-cum awareness campaign themed "Stay away from drugs." The College Principal Dr.(Prof.) Jyoti Parihar led the event in the presence of esteemed speaker S.K Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and his team.

The event was initiated with a warm and engaging welcome speech by Convener NCORD Committee, Prof. Sunanda Rani.

In his address, the State Yoga Commissioner captivated the audience with a

heartfelt poem highlighting the dangers of drug addiction and emphasizing the importance of saying no to drugs. His other team members also shed light on this sensitive issue.

To enhance the impact of the event, the participants solemnly pledged to "Say No To Drugs". To add depth to the event, a rally was organised and flagged off by Prof. Sunanda Rani in presence of Dr. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Dr.Ambica Kumari along with the students to raise awareness about drug abuse. A formal vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Ambica Kumari.

The event concluded with the distribution of refreshment to the stu-

## Girls' Sports competitions held in Doda to promote Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 03

In line with the directives of the District Development Commissioner, Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports organized girls' sports competitions under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. The event, held in two zones—Bhaderwah and Bhallessa—aimed to promote the empowerment of girls through sports and encourage their active participation in physical activities.

A total of 90 girls from different institutions and panchayats of twin zones participated in the competitions. Zone Bhaderwah hosted Kabaddi, while Zone Bhallessa organized a Volleyball competition, allowing young athletes to showcase their skills,

teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The initiative emphasized the importance of providing equal opportunities to girls in both education and sports, fostering confidence and leadership qualities among them.

The event not only celebrated the sporting talent of young girls but also served as a platform to raise awareness about gender equality and the importance of empowering the girl child.

Encouraging participation in sports plays a crucial role in breaking stereotypes and inspiring young girls to pursue their dreams fearlessly. The initiative was widely appreciated by the participants and community members, reinforcing the message of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and the role of sports in shaping a progressive society.

## Javed Rana lauds efforts of stakeholders in achieving target under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

Jammu and Kashmir has successfully met its ambitious goal of planting 150 lakh seedlings under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

Lauding the achievement of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana credited it to the collective efforts of government agencies, village-level institutions, local people and other stakeholders.

"The aim of the campaign is to contain land degradation and promote restoration of degraded land for a sustainable future," he said adding that the campaign aligns with the quest for sustainable development. He commended the efforts of Forest department in leading the campaign saying that tree plantation raises awareness about environmental sus-



tainability and the importance of afforestation.

"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was launched across the country to encourage the people to plant a tree as a mark of love, respect and honour for their mothers and pledge to protect trees and earth.

The Forest Department led the campaign for planting 1,50,18,803 saplings in J&K, involving the students, NGOs, security forces, government departments, citizens and

nature lovers.

Under the initiative, the Forest department and its wings planted 91 lakh plants on forest and non-forest lands. Besides, it distributed 59 lakh plants among various stakeholders for planting at various locations throughout the Union Territory.

More than one lakh plants were planted by Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and about two lakh plants were distributed on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Javed Rana complimented various sections of the society for their contribution in achieving the target. He said that each stakeholder has made substantial contributions to this initiative, demonstrating a collective commitment towards sustainability, green cover enhancement and fostering public engagement.

"It was heartening to see how enthusiastically people embraced the campaign, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship for the well-being of future generations. We would not have been able to achieve the target without the active participation of the local people" he said.

During the campaign, the forest department sensitised the locals about the importance of tree plantation in combating the climate change and enhancing greenery.

## Rahim Rather assesses status of damaged approach wall of Badipora Sogam Bridge



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, APRIL 03

Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited Badipora Sogam to assess the status of damaged approach wall of the Badipora Sogam Bridge, which collapsed recently due to heavy rainfall. During the visit, the Speaker had a detailed appraisal of the ongoing works from the Executive Engineer of concerned executing agency. He directed them to maintain high quality of

restoration works on the bridge. He further asked them to avoid any further delay and complete the restoration works within the stipulated time frame.

Interacting with the local residents on the occasion, Abdul Rahim Rather assured them that the administration is committed towards resolving the infrastructure challenges efficiently.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer briefed the speaker about the status of ongoing restoration works.

## Union Secretary, Food & Public Distribution visits J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

Union Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Sanjeev Chopra today visited Jammu and reviewed the functioning of Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and FCI here.

He also assessed the status of implementation of schemes and other reforms across Jammu and Kashmir.

Interacting with the officers of the FCS&CA Department, J&K and FCI, J&K, here, the Union Secretary hailed the efforts made by the department in making the Public Distribution System clean and efficient. He asked the officers to continue these efforts and take follow up actions on suspect beneficiaries, whose details are being shared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, with States/UTs.

The Union Secretary while advising the Department to share details of savings made, subsequent to implementation of Optimized Route Plan, also instructed the FCI to make available food grains in different districts as per Route Optimization Plan. The Union Secretary also reviewed the operations of FCI, J&K region.



While reviewing the wheat procurement in the J&K region, he emphasized that FCI and FCS&CA J&K should make all out efforts to ensure procurement of wheat and try achieve the target fixed by GOI in RMS 2025-26.

Earlier, in his presentation, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Zubair Ahmad presented an overview of the functioning of the department with stress on new initiatives and issues flagged by Central Government.

He informed the Union Secretary that the Department is presently providing free and subsidised food grains to 24.76 lac households, comprising 98.81 lac beneficiaries in J&K. While 67 lac beneficiaries are provided free foodgrains every month under PMGKAY, another 31.75 lac beneficiaries are provided food grains at highly subsidised rate in

NPHH group. He also said that the distribution network across J&K is built around 6622 sale outlets and 6390 such outlets are presently working in an online mode. He added that Aadhaar authentication rate of 95% has been achieved in distribution process by now.

He also informed that after achieving 100% Aadhaar seeding, the Department has completed e-KYC of 87% beneficiaries under NFSA and 75% of beneficiaries in Non Priority Households group. He also apprised the Union Secretary that the department has started implementation of Route Optimization Plan in eight districts of J&K on trial basis and complete implementation across all the districts would commence in the month of June, 2025.

The Union Secretary was also apprised about

the status of implementation of SMART PDS in J&K. Regarding One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC), the Union Secretary was informed that till now 1.66 lakh interstate and 29.33 lakh intrastate transactions were made under NFSA alone, taking J&K to 9th position in the country.

Later, Sanjeev Chopra also visited Fair Price Shop at Jhajjar Kotli and interacted with the dealer and the beneficiaries. He advised the officers to undertake updation of mobile numbers of beneficiaries and also emphasized on enhancing the viability of FPSS.

The Union Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Director, FCS & CA Jammu, Rifat Kohli; General Manager, FCI, L.Chatru Naik and other officials of the Department.

## ADDC Shopian kick-starts sale of Hi-Tech vegetable seedlings

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, APRIL, 3

Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone in presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian, Farooq Ahmed and other officials of the Agriculture department kick-started the sale of Hi-Tech vegetable seedlings at Shopian, today.

The sale of seedlings including Cauliflower, Cabbage, broccoli and other vegetables was held at Green House, Mini Secretariat, organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian. The sale witnessed a overwhelming response of vegetable growers from Shopian and adjacent areas.

## Desilting of Bhagwati Nagar Escape Channel starting in next 3 days: I&FC department

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department today clarified that the desilting of Escape Channel of the Ranbir canal originating at Bhagwati Nagar is being started in the next 2 to 3 days.

Responding to a News about appearing a section of press reporting on poor sanitation, the Department clarified "The Escape Channel besides playing a vital role in protection of MRC structure during flood season also feeds Bhadrere Supply channel, Bhadrere khul and

Seora khul to provide irrigation to 600 Ha of CCA falling in 2 villages viz. Bhadrere and Seora which is minor as compared with the total CCA of 38000 Ha of the entire Ranbir canal. As per the agreement, the desilting work of the Escape channel and these khuls is done in the month of April every year as the farmers along these khuls do not allow passing the vehicles through their fields in view of the standing wheat crops and water is supplied to them ending April as per their demand. Moreover, the initial 300m stretch of the escape channel, which came

into the alignment of the piers of the flyover near Bhagwati Nagar under construction by the NHIDCL, has not been reconstructed by them till date as per the agreement despite repeated requests. NHIDCL will make some temporary arrangements by construction of an earthen channel, which shall be completed within a day or two as assured by them. Accordingly, the work of desilting of the Escape channel between RD 320 m to 1350 m and the associated khuls will be taken up within 2-3days and shall be completed next week."

## EDITORIAL

## J&amp;K fast emerging as Sports Hub!

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly transforming into a vibrant sports hub, thanks to substantial improvements in infrastructure and the regular organization of sporting events. A recent report presented in the Rajya Sabha highlighted this positive trend. The report highlights the growing significance of sports as both an economic driver and a cultural unifier in the region. Over the past few years, there has been a concerted effort to develop world-class sports facilities in Jammu and Kashmir. The renovation of key stadiums like the Bakshi Stadium and M.A. Stadium under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), with a combined investment of Rs 97.85 crore, demonstrates the government's commitment to fostering a strong sporting culture. However, the Panel also noted a significant gap between the Budget Estimates (BE) and the actual allocation of funds for sports development. While the proposed budget for 2025-26 stood at Rs 67.03 crore, only Rs 20 crore was allotted, primarily to meet prior liabilities. The 'Khelo India' initiative has played a pivotal role in nurturing young talent in the region. With regular competitions in cricket, martial arts, volleyball, athletics, and other sports, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented rise in sports participation. This has enabled local athletes to gain exposure and qualify for national and international tournaments. The Parliamentary Committee acknowledged that this initiative is not only helping to engage youth constructively but also serving as a medium for promoting peace and stability in the region. Despite the visible progress, some concerns remain regarding the implementation of sports projects. The facelift of MA Stadium in Jammu, completed at a cost of Rs 42.17 crore, was recently scrutinized by a BCCI-appointed team for various shortcomings in its renovation. Such lapses highlight the need for better oversight and accountability in infrastructure development. Ensuring that the allocated budget is utilized effectively and that quality standards are met should be a top priority for authorities. The rise of Jammu and Kashmir as a sports hub is a testament to the resilience and determination of its athletes. With improved infrastructure, enhanced training facilities, and continuous government support, the Union Territory is poised to produce champions who can compete at the highest levels. However, addressing financial discrepancies, ensuring the quality of infrastructure projects, and sustaining the momentum of initiatives like 'Khelo India' will be crucial in solidifying the region's reputation as a sports powerhouse. Jammu and Kashmir's sports renaissance is more than just about athletics; it is about economic growth, cultural integration, and offering a positive path for the youth. The progress achieved so far is commendable, but continued investment and effective governance will determine how far the region can go in becoming a true sporting powerhouse in India.

## Startups – Igniting India's Innovation Revolution

BY PIYUSH GOYAL

After the spectacular success of the Mahakumbh at Prayagraj Sangam, it is time to celebrate the confluence of three streams of development -- innovation, job creation and entrepreneurship, carrying forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of vikas (development) and virasat (heritage) for a vibrant India.

The three streams will converge at the Startup Mahakumbh on April 3. Like the awe-inspiring spiritual gathering at Prayagraj, the Startup Mahakumbh is being organized on a grand and global scale.

The event will bring together over 3,000 startups, 1,000+ investors, 500+ speakers, and more than 15,000 delegates and business visitors from across the globe, with participation from over 50 countries. It will be a powerful platform for startups to explore collaborations, mentorship, funding, and access to new markets. With dedicated masterclasses, knowledge sessions, and networking forums, the event will not only fuel innovation but also inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs to launch their own ventures.

Also, at this year's Maha-

kumbh, a three-tier investor-led jury process would select 150 finalists in what will be India's largest private sector funded Grand Innovation Challenge with a Rs. 50 crore prize pool.

Innovation - Be it the game of chess or the concept of 'zero' in ancient India, or the UPI, Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan of today, innovation has always been a part of the Indian DNA. New ideas, innovative goods and services achieved through healthy research and development will propel India in its mission to become a developed country by 2047. Appropriately, the theme of the event is Startup India @2047.

PM Modi's Vision - In his independence day speech in 2015, PM Modi articulated his vision of making India a global startup hub and transforming the country into a nation of job creators. Shortly thereafter, the transformational Startup India initiative was launched.

This initiative of PM Modi has unleashed a groundswell of youthful energy that is transforming India's entrepreneurial landscape. The number of registered startups has risen exponentially from just about 500 in 2016 to about 1.7 lakh now. These ventures are spread across

more than 55 sectors including Fin-tech, Deep-tech, Ed-tech, Nano-tech, Bio-tech, Space-tech, Agri-tech and Health-tech, helping India emerge as a cradle of major technology-driven entrepreneurship.

The Government is also actively taking initiatives to support funding of startups. In last year's budget, our Government abolished the Angel Tax, a move that was applauded by new entrepreneurs. This year, the budget launched a new Rs 10,000 crore Fund of Funds.

Jobs & Solutions - Government registered startups have created 17.69 lakh direct jobs on Jan 31, 2025. In addition, they are providing cutting-edge solutions to real-world challenges. Revolutionizing breast cancer detection with non-invasive, AI-powered thermal imaging technology; simplifying rural trading by connecting farmers directly with buyers; providing affordable and efficient payment gateway solutions; creating impressive eco-friendly products that convert waste to wealth; securing our cyberspace are only a few among many examples of the challenges addressed by our startups for India and the world.

Our startups are also very nimble and quick footed. During

the COVID-19 pandemic, startups that had developed strong analytical solutions, drones, telecommunications platforms, etc. quickly pivoted to leverage these technologies for contact tracing, quarantine monitoring, and developing dashboards for war rooms. They had a key role in producing critical equipment such as PPE kits, ventilators, and sample collection products and services.

Entrepreneurial Culture - The Startup India initiative has significantly transformed the entrepreneurial mindset across the country. Where once families sought comfort of a secured job, today they encourage and take deep pride in the entrepreneurial adventures of their young family members. This is driving our energetic youth to become job creators instead of job-seekers.

Ventures born out of such energy are scaling new heights. The number of Indian unicorns having more than a billion dollar valuation has jumped from less than 10 before 2016 to more than 110 today, with a collective valuation of over USD 385 billion, according to industry estimates.

Support in Public Procurement - Our Government has made a special provision of preferential treatment for eligible startups in

the Government e Marketplace (GeM). This platform gives sellers transparent and corruption-free access to procurement by Government departments, thereby helping entrepreneurs bypass complex procedures and entrenched vested interests that operated before its launch.

GeM has enabled 29,780 government registered startups fulfil 4,09,155 orders worth Rs 37,460 crore with the help of democratised market access, easy product listing and relaxation in the requirements of turnover and experience in public procurement.

Beacons of New Bharat - Today, startups are beacons of hope of New Bharat. The thriving startup ecosystem is transforming the Indian economy to enhance the 'Ease of Living' for our citizens.

The Mahakumbh at Prayagraj showcased India's spiritual grandeur to the world and made our youth proudly embrace our culture, heritage and beliefs. The startup ecosystem built and nurtured by PM Modi is helping the youth embrace the entrepreneurial culture that will make Bharat a global powerhouse of innovation, new technology and new ideas.

## Parents need less screen time, students need more

SAKSHI SETHI

In today's digitally driven world, technology seamlessly integrates into every aspect of our lives. From smartphones and tablets to laptops and smart TVs, screens constantly dominate our daily routines. While, parents may struggle with excessive screen time, students must cultivate digital skills to excel in academics and future careers.

Achieving a balanced approach that limits parental screen time while, fostering students' technological proficiency is essential for overall well-being and development. In today's digital era, parents often juggle numerous responsibilities, including work, household chores and parenting. The temptation to scroll through social media, watch videos or binge on series for relaxation leads to excessive screen time, digital fatigue and mental exhaustion resulting from excessive screen time. Furthermore, research indicates that during the COVID-19 pandemic, screen time increased significantly, with adults spending between 3 to 7.5 hours daily on digital devices resulting in heightened levels of stress, anxiety and depression.

Addressing digital fatigue

requires conscious efforts to balance professional responsibilities with personal well-being. Implementing strategies such as setting boundaries for screen use, incorporating regular breaks and prioritising offline family activities can help alleviate the negative impacts of excessive screen time. Moreover, excessive screen time among parents can set a negative example for children. Children are likely to emulate the behaviour they observe, reinforcing a cycle of digital dependency within the household. It is essential for parents to consciously reduce their screen exposure to foster healthier lifestyles for themselves and their children. On the hand students live in a world that demands digital literacy.

Schools today are increasingly incorporating technology into the curriculum, from virtual learning platforms to coding programs, with the recent introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics.

Developing technological competence not only enhances the academic performance of the students, but also prepares them for future careers that are predominantly technology-driven.

By mastering digital tools,

they can harness creativity, solve real-world problems and develop critical thinking abilities. Promoting healthy use of technology can help parents reduce unnecessary screen time while promoting productive digital engagement for students. Here are some practical strategies that can help achieve this balance:

1. Establish screen limits: Parents can create structured guidelines for screen use by setting specific schedules for themselves and their children.

For instance, inspired by initiatives like the 'No Phone Zone' campaign seen in many documentaries, where families designate areas like dining rooms and bedrooms as tech-free zones.

Similarly, schools that implemented smartphone bans, as shown in 'Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones' demonstrated the positive impact of reduced screen time on student focus and family engagement. By following such examples, parents can promote meaningful face-to-face interactions at home.

2. Set a positive example: Children tend to mimic their parent's behaviour. For example, inspired by the documentary Screenagers, families who

reduce screen time and prioritise activities like reading, hobbies or outdoor play often see their children follow suit.

3. Encourage productive technology use: Not all screen time is detrimental. Encourage students to use technology for educational purposes such as researching, learning coding languages, or engaging in creative design. Platforms offering online courses, educational games and interactive simulations provide immense learning opportunities.

4. Promote digital literacy: Parents and educators can work together to promote digital proficiency. For instance, initiatives by the Indian Government like Atal Tinkering Labs encourage students to learn coding, robotics and digital innovation.

5. Monitor and guide: While students should explore technology, parental supervision remains crucial. For example, platforms like YouTube Kids and Netflix offer parental controls and content filters to ensure age-appropriate viewing.

6. Promote offline activities: Balance is key. Encourage students to engage in physical activities, sports and creative pursuits offline. Similarly, parents should prioritise offline hobbies, reduc-

ing their reliance on screens for leisure. There is no denying that educational institutions play a pivotal role in ensuring students develop robust tech skills.

Schools should organise coding boot camps, robotics workshops and digital literacy seminars at regular intervals. Collaborating with industry professionals to introduce students to real-world applications of technology can further enhance their learning experience.

Parenting workshops, digital detox challenges and support groups provide valuable resources and motivation to reduce screen dependence. In the digital age, while parents benefit from reducing their screen time, students gain significantly from developing technological competence.

By setting boundaries, fostering digital literacy and promoting offline activities, families can strike a healthy balance. Ultimately, the goal is not to eliminate technology but to use it purposefully and mindfully, empowering the next generation while nurturing meaningful human connections.

(The writer is an educator. Views expressed are personal)

## Growing burden of ADHD in India

HIMANI NARULA KHANNA

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), is the most common neurobehavioral disorder that affects about two-seven per cent of children around the world. These may consequently lead to long-term negative outcomes in terms of poor educational achievement, lack of employment opportunities and various forms of delinquency. While, socially, the presence of a super-active child can also raise the level of anxiety among others around them, creating tension in relationships between the child and its parents and between the child and siblings. Other adult ADHD-related mental issues such as emotional imbalances pose additional challenges - anger management problems, mood swings, depression, and an inability to cope with maintaining any relationship or workplace stability. Also common are behavioural

issues that could involve any form of addiction, substance abuse, or chronic boredom. The prevalence study in Coimbatore, called "Prevalence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Primary School Children," suggested ADHD in children approximately 11.32 per cent, a number much higher than the global estimate. The highest prevalence was noted in children aged nine (26.4 per cent) and 10 (25 per cent).

School-based and hospital data point to Indian ADHD prevalence varying from 4.7 per cent to 29.2 per cent. Many studies regarding child ADHD prevalence have spread throughout India's broad territory. Numerous research studies demonstrating prevalence rates have adopted a limited geographic focus which led to significant variations among observations. Research in Dehradun (North India) revealed a prevalence of 11.8 per cent of ADHD diagnoses.



Results showed the ADHD prevalence among primary school children was 5.7 per cent in Belagavi South Indian locale and two neighbouring towns in the same area stated a 2.3 per cent prevalence. Research evidence indicates the ADHD prevalence gap between different regions stems from the combination of lower regional awareness and greater cultural tolerance for development differences along with local treatment stigmatisation and resource availability and assessment techniques and research methodologies. In diagnosing ADHD,

a combination of screening and testing may include a behavioural analysis through a Conners Rating Scale. Treatments include stimulant-free medication such as atomoxetine and different types of talk therapy like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) as well.

"Ethnic and cultural aspects have to be addressed when making such diagnoses, but education is of utmost importance. Indeed, the causes of ADHD are multifaceted and include genetic, neurobiological, and different environmental or psychosocial factors."

Obtaining a diagnosis for ADHD in children is a multi-step process requiring collaboration between several medical specialists, including pediatric neurologists and child psychologists. The procedure involves the following steps:

a. Medical history: Parents as well as teachers could serve as primary sources revealing information regarding the student's academic performance and family's medical background. This is necessary for an ADHD diagnosis.

b. Behavioral assessment: Standardised forms will be filled out by caregivers as well as teachers detailing the behaviour and symptoms of the child in different environments. These assessments help identify patterns of inattentiveness, hyperactive actions and impulsive behaviours.

c. Physical examination: A thorough medical checkup will be conducted to determine whether

other conditions are present that may cause ADHD-like symptoms. The practitioner could determine general physical health and check for hearing or vision issues.

d. Psychological testing: These include measures of general ability and other psychological tests that encompass cognitive skill and behaviour.

The growing rate of ADHD in India calls for immediate action to combat the hurdles that come along with this condition. Undoubtedly, the lack of societal resources to tackle mental health leads to more stigma. Setting aside India's social taboos on mental health would greatly aid with the ADHD problem and its ever-increasing weight on the country.

(The writer is developmental behavioural paediatrician and adolescent mental health expert, co-founder of Continua Kids. Views expressed are personal)

## DC Pulwama reviews NEET (UG) Examination arrangements

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, APRIL 03

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom chaired a preliminary meeting today regarding NEET (UG) Examination arrangements at the Administrative Complex Pulwama.

The meeting focused on assessing logistical support, security arrangements and infrastructure readiness to ensure the seamless and fair conduct of the examination across designated centres in the district.

During the session, the representatives of designated NEET centres briefed the chair on their preparations, including infrastructural and logistical arrangements, surveillance measures and security protocols. The Deputy Commissioner directed strict adherence to all prescribed proto-



cols and guidelines to ensure transparency and fairness in the examina-

tion process. The Police Department provided an overview of

security arrangements, informing that special Police Nodal Officers will be designated for each centre to oversee security measures. In addition, proper escort services will be deployed to ensure the safe and secure transportation of examination materials. The DC stressed the importance of maintaining strict law and order in and around the examination centres.

Dr. Qayoom further instructed the concerned departments to facilitate seamless transportation, uninterrupted power supply and other essential services on the day of the examination. Emphasizing the need for inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner called for a collaborative effort to create a conducive atmosphere for candidates appearing in the NEET examination.

## ICICI Bank Branch inaugurated at Preet Nagar, Jammu



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

ICICI Bank has set up a new branch at Preet Nagar in Jammu. This branch, the Banks fourteenth in the city, is equipped with an ATM.

Shri Vikram Randhawa, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated the branch. Devyani Rana, Vice-President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Jammu & Kashmir, graced the occasion.

The branch offers a comprehensive range of accounts and deposits including savings and current accounts, fixed and recurring deposits and loans like home loan, personal loan, auto loan, business loan and education loan along with remittance and card services. It also provides locker facility at its premises. It

operates from 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Monday to Friday and on the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month.

The branch also offers Tab Banking facility that provides nearly 100 services at the customers place by an employee through a tablet device. The services include opening of accounts and Fixed Deposit (FD), raising cheque book request, generation of e-statements and change of address, among others.

ICICI Bank has more than 70 branches, and over 80 ATMs and cash recycling machines (CRMs) in Jammu & Kashmir.

ICICI Bank services its large customer base through a multi-channel delivery network of branches, ATMs, call centres, internet banking (www.icicibank.com), and mobile banking.

## NSF celebrates 122th birth anniversary of Maniben Patel

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 3

National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Maniben Patel who laid her life for the country.

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while, Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life history of Maniben Patel and appreciated the efforts of NSF and appealed to the youth to come forward to eliminate all evils from the society.

He said that Maniben Patel was an Indian independence movement activist and a Member of the Indian parliament.

She was the daughter of freedom fighter and post-Independence Indian leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Educated in Bombay, Patel adopted the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi in 1918, and started working regularly at his ashram in Ahmedabad.

Dr Sharma also said that in 1923-24 the British government levied heavy taxes on the common people and for recovery of the same they started confiscating their cattle, land and property. To protest against this oppression, Maniben motivated women to join a campaign led by Gandhi and Sardar Patel and support the No-Tax Movement.

On this occasion, Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF said that Maniben Patel participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement as well as the Salt Satyagraha and was imprisoned for long periods of time. However, because Maniben Patel was committed to the liberation of India, and thus the Quit India movement, she was again imprisoned from 1942 to 1945 in Yerwada Central Jail. She went on to author an account of the freedom struggle as a book on her father's life in the years following Indian Independence.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF also addressed this occasion.

Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit delivered the welcome address; Abhishek Uppal Chairman Jammu District unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

## SKPA Udhampur Hosts Training on Communication & Public Interaction for J&K Police



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 3

A three-day training program on "Developing Effective Communication Skills, Behaviour, Attitude, and Responsibility towards the General Public" commenced today at Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udhampur. The course brings together 24 officers and officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, aiming to enhance their emotional intelligence, self-awareness, emotional self-control, and expression. With a strong focus on soft skills and emotional intelligence in policing, the program also covers stress and time management for self-leadership, behavioural adaptation to change, self-improvement, effective communication, and strategies for enhancing organizational productivity.

To ensure the program's success, renowned faculty members from leading academic institutions have been invited as resource persons. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Rajinder Kumar Gupta, IPS, SSP, Deputy Director (Indoor), as the Chief Guest. Addressing the participants on behalf of the Director, SKPA Udhampur, he emphasized the need for police personnel to adapt their behaviour and attitude when interacting with the public. He underscored the importance of communication skills in effectively conveying thoughts, managing conflict situations, and fostering public trust. The course is being coordinated by Ms., Chander Lekha, Sr.PO, with assistance from ASI Rajinder Singh ensuring seamless execution and meaningful engagement for all participants.

## District Level Workshop on AWAAS PLUS 2.0 held at Panchayat Bhawan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

A one day District Level Workshop cum Awareness Programme on AWAAS PLUS 2.0 -PMAY (G) was today organized here at Panchayat Bhawan.

In his inaugural address, Director Rural Development Department Mohammad Mumtaz Ali exhorted the departmental functionaries to complete the registration process by April 30, 2025- the timeline set by the government. He lauded the efforts put in by the Officers and Officials of Rural Development Department of District Jammu for registering 13,426 beneficiaries as on date.

Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Vikas Sharma provided an overview of PMAY-G and the achievements with respect to District Jammu. "Since the Government has extended the deadline by one month from

31st of March 2025 to 30th of April 2025 the Block Development Officers and registered surveyors have been instructed to ensure that no eligible beneficiary was left unregistered" he added.

The Block Development Officers of R.S. Pura, Maira Mandrian and Satwari presented the PPTs on success stories, best practices and cumulative targets achieved in District Jammu under PMAY -G from the year 2016 till date.

Director Rural Development, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development, Jammu, Block Development Officers and Panchayat Inspectors of District Jammu and Register surveyors under AWAAS Plus, Operators dealing with PMAY-G along with other Field functionaries have attended this One Day District Level Workshop at Panchayat Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

## Keshav Chopra meets SSP Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 3

Prominent Social Activist and Chairman of the Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra today met with Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Joginder Singh JKPS, During the meet Keshav discussed Several issues with the officer.

Keshav Chopra while meeting hailed SSP Jammu Joginder Singh for his people friendly Policing and said that under the guidance of SSP Jammu many drug peddler's including the notorious criminals have been put behind the bars which is commendable. He also complimented Jammu Police for Solving the Greater Kailash Robbery Case, Keshav also said that the people of Jammu are fortunate enough to have such a dedicated district police team working under a very Honest and humble officer, He also said that Samvedna Society is always ready to selflessly work with the Jammu & Kashmir Police to keep the society crime



and drug free.

During the Meeting SSP Jammu Joginder Singh said that to serve the people, Jammu police is available 24 Hrs, He stated that police is working very hard to eradicate drug menace and also to solve the theft Cases, Jammu Police has also organized Several events and awareness campaigns to alert the youth to stay away from drugs and Civil Society is also supporting the Police to eradicate the crime. He also acknowledged the role of NGOs like Samvedna in creating awareness and providing much needed aid to the people.

## Chief Secretary reviews draft J&K Hydro Power Policy 2025



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting held to review the draft Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Power Policy 2025, emphasising the Union Territory's significant potential in hydropower generation and its role in economic development.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the vast opportunities in the power sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir possess immense potential for power generation which can substantially boost the region's economy. He also underscored the necessity of reducing power losses, noting that such inefficiencies constitute a substantial drain on resources.

The draft policy aims to attract the private investment in hydropower generation by revising the existing framework. It proposes categorising hydroelectric projects into two segments: Small Hydroelectric Projects (up to 25 MW) and Large Hydroelectric Projects (above 25 MW and up to

100 MW). The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) has been designated as the nodal agency for projects up to 10 MW, while the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) will oversee the projects above 10 MW.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad; Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya; Managing Director JKPDCL, Pankaj Magotra and Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and JKPCCL, Ch Mohd Yasin besides others. The discussions focussed on finalising the policy framework to effectively harness the Jammu and Kashmir's hydropower potential, aiming to attract private investment and promote sustainable development in the region.

It is pertinent to mention that the UT administration will also hold consultations with the stakeholders on this account.

## Felicitation ceremony of Second Batch of Anti-Extremist Tactics Course held at DPL, Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

A felicitation ceremony was organized at the DPL Conference Hall, Jammu, to mark the successful completion of the second batch of the two-month-long Anti-Extremist Tactics Course for the personnel of the Jammu Zone. The event was graced by senior officers, including the Director General of Police (DGP), Sh Nalin Prahat, IPS; the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu, Sh Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS; Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Training, Smt Sarah Rizvi, IPS; AIG Training, Sh M K Pandita, JKPS; SSP Jammu, Sh Joginder Singh, JKPS; SP Operations Jammu, Sh Kameshwar Puri, JKPS; and SO to IGP Jammu, Sh Vishal Manhas, JKPS.

The specialized training program, conducted at the

Greyhounds Regional Training Centre, Visakhapatnam, aimed to equip the personnel with advanced skills in countering extremist activities, preparing them for real-world challenges in combating terrorism and insurgency. Over the course of two months, the trainees honed their skills in various tactical and operational disciplines to enhance their combat readiness and operational effectiveness.

The training module covered a wide array of critical areas, including intensive Close Quarters Combat drills to sharpen reflexes and efficiency in high-stress environments; proficiency in weapons handling and tactical manoeuvres to effectively neutralize threats; operations focusing on urban warfare and built-up area engagements; advanced cordon and search techniques; surveillance and covert opera-

tions training in intelligence gathering, protracted surveillance, and ambush tactics; rigorous obstacle training and endurance-building exercises to enhance agility, resilience, and combat fitness; emergency first aid techniques for handling battlefield injuries and medical emergencies; and mental fortitude and tactical discipline training to ensure psychological resilience and precision in high-pressure scenarios. During the felicitation ceremony, the DGP lauded the dedication and commitment of the personnel in completing the strenuous training. He underscored the significance of such specialized courses in strengthening the counter-extremism capabilities of security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. He further urged the trained personnel to apply their newly acquired skills in operational deployments to

ensure the safety and security of the region.

The IGP Jammu also addressed the gathering, commending the trainees for their perseverance and expressing confidence in their ability to handle critical situations with a high level of professionalism.

Among those recognized for their outstanding performance was Ct. Mohd Farooq (No. ARP-237247, District Kathua) who was awarded All-Round Best. Other notable achievements were SPO Sachin Kumar (No. 1867/SPO, District Doda), All-Round Best in PPT, Ct. Mohd Naseem (No. ARP-237571, District Poonch), All-Round Best in BOAC, and PSI Sanjay Kumar (EXJ/196630), All-Round 3rd Position in Written examination. Their remarkable performance and dedication were lauded by the dignitaries present at the event.

## Kathua Admin launches major crackdown against illicit liquor production

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, APRIL 03

In a swift and decisive move, the Kathua district administration conducted a surprise raid at Kukechak, leading to the dismantling of illegal spurious liquor operations. The operation was led by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Ranjit Singh and Tehsildar.

The action came after credible inputs regarding the unlawful activities of spurious liquor production and distribution in the area. Upon receiving the tip-off, the district administration acted promptly, carrying out a thorough investigation and ensuring the culprits were brought to the book. The successful raid is a clear demonstration of the administration's strong

commitment to maintaining law and order.

Speaking about the action, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards illicit activities. "The Kathua administration is fully committed to safeguarding the health and safety of its citizens and will not tolerate any illegal activities that threaten public welfare," he stated.

The operation at Kukechak marks another significant step in the district administration's ongoing efforts to eliminate illegal activities, particularly in the realm of harmful substances like spurious liquor. The administration continues to prioritize the well-being of the citizens of Kathua and is committed to upholding the rule of law across the district.

## LG chairs meeting with senior officials of SASB

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 03

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a meeting with the senior officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and executing agencies and reviewed the progress for development of Disaster Management and Yatri Niwas Complexes.

## Central University of Jammu Students celebrate Rajasthan Diwas

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

The Central university of Jammu Celebrated Rajasthan Diwas with grandeur and enthusiasm. The event, which highlighted the rich history and culture of Rajasthan, was attended by students, faculty, and dignitaries from various regions, marking the university's commitment to celebrating the diversity and unity of India.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Sh. Jasraj Ji, a renowned social worker and thinker, as the Chief Guest, alongside Dr. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Student Welfare, CU Jammu, and Prof. Deepak Pathania. The celebration kicked off with lamp lighting before Bharat Mata



and Maa Saraswati with a welcoming speech by Dr. Vineeta Sharma, setting the tone for the cultural festivities that were to unfold.

The keynote address was delivered by Sh. Jasraj Ji, who spoke on the subject, "Bhartiya Integrity and Glorious History of Rajasthan". In his address, he emphasized the importance of patriotism and national unity, highlighting Rajasthan's integral role in the history of Bharat. He

inspired the youth to look toward the nation's history for strength and guidance, stressing the relevance of Rajasthan's legacy in building a strong and united India.

Dr. Ritu Bakshi, in her speech, reinforced CU Jammu commitment to nurturing the celebration of diverse cultures and fostering a sense of unity. "At CU Jammu, we grow together, we learn together, and we celebrate together," she remarked,

emphasizing the university's role in promoting cultural integration.

The event was themed Colors of Culture - Together in Unity, and showcased vibrant Rajasthani traditions through captivating performances. Students from all across the country mesmerized the audience with Rajasthani dance performances, including mesmerizing performances by Bulbul, Masoom, and Jyoti, alongside a poetry recital by Aman and Vikas, which deeply resonated with the audience. A feature video on Rajasthan's historical warrior, Maharana Sangram Singh, was also presented, shedding light on the state's rich heritage and valor.

The venue was beautifully decorated in the theme of Rajasthan, with

elements reflecting the state's cultural vibrancy and history, providing a truly immersive experience for all attendees.

This celebration, which was first held in 2023, has become an annual tradition at CU Jammu, providing an opportunity for students and faculty to come together and honor the glorious history and culture of Rajasthan. The event serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving and promoting India's diverse cultural heritage. Students fraternity of CU Jammu remains dedicated to encouraging such celebrations, fostering an environment where students are inspired to learn about the country's rich history and contribute to the nation's future.

## Arrest Surinder Choudhary, divest him of Ministership: Harsh Dev to LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

Former Minister and JKNPP (India) president Harsh Dev Singh today urged upon the Lt Governor to strip Surinder Choudhary of all his Ministerial portfolios and order his immediate arrest for his criminal conduct, abuse of position and authority and for insulting and rebuking the constitution of India. In a letter to LG J&K, Mr Singh said that the incumbent Dy CM apparently having lost his mind and with his erratic behaviour he has become unfit for the high position which he occupies and has become a threat to the public as well as those who approach him with peoples' problems.

Mr Singh said that he had gone to Choudhary's office with a memorandum and requested him to address the problem of dilapidated roads which had become unfit for

traffic.

Mr Surinder Choudhary got infuriated, threw my memorandum on the floor and in a threatening tone said "Why did you hold a dharna against me and my depts"? When I told him that dharnas and protests are held even outside PM and Parliament and the said right had been conferred upon citizens of this free country by the constitution of India. He got further agitated and said, "To hell with your constitution (aisi tesi constitution ki). I am Dy CM. No one can hold dharna outside me". "Had you been educated enough and read the constitution, you would not have made such obnoxious comments", I replied back. "But Surinder Choudhary once again went hammer and tongs against constitution and me and started

hurling filthy abuses upon my mother and sisters. Having lost all sense of decency, civility and courtesy, he got up from his chair and pounced upon me. When I cautioned him not to touch me, he called his staff and security and physically assaulted me with atleast 20 staff and security personnel thrashing me and dragging me in his office chamber. They tore off my clothes with Surinder Choudhary holding out threats of destroying me", said Singh.

Appealing to the Lt Governor to take cognizance of the wanton criminality of Surinder Choudhary and his extremely perverted, debased and depraved conduct, Mr Singh demanded Surinder's ouster from Minsistry and his immediate arrest in the interest of justice and rule of law.

## Festival enhances spirit of hope, harmony, kindness: Rekha

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan emphasized that the Holy Navratri festival embodies the spirit of hope, harmony, and kindness, fostering unity and devotion among people.

She stated this after attending a religious program in Jammu, organized in view of the ongoing Navratri celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan highlighted the spiritual significance of Navratri, a festival dedicated to Maa Durga and her divine forms. She said that the nine-day festival symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, inspiring people to follow the path of righteousness, devotion, and service to humanity.

"Navratri is not just a religious occasion but a cel-



bration of our rich cultural heritage and deep-rooted traditions. It is a time for introspection, spiritual awakening, and reinforcing the values of kindness and harmony in society," she remarked.

Rekha Mahajan commended the efforts of the organizers for conducting Satsangs and devotional

gatherings, which serve as a source of peace and positivity. She urged people to take inspiration from the festival and engage in acts of kindness, charity, and social service.

She also extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, praying for peace, prosperity, and well-being

for all. "May Maa Durga bless every household with happiness, strength, and success. Let us celebrate this festival with devotion, purity of heart, and a commitment to communal harmony," she added.

The event witnessed a large gathering of devotees who participated in bhajans, kirtans, and prayers, seeking the divine blessings of Maa Durga.

Rekha Mahajan interacted with the devotees, expressing her gratitude for their unwavering faith and dedication.

She reiterated that the BJP-led government remains committed to preserving and promoting the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of India, ensuring that festivals like Navratri continue to inspire and unite people across all communities.

## Kupwara Police inaugurates T20 Cricket Tournament under CAP - 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 3

In a bid to promote sportsmanship, youth engagement, and community development, the Kupwara Police inaugurated the T20 Knockout Cricket Tournament under the Civic Action Programme - 2025 at Kupwara Cricket Stadium, Galizoo. The tournament features sixteen teams from across the district, providing young cricketers with a competitive platform to showcase their talent.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by SSP Kupwara, Shri Ghulam Jeelani Wani (JKPS), DySP DAR Kupwara, Shri Gulzar Rashid (JKPS), Inspector Reyaz, and other senior officers. The event attracted a large number of spectators, reflecting the grow-



ing enthusiasm for cricket in the region and the vital role of sports in strengthening community bonds. Speaking at the occasion,

SSP Kupwara, Shri Ghulam Jeelani Wani, emphasized the significance of such initiatives in fostering positive youth engagement and

building a stronger relationship between the police and the local community. He reiterated the commitment of Kupwara Police to supporting sports and constructive activities that contribute to the overall development of the youth.

The tournament, played in a knockout format, promises thrilling cricketing action as teams compete for the championship. The Kupwara Police's initiative under the Civic Action Programme continues to serve as a bridge between law enforcement and the community, encouraging a spirit of camaraderie and trust through sports.

## District Congress Committee Jammu Urban Convenes Monthly Meeting at Congress Office Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

District Congress Committee Jammu Urban under the leadership of Th. Manmohan Singh conducted its monthly strategy meeting at party headquarters Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu to discuss prominent issues.

The meeting was presided over by Shri Raman Bhalla, Working President JKPC and attended by Senior Congress leaders S/Shri Yogesh Sawhney Ex-Minister, Ved Mahajan Ex-MLC & I/C HQ, Rajnish Sharma Treasurer PCC, Satish Sharma, Vijay Shastri, Ricky Dalotra I/C HQ.PYC, District Office Bearers, Block Presidents, Ward Presidents and other prominent workers of the party. In the meeting District Congress leaders discussed public related issues as well as the strategy to fight for restoration of statehood.

Speaking on the occasion, Working President Shri Raman Bhalla said that centre Government promised time to time to restore statehood without delay especially after assembly elections but



now, the centre has no interaction to fulfill the promise. He said that the people will have to fight for their rights and getting back their status, dignity as a full-fledged State. He asked Block and Ward Committees to garn support of the people for achieving the goal of early restoration of Statehood.

Shri Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan suggested various strategies and programs to strengthen the Congress Party's groundwork in Jammu District. They urged the party functionaries at all levels to continue taking steps in the direction to strengthen the party at the

grass root level. They said that the genuine needs of the public should be addressed openly and that they should enable the public to recognize the ruses of the BJP and its divisive policies.

Th. Manmohan Singh, President DCC (U) Jammu while concluding the meeting laid stress upon the participants to broadcast the policies and programmes of the Congress Party and coordinate the efforts in strengthening the party cadre in every nook and corner of the Jammu city.

Meanwhile, several youths of Jammu East joined the Congress Part

here today at PCC HQ. Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu in the presence of PCC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, President DCC (U) Jammu Th. Manmohan Singh, DCC Functionaries Sonu Dogra, Pawan Dev Singh, Sat Pal Sapolia, Som Raj, H.S.Bagi, Ajay Kumar, Sanjeev Katal, Chander Shekhar, Latish Sharma, Darshan Verma, Praveen Singh, Saohit Sharma, Amit Gupta and Reshu Kumar. Those who joined the party include Ashish Kohli, Babar Chib, Amarjeet Singh, Sohan Lal, Jaskaran Singh, Agan, Furkan, Tafiq, Surjeet Singh and others.

## Langeh holds meeting with Mandal Presidents, discusses upcoming programmes

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APR 3

Neelam Langeh, Ex MLA and District President of BJP Ramban, convened a crucial meeting today with all Mandal Presidents to strategize for the upcoming Foundation Day celebrations and the commemoration of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's birthday. Langeh said that the party's strength lies in unity and coordinated efforts. He emphasized the importance of collaborative planning to ensure the success of these significant events. He highlighted that by working together, the party can effectively honor its traditions and promote community development.

Langeh said that detailed discussions were held regarding the logistical arrangements for both events. He noted that the Mandal Presidents shared their insights and outlined specific tasks to facilitate seamless execution. He stressed the need for active community engagement and effective communication to maximize participation and impact. Langeh said that the meeting also focused on paying tribute to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's legacy. He pointed out that plans were made to organize educational programs and discussions that reflect his contributions to social justice and equality. He expressed confidence that these initiatives would inspire the community and reinforce the party's commitment



to these values. Langeh also appreciated Prabhari Purn Ji's guidance and experience, which provided additional perspectives on effective event management and community outreach. He acknowledged that Purn Ji's participation underscored the collective dedication to the party's objectives. Langeh said that with clear plans and a unified approach, the BJP Ramban team is poised to execute these events successfully. He expressed optimism that the celebrations would not only honor the party's history and Dr. Ambedkar's contributions but also strengthen community bonds and promote a shared vision for progress.

Dr. Syed Mohammad Ismail assumes charge as BMO Assar; emphasizes Teamwork in Healthcare

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ASSAR, APRIL 03:

Dr. Syed Mohammad Ismail has officially taken charge as the new Block Medical Officer (BMO) Assar, relieving Dr. Shabir Ahmed Dar, who has been transferred as BMO Banihal.

On his joining, the staff of PHC Assar extended a warm and enthusiastic welcome, assuring their full cooperation in strengthening healthcare services under his leadership.

District President of the NHM Employees Association Doda, Dr. Nasir Masood, along with NHM representatives, also welcomed Dr. Ismail. They assured their support in ensuring the smooth functioning of healthcare services in Block Assar and reaffirmed their commitment to collaborative efforts for public health improvement.

Addressing the staff, Dr. Ismail stressed the importance of working in a cordial and cooperative atmosphere, ensuring that patient care remains the top priority.

## Serving Nation is BJP's sole mission: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta reaffirmed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains steadfast in its mission to serve the nation with unwavering dedication. He emphasized that BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has redefined governance by prioritizing public welfare, national security, and inclusive development.

He was speaking after chairing a meeting with party colleagues at the Party Headquarters in Jammu. The meeting saw the active participation of several esteemed party leaders including Sanjita Dogra, President of Mahila Morcha; Purna Nanda; Raghunandan Bablu, DDC Member; Kulbhushan Mohtra; Anita Gandotra;



Reema Padha; Suman Raina; Ayodhya Gupta; Eshant Mahajan; Aarti Koul; and Gulshan Bhagat.

Speaking at a gathering, Kavinder Gupta stated that BJP's commitment to "Nation First" is reflected in its pro-people policies, welfare schemes, and transformative initiatives that have empowered millions across the country. He highlighted key initiatives such as Ayushman

Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Digital India, and infrastructure development, which have significantly improved the lives of citizens.

He further asserted that BJP will continue to work with the vision of a strong, self-reliant, and prosperous India, ensuring that every section of society benefits from the government's progressive policies. "The BJP is not just a

political party; it is a movement dedicated to national service," he remarked.

Kavinder also discussed the forthcoming programmes aimed at further disseminating the party's policies and activities. He urged his colleagues to intensify their efforts in mobilizing support and ensuring that every policy initiative reaches the common man. "We must work with renewed

dedication to bridge the gap between the party's strategic vision and its implementation at the community level. Our initiatives are designed to bring tangible benefits to the people," he added.

The senior BJP leader further highlighted the Party's holistic approach to governance and its commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive development. With a clear roadmap for future programmes, the BJP is poised to continue its mission of serving the nation, empowering communities, and fostering a spirit of unity and progress among all citizens.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also urged the people to support BJP's mission and join hands in building a New India, where development, integrity, and service remain the core principles of governance.

## Carrom Competition organised under fit India initiative at G D C RS Pura

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

Carrom competition organised by Department of Physical education and Sports of Govt. Degree College RS Pura under Fit India Initiative. Series of Activities shall be conducted every month. The movement aligns with the broader goal of making India a Fit nation by fostering long-term behavioural changes in individual.

One day carrom Competition started with enthusiasm, both men and women students of the college participated in the competition under the supervision of Dr. Roopali Sathia Physical Director, GDC R.S. Pura.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Pretpal Kour was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while speaking with students, she highlighted the key objectives of Fit India



Movement to Promote Physical Fitness, Health Awareness, Encourage workplace Fitness and Healthy Diet and Habits.

She motivated the players to participate with enthusiasm, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the true spirit of sportsmanship throughout the event. She also awarded the Medals to the winners.

Results:- In Women Category Sneha Kumari, Shivani Virdhi were Winner and in Men's Category Sarabjeet Hira and Namanpreet Singh were winners.

Convener Sports Committee Prof. Anupama Pandotra, Prof. Kiran Pathania, Prof. Sanjay Upadhyay, Prof. Neelam kumari, Prof. Rakesh Choudhary, Prof. Rakesh Kalotra, Dr. Roopali Sathia and Mr. Kamaldeep Singh were present during the event.

## IIM Field Station Bonera set to Indigenize Tulips: Scientists aim at Import Substitution, Viksit Farmers

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, APR 4

The scenic beauty of Kashmir's tulip gardens has long been a major attraction for tourists, with vibrant displays at Srinagar drawing visitors each year. In a significant step toward promoting sustainable floriculture and enhancing farmers' income, CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu a premier research and development institution of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, mandated with pre-clinical drug discovery, has also been implementing various societal Mission programmes like CSIRs Aroma and Floriculture Mission. Under CSIR Floriculture Mission, the key verticals include Generation of Quality Planting Material of High Value Floricultural Crops, Area Expansion under Floriculture, Urban Floriculture, Post-Harvest Processing and Value Addition, Integration of Floriculture with Apiculture, Establishing Marketing Linkages, and Domestication of Wild Ornamentals. Further, through the Mission activities,



the institute has been dedicated to supporting farmers through research and development, particularly in high value floricultural crop cultivation.

In conformity with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Prime Ministers clarion call for self-reliant India, the pan India CSIR Societal Mission programmes envisioned by Dr Jitendra Singh Union Minister for Science and Technology achieved remarkable achievements since last few years. The Institute has initiated tulip cultivation at its Bonera Station in the year 2022 with the primary objectives of indigenizing tulip bulb production, developing agro-technological protocols, and expanding crop cultivation. A spokesperson informed that the initiative which started with

just 10,000 bulbs in 2022, has successfully produced over one lakh bulbs within just two years, grown over an area of more than 12 kanals this season. During media interaction held at Tulip garden of Bonera Field Station, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIM, Jammu, highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating that the Bonera Station currently houses eight tulip varieties under strategic research programmes to develop indigenous tulip bulbs, assess morphological characteristics, establish agro-technological protocols and evaluate varieties for resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. He emphasized that indigenizing tulip bulb production will reduce India's reliance on imports, create economic opportunities

for farmers, and contribute to the overall growth of the floriculture sector. The newly developed Tulip Garden-cum-Experimental Field at Bonera, located in South Kashmir's Pulwama, was opened to the public that drew thousands of enthusiastic visitors from all parts of the valley. The initiative marks a significant step toward positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a hub for tulip bulb production in future, aiming to shift India from an import-dependent consumer to a self-sufficient producer. By integrating scientific advancements with floriculture tourism, the CSIR Floriculture Mission, besides fostering self-reliance in tulip production, also aims at enhancing the economic potential of the region's farming communities.

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## Prof. Kothari from CU Jammu conferred with Prestigious Women Scientist Award to commemorate Women's Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 3

Prof. Richa Kothari, from Central University of Jammu, was awarded the prestigious Women's Scientist Award during a special event organized by the Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, to mark International Women's Day. The ceremony held recently, recognized and honored the achievements of women who have made significant strides in various fields. Kothari's recognition highlights her exemplary work in the field of biomaterials for bioenergy and low-cost wastewater treatment. Prof. Kothari pioneering research on sustainable bioenergy solutions and wastewater treatment has garnered widespread recognition for its innovative approaches to addressing some of the most pressing environmental



challenges of our time.

On this momentous occasion, Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Kothari. He commended her for her exemplary dedication and exceptional leadership, emphasizing that her award reflects the University's commitment to promoting women in science and academia. Registrar of Central University of Jammu, Prof. Yashwant Singh, also joined in congratulating Prof. Kothari,

acknowledging her role as a pioneer and source of inspiration for many aspiring scholars, particularly women. "Her dedication to research and education serves as an example of excellence, and this award is a well-deserved recognition of her efforts," Prof. Singh stated. Dean, School of Life Sciences, Prof. Sunil Dhar and all the faculty members from Department of Environmental Sciences commended Prof. Kothari's achievement.

Prof. Kothari expressed her gratitude for the recognition and dedicated

empowerment of women in the field of science. She highlighted the importance of creating more opportunities and support systems for women researchers, urging institutions to provide more platforms for women to excel. The event also featured a series of discussions and presentations focused on empowering women in science, with leading female scholars sharing their experiences and challenges.

## Indian Army conducts Awareness Talk on World Autism Awareness Day at Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH RAJOURI AND REASI: 03 APR 2025

Indian Army has been working for the amelioration of the local populace. The area is free from militancy due to the relentless Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism Operations by the Indian Army. Indian Army has also been focused towards implementing Sadbhavana and Sampark Projects with an aim to change the perception of the underprivileged population, which ultimately manifests in sustained peace and prosperity in the region. Indian Army conducted an awareness talk for the students of Govt Higher Secondary



School, Samote, Ratajabra, Nagyal Bani, Sail Sui on the occasion of 'World Autism Awareness Day'. World Autism Awareness Day is observed globally on 02 Apr every year. This year is the 17th Annual World Autism Awareness Day. This day is observed

to highlight the need to improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. The theme of this talk is 'The Transition of Adulthood'. This theme draws attention to the adulthood

of people with autism. Autism is a developmental disorder that refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech impediments and non-verbal communication.

## Rural areas witnessed unprecedented devp under Modi regime: Col Mahan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 3

In a significant boost to rural connectivity, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman DDC Kathua, today inaugurated the 2-km-long Nagrota-Khudku road, constructed under NABARD funding at a cost of 3.5 crore. The inauguration took place in the presence of Th. Darshan Kumar, MLA Basohli, and hundreds of enthusiastic local residents.

Prominent dignitaries, including Capt Des Raj (Senior Veteran), Balvinder Singh (BJP Mandal Pardhan), Ajit Singh (Kisan Leader), Arvind Gupta (Social Activist), Naresh Verma (Vipar Mandal President), and Bharat Gupta (Executive Engineer, PWD Division Basohli), also graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO, for prioritizing rural infrastructure and ensur-



ing that Jammu & Kashmir remains on the path of rapid development. He emphasized that four years ago, Basohli region had very few proper roads, but due to the relentless efforts of the DDC Council, multiple roads and rural infrastructure projects have been completed across Kathua district.

Highlighting the need for further development, Col Mahan Singh stressed the urgency of improving the Mahanpur-Basohli PWD road, spanning 30 km, and called for the early sanctioning of the proposed Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Maali near Marta Nagrota.

Expressing concern over the drinking water crisis in rural Kathua, he urged the PHE Department to expedite measures to ensure an uninterrupted water supply, particularly with the summer season approaching. He reiterated his commitment to addressing key issues and working towards the holistic development of the region.

The event saw overwhelming public support, reflecting the growing confidence in the developmental initiatives being spearheaded under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

## Attempt of bovine smuggling foiled in Akhnoor, one smuggler arrested

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APRIL 3

The police on Thursday successfully foiled an attempt of bovine smuggling on Thursday, arresting one smuggler and rescuing two bovines being transported illegally.

As per reports, under the supervision of SDPO Varinder Gupta and the leadership of SHO Rohit Gandhi, Akhnoor police set up a checkpoint at Pannu Chowk for routine vehicle checking. During this, they attempted to stop a load carrier (JK02CX-6449). However, the driver tried to flee, but the police swiftly chased and apprehended him a short distance away.

Upon questioning, the accused was identified as Ranjeet Kumar, a resident of Sungal.

A search of the vehicle revealed two bovines being transported without any valid legal documents. The police immediately rescued the animals, seized the vehicle, and arrested the accused.

## Ashok Koul asks party cadre to prepare for upcoming elections

Nagrota: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, accompanied by District Prabhari Sham Lal Sharma, MLA & Vice-President, J&K BJP, Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairperson, Assembly Incharge RS Pathania, MLA & Spokesperson, Nand Kishore Sharma, District President, Jammu North, Vinay Mahajan, Seh-Prabhari Jammu North District, Parduman Singh, senior leader, and Devyani Rana, Vice-President BJYM.

Mandal Presidents along with their teams from four Mandals under the Nagrota Assembly Constituency attended the meeting.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the Mandal activists, stressed upon them to brace themselves for the upcoming elections. He said that the BJP activists are like trained soldiers, who never rest and keep themselves pre-occupied with the tasks



that are aimed to benefit the nation, society and the organization. He said that the BJP has secured the highest number of votes in the recently concluded Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, which itself testifies the acceptance of the policies of BJP and public centric-governance under PM Narendra Modi.

"The people of Jammu & Kashmir have supported BJP and with every passing day, the prominent social and political figures from varying backgrounds are

joining the party with an unwavering faith on its commitment for the development of Jammu & Kashmir like other parts of this great nation", said Ashok Koul.

Advising the party cadre to prepare themselves for the upcoming elections, Ashok Koul, made them aware about various activities related to coordination with the election office, necessary additions, alterations, and deletions in the voter lists and the role of BLA1, BLA2, so as to ensure the

effective voting process.

Ashok Koul also shared the details of forthcoming party programmes with the Mandal activists. He maintained that need to devote more time to conduct the party activities at the ground level especially the BJP's foundation Day on 6th April, and Samrasta Diwas on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar on 14th April involving the prominent figures from the society.

Sham Lal Sharma spoke on the various development measures by the Modi government that have benefited Jammu and Kashmir. He said that as the party is not in the government in Jammu & Kashmir, the efforts of BJP's leaders including the MLAs and the activists should increase manifolds to meet the aspirations of

people.

Bharat Bhushan said that as the unprecedented development tasks are being undertaken by the Modi government in the region, the BJP cadre is supposed to further augment the efforts to benefit the masses.

RS Pathania asked the Mandal activists to take the pro-people schemes to the needy population with the collaborative efforts to help them, which will help them earn the faith of masses.

Nand Kishore Sharma, while thanking the senior leadership for their guidance, assured them that the Mandal teams under the leadership of their presidents will leave no stone unturned to ensure that party's policies and ideology and Modi government's schemes reach the needy section of society.

## Arrest Surinder Choudhary, divest him of Ministership: Harsh Dev to LG

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

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hurling filthy abuses upon my mother and sisters. Having lost all sense of decency, civility and courtesy, he got up from his chair and pounced upon me. When I cautioned him not to touch me, he called his staff and security and physically assaulted me with at least 20 staff and security personnel thrashing me and dragging me in his office chamber. They tore off my clothes with Surinder Choudhary holding out threats of destroying me", said Singh.

Appealing to the Lt Governor to take cognizance of the wanton criminality of Surinder Choudhary and his extremely perverted, debased and depraved conduct, Mr Singh demanded Surinder's ouster from Minsistry and his immediate arrest in the interest of justice and rule of law.

## Godrej Enterprises Group Strengthens Office Furniture Portfolio with Focus on Innovation and Ergonomics

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 03, 2025:

Interio, a leading home and office furniture brand of Godrej Enterprises Group, announced that they are targeting 30% growth in its B2B business by FY27, as the company expands its presence in the institutional furniture solutions. With the office furniture market projected to grow from USD 5.8 Billion in 2024 to USD 13.0 Billion by 2033 at a CAGR of 8.83% [1], Interio has allocated INR 55 crore to transform its product portfolio and capitalize on the emerging opportunities in workspace solutions.

Commenting on the evolving office market, Sameer Joshi, Senior Vice President and Head of B2B Business, Interio, said, "India's office sector is undergoing a significant transformation, with global enterprises and MNCs seeking high-performance, future-ready workspaces. At Interio, we are committed to designing office environments that enhance employee productivity, promote well-being, and support sustainable business practice. Our B2B business is targeting a growth of 15% in FY26. Our expertise in



creating agile, technology-driven, and premium office solutions positions us as a key enabler in the evolving corporate landscape."

India's commercial office space demand is projected to reach 65-70 million sq. ft in 2025, fueled by expansion and leasing of office space in IT, BFSI, and GCCs, presenting significant opportunities for innovative workspace design. [2] To cater to this demand, Interio is creating flexible, ergonomic, sustainable and technologically advanced office environments that fulfill the needs of multinational corporations, global capability centers and progressive enterprises.

Interio's product portfolio has seen strong traction, particularly in the

ergonomic category such as Motion & Thrill Chairs and Flexmeet workstations. The company recently expanded its wellness portfolio with the launch of Posture Perfect Chair and Motion Mesh along with height-adjustable desks. To address the growing demand for technology integration in workspaces, Interio has also introduced innovative solutions like Network lockers and AV solutions. The company has demonstrated significant innovation in its product development, with approximately 70 products holding design registrations and 9 products with patents. The patented Motion chair enables users to adopt dynamic, three-dimensional body movements, while the Posture Perfect chair tracks the

movement of the human spine and provides complete back support in every position of recline - innovations specifically designed to address the evolving needs of the modern workplace.

Interio has strengthened its position as a leader in creating innovative, functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces for global brands entering the Indian market, having executed over 1500 projects spanning more than 100 million sq.ft. across diverse sectors including Corporate Offices, Government facilities, Banking, Infrastructure (Metros, Airports), Museums, Auditoriums, Healthcare, Hospitality, Warehouses, and Retail spaces. Offering comprehensive solutions such as General Contracting, Turnkey projects, and Design and Build services, Interio stands ready to deliver world-class interior solutions that meet the unique needs of each client as companies continue to invest in state-of-the-art facilities in India. The company's offerings also include general contracting, design, and execution of everything from interior design to MEP to security and surveillance to AV systems.

## Waqf Act is a milestone in Indian Political History: Pathania

JNEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 3

A key meeting was held today at the BJP office, Battal Balian, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA Udhampur East and BJP spokesperson. Addressing party workers and leaders, Mr. Pathania elaborated on the various benefits of the WAQF Amendment Act, which was passed by the Indian Parliament on the last day of the session.

He emphasized that the amendment is a landmark step which corrects historical wrongs and acts towards ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and better management of Waqf properties. The new provisions will safeguard the interests of the Muslim community by streamlining property records, preventing encroachments, and ensuring that Waqf assets are utilized for the rightful beneficiaries, including education, healthcare, and social welfare. Mr. Pathania



highlighted that the Act will eliminate irregularities and bring Waqf management under a structured legal framework, ultimately benefiting the people of India, particularly the Muslim community.

Furthermore, he urged BJP cadres to actively participate in and ensure the success of the Foundation Day celebrations of the Bharatiya Janata Party on April 6. He reiterated that this day marks the founding of the BJP, which has emerged as the largest political party in the world and a symbol of nationalism, good governance, and development.

Mr. Pathania also called for a massive mobilization on April 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary

of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. He stressed that Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to the Constitution and social justice are monumental, and celebrating his legacy holds immense significance for the BJP, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, where the party remains committed to the empowerment of marginalized communities.

Prominent among those present at the meeting included Mr. Puran Chand Sharma (DDC Udhampur-I), Mr. Subhash Chander Sharma, Smt. Lalita Sharma, Ashish Sharma, Mr. Angrez Singh, Pawan Mankotia, Vikram Singh, Purushotam Sharma, Santosh Kumar, along with a galaxy of local leaders and party workers.

## Drug Abuse Awareness Session & Anti-Drug Rally organized at GCE, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 03

In observance of Alcohol Awareness Month, an initiative recognized annually in the United States since 1987, the Government College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, organized a Drug Abuse Awareness Session and an Anti-Drug Rally. The event aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and was jointly organized by the Government College of Education and the Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation, Kishtwar, under the leadership of its Founder President, Sanjiv Parihar, in collaboration with the Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisations, represented by Mr. Rahul, and Vichar Kranti Manch International.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of the Government College of Education, presided over the event. Special invitees included Shri K. S. Samyal, President of the Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Center, and Shri Ashok Gupta, President of the Senior Citizens Joy Society.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in combating substance abuse. Dr. Jain delivered a compelling address, reciting a thought-provoking poem that highlighted the devastating effects of substance abuse, including tobacco, alcohol, heroin, cocaine, charas, and ganja. He urged collective action against drug addiction, encouraging youth to illuminate their lives with education and positive aspirations.

Ms. Rhupinder Kour, a student representative, led the gathering in taking an anti-drug pledge, reinforcing a commitment to a drug-free future. Advisory messages were also shared by Shri K. S. Samyal and Shri Ashok Gupta, who urged students to stay away from harmful substances and prioritize their well-being.

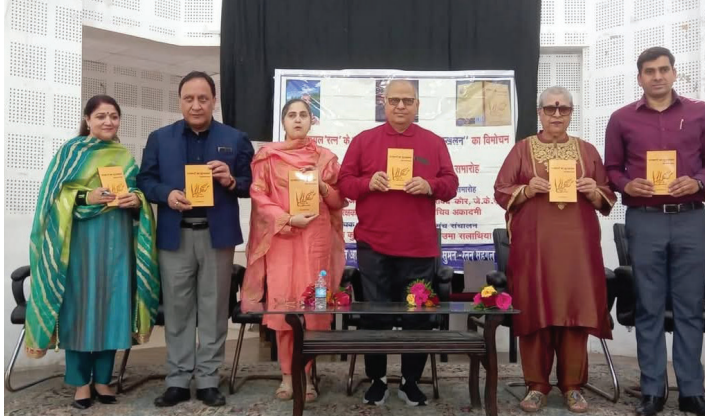
## Rattan Sehgal's Poetic Critique of Cultural Erosion launched in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 03

The literary forum Aao Khushiyan Baantein Manch Jammu unveiled Rattan Sehgal's latest poetry collection, "Sanakaron Ka Bhusakhhalan" (Landslides in Cultural Sacraments), during a ceremony at the Writer's Club on Tuesday. The event underscored Jammu's growing literary fervor and the role of art in addressing societal shifts.

Presiding over the function, Harvinder Kaur, Secretary of the Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), commended AKB Manch's seven-year dedication to fostering a culture of intellectual engagement among the youth. "Their efforts have enriched Jammu's literary landscape," she remarked.



This marks Sehgal's fourth poetry anthology, offering a poignant commentary on the erosion of India's cultural traditions and moral values. The author also announced three forthcoming works: "Bara 1947" (a Dogri compilation of Partition-era narratives), "Jammu Ka Itihas Aur Dharm", and "Kuchh Ansuljhe Prashna" (Hindi essays on unresolved historical and

religious questions). Prof. Parshottam Kumar of Jammu University's Hindi Department analyzed Sehgal's verses, noting, "His poetry is both a lament and a call to action, urging society to reclaim its ethical roots." Senior journalist Sohail Kazmi, patron of AKB Manch, delivered the welcome address, while forum president Rajni Sehgal, a former Senior

Superintendent of Jails, concluded the program with a vote of thanks. Dr. Uma Salathia orchestrated the proceedings.

In a highlight of the evening, four senior journalists—Ashok Sharma (Dainik Jagran), Monica Jamwal (Take One TV), Mohd Asraf Ganei (ETV Bharat), and R.K. Koul (Taskeen)—were honored with the Siya-Ram Sehgal Sanmana 2024-25 for their contributions to media.

The gathering saw participation from prominent literary figures, AKB Manch members, and cultural enthusiasts, reflecting the event's resonance in Jammu's artistic circles.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakarwal Communities at Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi



JNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH RAJOURI AND REASI:  
03 APR 2025

In a humanitarian initiative, the Indian Army conducted an extensive medical patrol for the benefit of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in multiple villages, including Sarsoti Harni, Jhalamang, Maniyal, Kharun and Upper Pargai in Poonch, Rajouri, & Reasi. The medical patrol, comprising Indian army medical personnel, provided essential medical care and treatment to the local

population, addressing various health issues and concerns. The team also distributed medicines and provided health advice to the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who often face challenges in accessing basic medical facilities due to their nomadic lifestyle. The Indian Army's medical patrol initiative demonstrates its commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas. By providing medical aid and support,

the Indian Army aims to improve the health and well-being of the local population and foster a sense of trust and cooperation. The success of the medical patrol reinforces the Indian Army's dedication to promoting health awareness and supporting the well-being of local communities. The event has helped to create a positive impact on the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, encouraging them to prioritize their health and seek medical attention when needed.

## Omar-Led Govt implementing poll promises at unprecedented speed: Rattan Lal Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 3

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), asserted that the Omar Abdullah-led government is swiftly delivering on its election promises, ensuring that commitments made to the people during the Assembly elections are being honored in record time.

He was speaking at a one-day convention organized by Anoop Gupta, Youth Leader and District President Kathua Urban JKNC. At the beginning of the meeting, Anoop Gupta apprised the senior party functionaries about the hardships being faced by the youth of District Kathua due to the hollow policies of the earlier government. He emphasized the urgent need for concrete measures to address unemployment and ensure better opportunities for the younger generation.

Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the landmark wel-



fare measures introduced by the NC government within the first five months of its tenure. These include free travel for women in record time. He was speaking at a one-day convention organized by Anoop Gupta, Youth Leader and District President Kathua Urban JKNC. At the beginning of the meeting, Anoop Gupta apprised the senior party functionaries about the hardships being faced by the youth of District Kathua due to the hollow policies of the earlier government. He emphasized the urgent need for concrete measures to address unemployment and ensure better opportunities for the younger generation.

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## Shiv Sena warns protests visit of Union ministers & day will be declared 'Jumla Divas'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has warned the central government to declare a time limit for returning the statehood, otherwise peacefully protest will be held by wearing black bands during the visits of all the Union Ministers to Jammu and Kashmir and 'Jumla Day' will be declared.

In a press conference held today at the state central office of the party, state chief Manish Sahni has demanded from the Modi government at the Center to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing Parliament session. Sahni said that only verbal assurances are being given for the last five years. Questioning the intention of the central government, he said that after 2019, no proposal was put forward to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir in any session of Parliament. Not only this, BJP MPs from



Jammu division also never raised their voice for restoration of statehood during the session. Sahni said that despite claims of 'all is well', our statehood is not being restored. At the same time, the Jammu and Kashmir Police Force has been placed under the Union Home Ministry. Recently, the LG has reminded the elected Omar government who holds the reins of power by transferring and reshuffling dozens of officers.

Sahni said that the lack of power to the people elected government is undemocratic, proves the voter's right to vote to be

hollow. Sahni warned that if the time limit for restoration of statehood will not be announced, Shiv Sainiks will protest peacefully by wearing black bands on the upcoming visit of Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir and the visit of all Union Ministers of BJP in future and that day will be declared as 'Jumla Divas'. Sahni has also appealed to the public to register their protest by wearing black bands and support the campaign for restoration of statehood. On this occasion Rohan Malwal was also present

## Dr. Abhishek Bharti organises mask making workshop at Haryana



JI NEWS SERVICE  
HARYANA, APR 3

J&K's well-known designer, theatre director, and Sangeet Natak Akademi Delhi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Awardee, Dr. Abhishek Bharti, conducted a three-day professional mask-making workshop at the Department of Teacher Education, Central University of Haryana, from April 1 to April 3, 2025. The workshop was organized in connection with Hindi Diwas. On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tankeshwar Kumar, Head of the Department of Teacher Education Prof. Pramod Kumar, Prof. Nand Kishore, Prof. Dinesh Chahal, Dr. Mukesh Upadhyay, Mr. Dilip Patel, Dr. Sharan Prasad, Dr. Rubul Kalita, Dr. Neha, and other distinguished guests were present. In this workshop, 60 students from different states of India participated and created various kinds of masks, including those of animals such as horses, donkeys, dogs, cats, rats, elephants, eagles, owls, monkeys, and oxen. Additionally, they crafted masks representing witches, Hindu deities such as Radha, Krishna, Vishnu, Shiva, Hanuman, Ganpati, Suryadev, and Indradev,

as well as masks related to various theatrical plays. Briefing the media, Dr. Abhishek Bharti said, "As a theatre director from J&K, I feel honored to conduct this workshop at such a prestigious institution in Haryana. The history of these masks in theatre dates back around five thousand years, and their use on stage makes performances more impactful."

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tankeshwar Kumar stated that this workshop provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills and explore new ways of education through theatre. Workshop coordinator Dr. Mukesh Upadhyay presented the training outline and emphasized that today's young generation, aspiring to pursue professional theatre, must acquire knowledge of all aspects of theatre design, mask-making being a crucial part of scenic design. He further added that it was a matter of great pride for the department and the university that Dr. Abhishek Bharti conducted such a creative and inspiring mask-making workshop with the students.

## GGM Science College Organises Table Tennis Matches under Fit India, 2025



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

GGM Science College organized Table Tennis (Men & Women) matches under the Fit India, 2025 at College Auditorium Hall today on 03-04-2025.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College was the Chief Guest during the occasion. He emphasized on the importance of sports in day to day life. He said that Sports play a vital role for a well-rounded life, promoting physical and mental health, fostering teamwork, and building character. It encourages fitness, reduce stress and teach valuable life skills, like discipline and leadership both on and off the field.

The tournament was organised under the overall supervision of Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma, Incharge Physical Director GGM Science College Jammu. He said sports activities leads to a healthy and mindful living which provide feeling of whole-

someness and increases one's efficiency to perform daily tasks, thus leading to more productivity. He also said that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body and our College will organise such activities under Fit India in near future also.

In Women's section the match was played between Merryleen Kour & Neelakshi Rana in which the match was won by Merryleen Kour by 04-01 Set.

In Men's Single, the 1st match was played between Navjot Singh & Karma in which Navjot won by 03-02.

In Men Double section the match was played between Navjot Singh & Ayushman Singh Vs Gagan Deep Singh & Aniket Rathore in which the match was won by Gagan Deep Singh & Aniket Rathore by 03-02.

Dr. Sunit Dutt, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Bhekam Pal Singh, Dr. Sumit, Dr. Mohd. Maqem and Sports Staff were among the various dignitaries present during the occasion.

## Crime Branch booked 7 including owner of paramedical institute and a property dealer for duping Rs 1.32 Cr on different pretexts

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

Crime Branch has booked seven accused including owner of a Paramedical Institute and a Property Dealer for alluring & duping several innocent people of Jammu & Himachal of Rs. 1.32 crores approximately on different pretexts.

Five separate cases of fraud have been registered by CB to thoroughly investigate big frauds.

Accused owner of paramedical institution Kunjwani namely Irshad Ahmed S/o Gulam Ahmed R/O Dangerpora Pulwama (Kashmir) has been booked on the complaint of Amardeep Singh R/O Nanak Nagar, Jammu for duping Rs. 15.00 Lakhs on the pretext of providing jobs to three candidates. The complainant has alleged that accused Irshad Ahmed is running & dealing with placements agency also for different offices. He approached the complainant and introduced himself as head of placement agency in Srinagar. He told

that he has high approach .The complainant handover the sum to the accused at Press Club Jammu. After a month, the accused handed over fake appointment orders of all three candidates mentioning job for Mandeep Singh as Messengers and for Sunil Vaid & Mohd Sadiq as Gardner in Headquarter, Chief Engineer, Zone Udhampur. The candidates as per appointment orders reported at Head Quarters where they were told that orders were fake. The fraud was conveyed to accused and he was told to return Rs 15.00 lakhs but he flatly refused to return the amount.

Accused Piara Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/o Fathepur Salarian, Tehsil R.S Pura, District Jammu has been booked on a written complaint of Karanjit Singh from Dablehar Tehsil R.S Pura, District Jammu for duping of Rs 08 lakhs on the pretext of providing work permit in Australia to the nephew of complainant.

Accused persons namely I. Gurjant Singh

alias Bonny S/o Late S. Iqbal Singh R/o Makhampur, Simbal Camp, Jammu and 2.Harsimran Singh S/o Rajinder Singh R/o Sant Nagar, Gadigarh, Jammu have been booked on a written complaint of Gagandeep Singh of Kunjwani, Jammu for duping of Rs. 22 .25 Lakh on the pretext of providing tourist visa of Australia. The accused persons were running an office in the name of "STUDY ABROAD" near National Hospital, Karan Bagh, Jammu.

Accused Property Dealer namely Rahul Dasgotra S/o Manohar Lal R/o village Kotli Mian Fateh, Jammu has been booked on a written complaint of Dr. Anjan Bhola Channi Himmat Jammu for duping Rs. 16.50 Lakhs from complainant by falsely assuring him that he would buy a land near Bishnah adjoining area and need financial assistance to purchase and he would return the amount with interest. Later on, the complainant got information that Rahul Dasgotra had not pur-

chased any land and he had also duped other people by making false promises on same pretext.

Two accused Khairwood dealers namely Parveen Kumar S/o Pathu Ram R/o Thandi Choi, Tehsil Kahra Bali, District Jammu and Jitender Kumar Sharma S/o Krishan Lal R/o Barnara, Tehsil Sunderbani, Distt. Rajouri have been booked on written complaint of Dhian Chand S/o Sh. Zulfir Ram R/o District Hamirpur, HP through Akhil Sharma S/o Rattan Lal Sharma R/o Roop Nagar, Jammu for duping Rs. 70.20 Lakh on the pretext of providing Khairwood to the complainant.

Sr. Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh confirmed that five separate cases viz. case FIR No. 17/2025, case FIR No.19/2025, case FIR No. 20/2025, case FIR No. 21/2025 and case FIR No. 22/2025 have been registered at P/S Crime Branch EOW Jammu and investigations are underway.

## NCC Dte JK&L elects New Office Bearers

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 03 APR 2025

The election for Staff Secretary and official members of the NCC Directorate JK&L, Canal Road, Jammu, was successfully conducted on March 27, 2025. Shri

Inderjit Singh has been re-elected as Staff Secretary for a second tenure.

Additionally, the following officials have been elected as members for the period up to October 31, 2026:

Sh Gulshan Kumar (SSA)

Smt Shikha Sudan (JSA)

Sh Sukhdev Kumar (MTS)

The election was conducted under the aegis of Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General, NCC JK&L. Shri Rajesh Kumar

Gupta (SAO) served as the Returning Officer and successfully oversaw the election process. The NCC Directorate JK&L congratulates the newly elected office bearers and extends best wishes for their tenure.

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 3

A deputation of farmers from Jammu border district, led by Rakesh Pant, General Secretary of BJP Kisaan Morcha, called on BJP President Sat Sharma CA to submit a memorandum seeking his help in exemption from the tax levied on tractors used for agricultural purposes.

The deputation expressed concern over the imposition of a 9 percent tax on Indian-made tractors used for agricultural activities within Jammu and Kashmir. According to

the memorandum, the farmers pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been consistently promoting the use of India-made machinery to boost domestic manufacturing and support the 'Make in India' initiative. However, they argued that the current policy in Jammu and Kashmir contradicts this vision.

The farmers noted that the government has provided rebates on foreign-made tractors, while Indian-made tractors face heavy taxation, a practice not observed in any other state or union territory across the country. This

disparity, the deputation stated, places an unfair burden on local farmers who are striving to make a livelihood through agriculture.

Sat Sharma CA assured the members of the deputation to take up the issue with the UT government to reconsider its stance and provide tax exemptions for tractors used exclusively for agricultural purposes, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting indigenous machinery.

He assured the deputation that the matter would be actively pursued to seek a favorable resolution. He reiterated

the party's commitment to the welfare of farmers and highlighted various schemes implemented by the central government aimed at improving the agricultural sector.

Rakesh Pant said that the farmers are sure that their concerns will be addressed promptly, paving the way for a policy that supports their interests and promotes the use of Indian-made machinery.

BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and other party leaders were present on the occasion.

## DM Baramulla chairs 17th District Level NCORD, NMBA meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 03

District Magistrate Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired the 17th District Level NCORD/NMBA meeting reviewing ongoing efforts to combat drug abuse and strengthen enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation initiatives.

During the meeting, the DM issued several key directions to concerned officers. He emphasized the need to conduct awareness programs, training sessions for resource persons, and seminars to educate communities about the dangers of substance abuse. These initiatives will help enhance grassroots-level intervention and ensure effective



implementation of anti-drug measures.

To engage youth in positive activities, the DM directed the organization of inter-youth club tournaments and district-level sports events to discourage drug abuse through sports and recreation. Additionally, he called for plantation drives at the village level, promoting environmental consciousness alongside

anti-drug awareness.

A significant focus was placed on identifying and monitoring 20 hotspots in Baramulla and 6 in Sopore, where targeted interventions will be implemented to curb drug-related activities. Furthermore, rehabilitation programs will be strengthened to support affected individuals and help them reintegrate into society.

The DM urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, civil society, and educational institutions, to work collectively in tackling drug abuse. He emphasized the need for sustained efforts, community participation, and strict enforcement measures to eliminate the menace of drugs and safeguard the future of the youth in Baramulla.

Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Prof. Majid Jahangir, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Sajad Ahmad Bhat besides other concerned officers were also present during the meeting.

## Anti Drug Campaign: Reasi Admin hosts orientation workshop for Resource Persons

JI NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, APRIL 03

A one-day orientation programme to train resource persons for conducting Information, Education and Communication Campaign against drug abuse was organized today by the District Administration Reasi here under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar chaired the workshop organised to impart training to Resource persons for Nashta Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The IEC campaign forms part of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction initiated under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. District Social Welfare Officer Sachin



Sharma; District Information Officer Ujwal Sambyal and officials from other stakeholder departments attended the orientation program.

At the outset, the District Social Welfare Officer delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the importance of equipping resource persons with proper training

and knowledge for effective implementation. A detailed deliberation was held on strengthening efforts to curb drug abuse and work collectively towards making Reasi a drug free district.

Addressing the participants, the ADC emphasized the necessity of a coordinated, multi-departmental effort to imple-

ment the IEC campaign at the grassroots level. He urged resource persons to ensure the successful execution of the campaign across the district. Resource persons were sensitized on the importance of executing the campaign in mission mode by conducting awareness drives, drug-free pledge ceremonies and organizing events at the Block and Panchayat levels to promote drug abuse prevention across all Panchayats in the district.

The Resource persons were also briefed about the Mobile application, videos and banners made for this Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan. At the end a Nasha Mukh pledge was also taken by all participants.

## Govt committed to equitable development of all sections: Javed Rana



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today said that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to inclusive, balanced and equitable development of all regions and sub-regions of Jammu and

Kashmir.

He said this while speaking with a delegation of SC/ST/OBC representatives who raised various issues concerning welfare of the tribal population.

“We are dedicated towards creating policies and programs that uplift all sections of the society,

fostering an environment of inclusivity and equity,” Rana said.

He said that the Chief Minister has issued strict instructions to the administration to solve all the issues of tribals on priority.

Rana also addressed their concerns regarding the reservation policy, reaffirming the commitment towards empowering marginalized communities. He emphasized that the aspirations and the constitutional rights of these groups will be protected.

“People have given us a huge mandate and we are duty bound to work for their welfare,” he added.

## LMD penalises E-Commerce Platform for Labelling Violations in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 03

On the directive of Controller Legal Metrology J&K Anuradha Gupta, the field staff of Legal Metrology, Consumer Protection Unit, Jammu imposed a penalty of Rs 1.50 lakh on a prominent e-commerce platform operating in the region. The step is a significant move to uphold consumer rights and ensure compliance with packaging regulations. The concerned e-commerce platform has recently expanded its services to Jammu by opening stores,

including one in Jammu, primarily offering instant delivery of a wide range of products such as groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, stationery, bakery items, personal care, baby care, pet care products, snacks, and flowers.

The action was initiated following an inspection by the area Inspector, under the supervision of Assistant Controller Consumer Protection Jammu. During the inspection approximately 1200 packages were seized for failing to meet mandatory labelling requirements as stipulated under the Legal

Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

The main violation includes non-declaration of exact net weight of pre-packaged fruits and vegetables for sale through the e-commerce platform.

Upon issuance of a show cause notice, the company acknowledged the offence and promptly submitted application for compounding of the offences which led to imposing a penalty and settling of case at department level on assurance of immediate corrective measures to align with

the prescribed labelling norms.

Following the department's intervention, the e-commerce platform has removed the non-compliant products from its physical store shelves for re-labelling and has unlisted the violating items from its online platform to prevent further consumer inconvenience.

A spokesperson from Controller Legal Metrology Department, J&K emphasized the department's unwavering commitment to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fair trade practices. This action is part

## 8 more Kashmir Crafts carve their way to GI Glory



JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 03

In a landmark achievement securing the unique craftsmanship of artisans, 8 more traditional products of Kashmir have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) certificates by GI Registry, Chennai, based on their sources of origin.

GI registration provides legal protection against counterfeit products, prevents unauthorized use, boosts exports, and promotes economic prosperity for producers of goods associated with a specific geographical territory.

Giving details, a spokesman from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today stated that Kashmir Namda, Kashmir Gabba, Kashmir Willow Bat, Kashmir Tweed, Crewel, Kashmir Chain Stitch, Shikara and Wagguv have secured GI registration. With this, he said, the total number of GI registered crafts has reached 15, with 07 crafts having already been granted GI registration.

Highlighting the benefits of the registration, the spokesman exuded confidence that these 8 new prod-

ucts will provide much needed boost to exports and gain greater access in international markets, leading to increased demand. “The registration, followed by GI labelling, will also help prevent unauthorised use, ensuring consumers get access to genuine products,” he added.

Referring to the stiff challenges faced by the department over a period of three years, the spokesman highlighted various steps taken for earning GI registration. “After filing of applications online, the department had to go through the onerous task of preliminary scrutiny and examination of the applications filed, followed by issuance of show-cause notices and publication in GI Journal. Only after no objections were received, the GI registration was granted by Geographical Indication (GI) Registry Chennai, in favour of the 8 new products,” he explained.

The spokesman further stated that the department shall now shift focus to 6 more crafts for GI registration, which shall go a long way in revival of certain lost crafts and also boost their saleability in niche global markets. These include Copperware



(Kandkari), Silverware, Houseboat, Tapestry, Kashmir Tilla and Aari Stipple Embroidery.

Identifying testing and QR labelling as a corollary to the GI registration of unique Kashmir products, the spokesman said the department has already submitted proposals for upgradation of its testing labs in IICT, CDI and Quality Control Division.

“In view of the increased demand for GI testing and labelling, the department shall upgrade its testing labs by acquiring state-of-the-art equipment like OFDA (Optical Fibre Diameter Analyzer), SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) and high-resolution Digital Microscopes, which shall ensure genuineness of the products tested and weeding out sale of machine-made counterfeit products, which are sold in the garb of hand-made products,” he added.

### STOP...!

## MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens on doors and windows.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

### Symptoms

- **Dengue** : High fever, frontal headache, pain behind the eyes worsening with eye movement, muscle & joint pains, rash on the body, pain abdomen, nausea, vomiting, bleeding and low BP in severe cases.
- **Chikungunya** : Fever, joint pains, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, rash.
- **Malaria** : High grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected. Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. Institutions

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY :  
STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K  
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

DIP/J-62/25  
Date: 3-4-25