

**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
- Diarrhea
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Drowsiness
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or stool

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

**JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS**

BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU  
Mob. 9419104223

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 82 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

**Karra, Mir, Tarigami skip CM's crucial meeting**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

Top leaders from the alliance, including Congress, on Friday skipped the crucial meeting called by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The news agency had reported on Thursday that the two leaders including Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief, Tariq Hameed Karra and senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir would skip "emergency meeting" of legislators from the ruling alliance called by the Chief Minister in Srinagar.

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## LG Sinha defends his move to transfer 46 JKAS officers

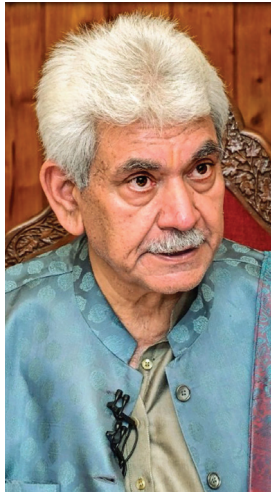
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

Soon after the legislators of the ruling alliance led by National Conference passed a resolution that the silence of the elected government in J&K should not be construed as its "weakness," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday defended his decision to transfer 46 JKAS officers and maintained that he has acted responsibly and entirely within the domain defined by

Reorganization Act.

The Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency said, "I want to make it absolutely clear – the Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act in 2019, and I am saying with responsibility that I have acted entirely within the domain defined by that Act."

"I know my jurisdiction and I will never violate it. I will not do anything beyond the scope of the powers granted to me," he said, as per KNO.



The Lieutenant Governor broke his silence after the legislative party meeting of the ruling National Conference and its alliance partners passed two resolutions, one of which sought respecting the mandate of the people – a veiled reference to the growing disquiet between the Raj Bhavan and the six-month-old government in the Union Territory.

The National Conference said it wants to run the government with "love and respect" and its

silence should not be construed as its "weakness", and requested the BJP-led central government to "not push them to the wall".

The unscheduled meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and also attended by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, began at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary's residence at the Gupkar here.

Cabinet ministers, all MLAs of the NC, and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## LoP Sharma backs LG's transfer orders, calls National Conference a 'small regional party'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 04 (KNO)

Defending the recent administrative reshuffle in Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday came out in strong support of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's move to transfer 46 JKAS officers.

Talking to reporters here, LoP Sharma, according to the news agency said, "Such decisions fall well within the purview of the LG's authority and are in line with the governance mechanism of a Union Territory."

He said that there is no need for political controversy over transfers of officers, particularly those associated with maintaining law and order. "Transfers have been taking place in the past and will continue in the future. J&K is a Union Territory where the LG holds administrative powers, especially in areas related to law and order," he said.

He said that officers like Sub Divisional Magistrates, Additional Deputy Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners possess magisterial powers and their postings are directly handled by the LG. "Any transfers aimed at improving law and order should not be opposed by any political party or legisla-



tion. The Centre has worked tirelessly to bring stability in the region, and the situation has improved considerably over the years," Sharma said, as per KNO.

Referring to the ruling National Conference Sharma said, "The NC is a regional party from Kashmir... a small party. If they are holding meetings, we have no objection to it and don't wish to comment on it."

He added that apart from law and order-related postings, other departmental transfers—like those of engineers, directors, and lecturers—are routine matters handled by the NC-led government. "They have recently changed the Director of Education and Director of Health. These are administrative decisions and should be seen as such," Sharma said.

"People of J&K are witnessing real change and should not be misled by unnecessary political narratives. The LG is acting within his mandate," he added. KNO

>> Row over transfers

## MLAs of ruling alliance pass resolution urging New Delhi to respect public mandate of J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

Amid differences between J&K government and Raj Bhavan over transfers of 48 officers of Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), the ruling alliance partners in the Union Territory on Friday passed a resolution urging New Delhi to respect public mandate. It also passed another resolution condemning the Waqf (Amendment) Bill-2025.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MLAs of ruling alliance comprising NC, Congress, independents met here today morning under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to discuss recent transfers of 48 JKAS officers by Lieutenant Governor—the move perceived as interference by the elected government.

The two-hour long meeting held at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder

Choudhary's official residence was attended by 46 MLAs and NC president Dr. President Dr. Farooq Abdullah.

After the meeting, NC spokesman Tanvir Sadiq told reporters that they have passed a resolution urging the Government of India to respect the public mandate of J&K.

"We have reiterated our demand for the Government of India to respect the public mandate,"

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## NC obsessed with patwari transfers, ignoring J&K's real issues: Mehbooba

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday launched a scathing attack on the ruling National Conference, accusing it of squandering the electoral mandate by focusing on "trivial" administrative matters while "ignoring" Jammu and Kashmir's most pressing issues.

Speaking at the PDP headquarters here, Mehbooba, according to the news agency expressed



outrage over Chief Minister Omar Abdullah convening a high-level meeting primarily to discuss

the "transfer of patwaris" rather than addressing grave concerns like the "continued detention of youth, mass terminations of government employees, rampant unemployment, and the erosion of the region's special status."

"People believed that a new government would come and protect our rights, but instead, our rights have been robbed. They thought this government would address the hardships, the problems, unemployment, and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Spring arrives, CM Omar inaugurates 'Almond Blossom festival' at Badamwari

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

Signaling the arrival of spring in Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the 'Almond Bloom Festival,' at the famous Badamwari garden in the old city here.

The festival organized by the Departments of Tourism and Floriculture saw participation from a host of dignitaries including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdhury, NC's chief spokesperson

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## Over 28,000 women benefited from GoI's empowerment schemes in J&K, Ladakh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

More than 28,000 women in Jammu & Kashmir and 2,500 in Ladakh have received assistance under the Government of India's Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) scheme in the financial year 2024-25, according to data released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The HEW initiative, part of the broader Mission Shakti program, is aimed at empowering women by providing them with access to legal aid, financial literacy programmes and government welfare



schemes.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the numbers indicate a steady increase in the scheme's reach, with J&K assisting

24,574 women in 2023-24 and 17,110 in 2022-23, while Ladakh helped 160 women last year and 799 this year.

Meanwhile, under the Pradhan Mantri Matru

Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating mothers, over 1.41 lakh women in Jammu & Kashmir and 2,510 in Ladakh received benefits in 2024-25. The scheme offers a Rs 6,000 cash incentive to eligible mothers, ensuring better maternal health and nutrition.

Despite the rising number of beneficiaries, officials acknowledge challenges in reaching women in remote areas. In regions like Keran, Gurez, and Kargil, difficult terrain and lack of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## 10 injured in twin Qazigund accidents

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
QAZIGUND, APR 04 (KNO)

Ten people were injured in two separate road accidents along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday.

An official told the news agency that a Tata Mobile vehicle skidded off the road near Mir Bazar in the morning, injuring five people.

All the injured, residents of Bakerwal Check Manzmoah, were shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment.

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## 1.6 lakh patients treated at AIIMS Vijaypur, Kashmir's AIIMS faces delays: GoI

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 04 (KNO)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Lok Sabha that two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are under development in Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSY). AIIMS Vijaypur in Jammu has recorded a patient footfall of 1,61,461, while AIIMS Awantipora in Kashmir remains under



construction.

The ministry, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said AIIMS Vijay-

pur has been allocated Rs 1,963.54 crore, and AIIMS Awantipora has received Rs 2,160.84 crore. The completion of these proj-

ects depends on factors such as the transfer of encumbrance-free land by the state government, regulatory approvals, and site-specific conditions.

In response to a parliamentary question, the government provided data on patient footfall at AIIMS Delhi from various states and union territories. The data shows that 61,033 outpatients and 7,882 inpatients from Jammu and Kashmir

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## In 3 years, One Stop Centers provide assistance to over 6,400 domestic violence survivors in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 04 (KNO)

The One Stop Centres (OSCs) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have provided assistance to a significant number of women affected by domestic violence over the past three years.

According to data provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 1,544 women in Jammu & Kashmir sought refuge at OSCs in 2021-22. The number, as per the

news agency increased to 2,482 in 2022-23 and slightly declined to 2,374 in 2023-24. In Ladakh, 26 women were assisted in 2021-22, 19 in 2022-23, and 17 in 2023-24.

Notably, the OSCs offer immediate support to survivors, including medical assistance, legal aid, police intervention, temporary shelter, and psychological counseling. Survivors can stay at the centers for up to five days, with an extension of up to 10 days in certain cases.

"Further extensions require approval from district authorities. Efforts are made to relocate survivors to long-term shelters such as Shakti Sadans when necessary," the government said, adding that it has taken several measures to assist domestic violence survivors in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh through the One Stop Centres (OSCs) and related initiatives including OSCs provide medical aid, legal assistance, police intervention, psychologi-

cal counseling, and temporary shelter to survivors. "Survivors receive legal guidance and support to ensure protection under the law and assistance in pursuing justice. Psycho-social counseling is provided to help survivors cope with trauma and regain stability," it said.

Government programs facilitate skill development and employment opportunities to help survivors achieve financial independence. KNO

## BJP activist serves nation, society, masses for 365 days in a year: Ashok Koul

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

J&K BJP held Mandal level meetings of Bahu Assembly Constituency under the leadership of Jammu South District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia and Bishnah Assembly Constituency under the leadership of District President Rinku Choudhary.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) chiefly addressed the meetings which were attended by the respective Mandal Presidents along with the Mandal teams.

Aseem Gupta, Vice-President, J&K BJP Ayodhya Gupta, Secretary, J&K BJP & Prabhari District Jammu South, Nitish Mahjan, Mandal President, Trikuta Nagar Mandal, and others were among the prominent present in the meeting of Trikuta Nagar Mandal.

Rajiv Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, former MLA Ashwani Sharma, District Prabhari Rajendra Singh Chib, Seh-Prabhari Sardar Harbhajan Singh Pammi, DDC Bishnah Devinder Kumar, Khairi Rihal Mandal President Rakesh Kumar, and others were among the prominent present in the meeting of Khairi Rihal Mandal.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the party



activists in the meetings, stressed for the prompt activation of the teams up to the booth level for the efficient organizational working. He also asked them to work in unison with the senior leaders living in their respective Mandals to strengthen the organization.

Terming the office bearers of the Mandal teams as the face of the party in the masses, Koul asked them to acquaint themselves with the ideology and the policies of the party, so as to build good rapport of the organization in the masses. He asked them to work as a bridge between the party and the public,

while organizing the party programmes at the ground level.

While deliberating on the forthcoming party programmes, Ashok Koul asked all the Mandal presidents to hoist the party flag at the houses of BJP workers at every booth on the party's Foundation Day on April 6, and to organize programmes on Samrasta Diwas on April 14 on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar ji.

Koul further asked the party activists to brace themselves for the hectic organizational days ahead, as he said that besides the hyperactive working

during the election days, a BJP activist committedly serves the nation, society, and masses for the 365 days in a year.

Rajiv Bhagat acquainted the party activists with the ongoing development work in the area. While assuring his commitment towards the public, he asked the party activists to approach the public, know their issues and share them with the senior party leadership.

Naresh Singh Jasrotia and Rinku Choudhary assured the senior party leadership that the enthusiastic party activists from the Mandal will dedicate themselves for the organization and the society.

## Bandipora admin holds training prog for coordinators for IEC campaign against drug abuse

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 04

The District Administration Bandipora on Friday organized a training programme for coordinators designated for the IEC Campaign against drug abuse.

The programme, presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, was aimed at equipping coordinators with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively implement the campaign at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC emphasized the significance of the IEC campaign in curbing drug menace and its adverse effects on society. He urged all stakeholders to work with dedication and enthusiasm to ensure the



campaign's success in a mission mode.

ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl called for collective efforts to safeguard the youth and the community from the ill effects of drugs and stressed the importance of early intervention and prevention strategies to ensure a drug-free society.

He also stressed the importance of using a strategic communication approach to reach vulnerable sections of society.

District Information Officer (DIO), Aadil Manzoor Wani, who is also District Level Coordinator for the IEC Campaign, elaborated on the vital role of coordinators in executing

awareness initiatives. He highlighted the activities planned under the campaign, stressing the importance of community participation and outreach in spreading awareness.

He urged coordinators to actively involve youth at panchayat level to amplify the message against drug abuse.

On the occasion, resource person from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Sheikh Aubaid ur Rehman briefed the participants on the use of an Android application specifically designed for uploading and monitoring IEC campaign activities, ensuring seamless reporting and transparency.

Among others the training programme was attended by designated coordinators from various departments and other concerned.

## DDC Chairman, MLA Udhampur East kick start blacktopping work of 6 Km NH to Mahamaya Mandir road

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 04

Chairman District Development Council Udhampur Lal Chand today kick-started the black-topping work on the 6 km National Highway to Mahamaya Mandir road being constructed at a cost of Rs 7.38 cr. The foundation stone of the road was laid in March 2024. MLA Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, DDC Udhampur-I Puran Chand and DDC Tikri Ashu Sharma, along with the officials from the PWD department, including AEE and JE were also present at the launch of the work.

This is the first road project among 13 projects on which the blacktopping work is being initiated. The project was prioritised by



the District Development Council under NABARD in the FY 2023-24. Another project under the same sanction- the Bridge over Dhandyal Nallah at the Krimachi Debrah road has already been completed and opened for the commuters.

The blacktopping of the road from the National Highway to Mahamaya

Mandir represents a significant infrastructure development. This project is prioritised by the District Development Council (DDC) as it holds cultural and tourism value by enhancing connectivity to religious sites like the Mahamaya Mandir.

The completion of the Dhandyal Nallah Bridge on the Krimachi Debrah road,

another project under the same sanction, demonstrates progress in addressing critical infrastructure needs.

The projects contribute to the overall development of the region by improving connectivity, facilitating economic activity, and enhancing access to essential services. The improved road infrastructure will significantly benefit pilgrims visiting the Mahamaya Mandir, enhancing their travel experience.

The Chairman congratulated the locals of the area for the developmental initiatives and urged the officials concerned to maintain the quality of the work. The locals also thanked the chairman for conceding their long-pending demand.

## Jammu Police South Zone intensifies crime prevention and public safety measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

Jammu Police, South Zone, continues its drive against crime and public safety violations through multiple actions across multiple police stations. From proactive community engagement to preventive actions on offenders, the actions highlight the police's commitment to maintaining order.

In a proactive community initiative, PP Narwal organized a Drug Awareness Programme at the Community Hall, Channi Rama, Ward No. 49. With an approximate gathering of 19/25 individuals, the session aimed to educate the public on the dangers of substance abuse and the legal consequences of drug-related offenses. The event reinforced the police's focus on preventive action alongside strict enforcement.

Furthermore, in a bid to curb the sale of illicit drugs, ICPP Bhatindi and SHO PS Channi Himmat conducted inspections of medical shops in their respective jurisdictions. These inspections were aimed at identifying any illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs, ensuring



compliance with legal regulations, and sending a strong message against drug abuse.

Traffic enforcements remained a priority, with multiple units of South Zone maintaining stringent checks on Motor Vehicle violations along with taking other measures:

PS Gangyal: 05 vehicles Challenged under MV Act, 02 persons fined under

COTPA act

PP Gadigarh: Registered one preventive action under 39/128 BNSS against a drug addict, seized one bike under Section 207 MV Act, and slapped one MV challan.

PP Sainik Colony: Seized three vehicles for traffic violations.

PP Chatha: Two preventive action taken, two challans and one vehicle seized under the MV Act.

PP Nehru Market: Four vehicles challaned under the MV Act.

The measures reaffirm the South Zone's dedication to crime prevention, public safety, and legal enforcement. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities. The Jammu Police remains steadfast in ensuring a secure and law-abiding society.

## 'Katcha Houses to become a Relic of past': VC DDC Udhampur hails transformative impact of PMAY

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 04

Vice Chairperson District Development Council Juhi Manhas Pathania today hailed highly transformative impact of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme in ameliorating the socio-economic condition of poor, saying Katcha Houses will soon become a relic of past.

While touring the length and breadth of District Udhampur, Juhi emphasized that the Union Government is working on a mission mode to ensure that no one lives in a katcha house. Juhi called upon Rural Development staff and ground-level workers to maximize geotagging of houses in their respective areas. She also urged officials to ensure a hassle-free geotagging process for beneficiaries. She reaffirmed that PMAY

remains a top priority of the Centre, highlighting its role in transforming rural housing. Additionally, she raised awareness about the PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana, a revolutionary scheme aimed at providing clean, renewable, and affordable electricity to households. "Under this initiative, households will be equipped with solar roof-top panels, enabling them to generate their own electricity and reduce dependence on conventional energy sources," she said and informed

"The government is offering subsidized rates and financial assistance to encourage the adoption of solar energy. This scheme will not only help in reducing electricity bills but also contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting the use of green energy."

Juhi urged citizens to

take advantage of this opportunity and adopt solar power for a brighter and cleaner future. Various deputations met her during the visit, highlighting requirement of staff at Government Higher Secondary School Thial, Government Higher Secondary School Mansar, Hanging School at Garh Samna Bhanj, GHSS Barta, GHSS Baryalta and GHSS Nakki.

Juhi assured the deputations led by local PRIs from Chor Panjian and Mottu that High School Mottu has been enlisted under a PM SHRI Scheme, marking a significant achievement for the region. Interacting with another delegation from Latti, she stressed the need for macadamization of roads and the commencement of work on the Kirchi to Seoj Dhar road—a flagship central project.

## Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan Doda admin gears up for Anti-Drug IEC Campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness for the launch of district-wide Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign on April 7, 2025 under the Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

The campaign, aimed at combating drug abuse, will initially start in 17 panchayats, and cover all 237 panchayats and educational institutions in the district during the current year. The meeting was attended by DPO S-Parmjeet Singh, ASP Headquarters Shakeel Ahmed Bhatt, ACD Manoj Kumar and officers from other stakeholder departments.

The campaign will be supervised by the designated Nodal Officer and will focus on community awareness, youth engagement, and sensitization programs. It will involve the participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), students, ASHA workers and civil society members.

## IG Jammu Zone assesses Border Security, operational preparedness in Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 4TH

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Sh Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, conducted a comprehensive visit to the District Police Office Samba, Sub-Divisional Police Office Vijaypur, Border Police Post Koul-

pur, SOG Camp Phulpur and the border areas of Samba. Accompanied by the Deputy Inspector General, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Sh Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS and Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Sh Virender Singh Manhas, JKPS. The visit aimed to assess the security

situation, review operational preparedness, and strengthen coordination among security forces deployed in the region.

During the visit, the IG Jammu held detailed meetings with senior officers of the Border Security Force and the Indian Army, discussing

key security measures to enhance vigilance along the International Border. The discussions focused on intelligence-sharing, counter-infiltration strategies, and ensuring seamless coordination between various security agencies to counter potential threats effectively.

key security measures to enhance vigilance along the International Border. The discussions focused on intelligence-sharing, counter-infiltration strategies, and ensuring seamless coordination between various security agencies to counter potential threats effectively.

## DHSJ inspects functioning of SDH Baderwah

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BHADERWAH, APRIL 04

Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today inspected patient care services at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Baderwah.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar and Block Medical Officer Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Kuchay.

Dr. Zargar conducted a thorough inspection of different sections of the hospital, interacting with the medical and paramedical staff. The members of local NGOs and civil society members also met Dr Zargar and congratulated him for his new assignment as DHS Jammu. They also projected several demands for the betterment of healthcare services in the region. They sought his intervention in strengthening the Medicare facilities, staff augmentation, and infrastructure development in SDH Baderwah and other peripheral health institutions.

Responding to the projected demands, Dr.



DHS DODA

Zargar assured the public that all possible measures will be taken to enhance healthcare services in the region. He reiterated his commitment to strengthening infrastructure, ensuring the availability of medical personnel, and improving patient care services in SDH Baderwah and surrounding health centers.

Later, the DHS took stock of the arrangements at the ongoing screening camp being conducted in the hospital ahead of the

mega surgical camp being organized by Rotary International India from 16th April 2025 onwards.

CMO along with BMO and hospital staff extended their warm regards to Dr. Zargar and provided a detailed briefing on the functioning and requirements of SDH Baderwah.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening healthcare facilities across the region.

## DC finalises arrangements for Ram Navmi celebration in Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened a meeting with officers from the line departments to review and finalize the arrangements for the Ram Navmi festival.

Representatives from the Sanatan Dharma Sabha shared valuable suggestions regarding key aspects of festival preparations. They sought special provision for sanitation, electricity and water supply, traffic management and adequate availability of ration supplies.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene during the festivities. He directed the concerned departments to actively promote sanitation efforts including lime lining at festive venues, especially in and around temples.

Additionally, the DC

instructed officials to visit temples to assess the ground situation and ensure readiness. The SSP was asked to make comprehensive security arrangements at temples across the district to ensure the safety of the devotees.

The meeting also underscored the need for seamless interdepartmental coordination to facilitate smooth festival celebrations.

The Jal Shakti and Power Development Department (PDD) was asked to take all necessary measures to provide seamless services.

The Executive Engineer PDD was tasked with ensuring proper lighting arrangements in addition to consistent power supply.

Tehsildar Kishtwar was instructed to monitor the rates and quality of food items sold during the festival through regular market checks.

The Health Department was directed to

make adequate provisions for medical facilities, including the deployment of medical staff, to handle any emergency situations.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for foolproof traffic management during festive processions, stage settings, and other safety measures. Relevant directions were issued to concerned authorities to ensure comprehensive preparedness.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including SSP Javed Iqbal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma; ACR Idrees Lone; AD Food Shafiq Keen; EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, ARTO Tasleem Wani, Executive Engineers from PWD and Jal Shakti, AD Fire & Emergency, along with representatives from Traffic and other line departments, and members of Sanatan Dharma Sabha Kishtwar.

## SHEW Shopian holds awareness camp at Mugmarg Zainapora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 04

Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, (SHEW) Shopian today organized an awareness programme at AWC Mugmarg, Zainapora Shopian.

The event was aimed at educating women about various welfare schemes, helpline numbers and other initiatives of women upliftment available in the district.

Officials provided detailed insights into a-

tives, including those focused on women's education, skill development, financial independence, health, and entrepreneurship. Speaking at the event, officials from Sankalp Hub emphasized the importance of empowering women with knowledge and resources.

Participants were also encouraged to engage with ongoing skill development programmes and entrepreneurial ventures supported by various departments in the district.

## 'Say No to Drugs': DIPR artists spread message through Cultural Programme



JAMMU, APRIL 04

A Cultural Awareness Programme on "Nasha Mukh Bharat" (Say No to Drugs) was today organised by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu here at JDA Club Roopnagar. The event, hosted in collaboration with District Administration Jammu, aimed to spread awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and encourage a drug-free society.

Artists of the Cultural Unit raise awareness through theme-based songs. The performers skillfully highlighted how

drug addiction impacts individuals, families, and society at large.

SDPO Bakshish Nagar Satish Bhardwaj and Tehsildar Jammu North Aman Kumar Anand shared their views and also made the audience aware of the topic. They appreciated the efforts of the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the event to generate awareness for the audience.

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

## JKTF expands State and Provincial Bodies in Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) Affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers its federation has announced a significant expansion of its State and Provincial Bodies (Jammu) to further strengthen organizational framework and enhance its role in addressing the concerns of the teaching fraternity and students.

With the mandate to represent and advocate for both teachers and students, this expansion was approved by UT Chairman Showkat Ali Beig\* and UT President "Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, and formalized through an order issued by UT General Secretary Mir Bashir Ahmad.

As per the order, newly appointed office bearers have been entrusted with key responsibilities to work on behalf of JKTF in their respective capacities. Their primary focus will be on strengthening the forum, advocating for the rights of teachers, and ensuring the resolution of critical issues in the education sector. While congratulating new portfolio holders, Chairman Showkat Ali Beig emphasized that the move is aimed at enhanc-



ing the forum's reach and effectiveness, ensuring that JKTF remains a strong and united platform committed to the welfare of teachers and the academic well-being of students.

State President "Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf reaffirmed JKTF's commitment to working proactively with the administration to address pressing concerns, including teacher welfare, policy reforms, and improvements in the education system. He urged the newly appointed members to uphold the forum's values and work tirelessly for the betterment of the teaching community.

The expansion reflects JKTF's ongoing efforts to strengthen its organiza-

tional structure and reaffirm its role as the leading voice of educators across Jammu & Kashmir. The newly nominated members have been directed to assume their roles with immediate effect and work towards the forum's collective mission. The responsibilities assigned are as follows:

State Body Portfolios  
\*Senior Vice President: Rifaqat Hussain Malik  
\*Vice Chairman\*: Mehmood Riyaz Bhat State Secretary: Raman Kumar Sharma Vice President: Neetan Kalyan, "Vice president Shaid Raza Qurashi- \*UT Chief Coordinator: Dr. Sanjay Sharma \*Chief Press & Publicity Secretary: Jalil Ahmed \*UT Convener: Lokesh Sharma \*Additional Spokesperson\*: Sardar Ranjeet Singh- \*UT Coordinator: Ch. Ashraf Hussain "UT Advisor: Maroof Zargar "UT Joint Secretary: Tariq Amin Naik "UT Media Secretary\*: Gh. Murtaza Khan "Provincial Body (Jammu) Portfolios\* \*Provincial President (Jammu)\*: Sanjeet Sharma "Provincial Senior Vice President\*: Nasir Ahmed Mir "Provincial General Secretary\*: Amarjeet Singh \*Provincial Coordinator: Naveed Ahmed Dev

## CoF Srinagar holds meeting to combat rising forest fires

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 04

A meeting focussing on forest fire prevention and management was held under the chairmanship of Conservator of Forests, (CoF) Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex in Srinagar today.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Forest Protection Force, Kashmir, all Divisional Forest Officers of Srinagar Circle and all Deputy Directors of Forest Protection Force and Wildlife Wardens of Kashmir Region.

The primary agenda was to address the recent forest fires that have impacted various forest divisions within the Kashmir Region.

The meeting conducted a thorough review of the current situation, analyzed the causes of the fires, and strategized an enhanced prevention and mitigation measures.

"The protection of our forests is paramount," stated the CoF Srinagar. He added that the department is committed to implement proactive measures to safeguard these vital ecosystems and ensure the safety of our communities.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that all forest fire control rooms across the districts are



operating round the clock.

The key strategies discussed and adopted in the meeting include, Intensifying efforts to educate the public on fire safety and the importance of preventing forest fires, enhancing surveillance and monitoring to detect and respond to potential fire hazards promptly.

Besides, Fostering seamless collaboration between the Forest Department, Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Protection Department, and other relevant agencies was also stressed upon.

Further, meeting emphasized on strict action against anyone found responsible for

causing forest fire and shall be booked under relevant forest protection law.

The Forest Department reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the invaluable forest resources and called upon the public to cooperate and remain vigilant in preventing forest fires.

## DC reviews functioning of Revenue Department in Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting to review the functioning of the Revenue Department in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mendhar Imran Kataria; SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, along with Tehsildars, the Account Officer, and other concerned officials.



the ongoing endeavors in digitizing and geo-

referencing of revenue records. The urgency

of completing the digitization process, and retrieval of encroached state land were emphasized throughout the discussions. The current sanction Strength and Vacancy Positions, essential revenue documents such as Khewats, Khatas, and Khasras were also discussed.

The Deputy Commissioner specifically highlighted the need for timely verification and digitization of revenue records, directing all officials to ensure the provision of online services to the public within a stipu-

lated time frame. He also mandated the demolition of illegal encroachments along NH144, reinforcing the government's commitment to maintaining public land integrity.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed the Capex Budget for 2024-25, focusing on the status of construction projects and the completion of the remaining land passbook issuance process.

This proactive approach aims to bolster the efficiency of the Revenue Department and enhance service delivery to the citizens of Poonch.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-TENDER NOTICE						
The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-						
S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of Opening	Bidding Start Date on IREPS to 28.04.2025
1.	OT-07-JRC-2025	Fabrication and Erection of side Pathway, Replacement of loose rivets of Br. No. 84 (20x30.5m) on JUC-FZR section of FZR division.	1,78,53,977.00	2,39,300.00	28.04.2025	10 Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender			Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.			
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded			The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> .			
No.: 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 04.04.2025 1034/2025						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Notice Inviting Tender						
Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 28.04.2025 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.						
S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (₹)	Cost of Tender form (₹)	Date & time for submission of Tender	Earnest Money# (₹)
1.	701-TRD-FZR-2025-26	TRD work in c/w various Engineering Works like CTR, TRR & TTR etc over Firozpur division.	88,24,042.38	NIL	Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs	1,76,500/-
*Similar Nature of Work: "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE". (Ref: OHE Works S.No.1.1 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/PL11, dated 29.07.2021).						
2.	702-TRD-FZR-2025-26	TRD work in c/w replacement of various bridges work over Firozpur division against Engg/FZR's sanctioned estimates under PH-32.	34,34,930.61	NIL	Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs	68,700/-
Completion period			Twelve (12) Months after 15:00 hrs			
Opening of tender			28.04.2025 after 15:00 hrs			
Website Particulars			<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.						
Tenders Notice No.: 701 & 702-TRD-FZR-2025-26 Dated: 04.04.2025 1030/2025						
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE						

## Shrine Board's Medical College unveils Skill and Simulation Lab for immersive learning

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KAKRYAL, APRIL 4

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) - Medical College of SMVDSB achieved a significant milestone with the unveiling of its state-of-the-art Skill and Simulation Lab. This cutting-edge facility is equipped with the latest technology and equipment, providing a comprehensive platform for enhancing hands-on medical training and skill development. The lab will benefit faculty members, MBBS and nursing students, as well as paramedical staff by offering immersive training experiences that foster expertise and excellence in patient care.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated the Skill and Simulation Lab in the presence of Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Gopal Sharma, Asstt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME, Asso-



ciated Hospital and Principals from GMC Kathua and GMC Doda along with other SMVDIME officers and staff.

Following the inauguration, a guided tour of the lab revealed its state-of-the-art, high-fidelity training equipment which leverages cutting-edge technology to replicate real-world medical scenarios.

On the occasion, CEO, SMVDSB expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) for his unwavering support and guidance in approving the infrastructural plan for the Medical College. This ambitious plan, at

the cost of Rs.350 crore, encompasses the development of a state-of-the-art Academic and Administrative Block for SMVDIME, accommodations for faculty and students and the expansion of the existing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital by adding around 250 beds. The ultimate aim is to increase the Medical College's intake capacity from 50 to 100 seats, aligning with the Shrine Board's decision.

The CEO commended the Executive Director and his team for their exceptional work in establishing the facility while highlighting the significance of simulation-based learning in medical education. He underscored that this cutting-edge facility will transform skill training, providing students with hands-on experience in a controlled and safe environment, besides, bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Furthermore, the CEO asserted that the facility will also train all Shrine Board employees in Basic Life Support (BLS) ensuring that pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine receive optimal care.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to the successful realization of this project while stating that this state-of-the-art facility embodies SMVDIME's unwavering commitment to excellence in medical education as it provides a dynamic learning environment where students, interns and healthcare professionals can refine their skills and ultimately enhance patient care outcomes.

## BJP gov't remains unbothered while unemployment causes frustration among youth: Sawhney

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

Anirudh Sawhney, State General Secretary, J&K Youth Congress, on Friday in a statement, expressed deep concern over the alarming unemployment crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the region's staggering urban youth unemployment rate of 32%, the highest in India. He highlighted that unemployment is not just an economic issue; it's a crisis that threatens the future of our youth and the stability of our society. He demanded that the administration and government must address this crisis on a priority basis and provide relief to the youth of Jammu in the form of job creation and accessibility.

Speaking on the issue, Sawhney said that over 3.7 lakh young individuals are officially registered as unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir, and the situation is even more dire for highly educated youth, including PhD holders and postgraduates, who are struggling to find



meaningful employment. He further emphasized the dire need for comprehensive reforms to address the root causes of this crisis. He pointed out that the lack of industrial infrastructure, limited private sector growth, and an over-reliance on government jobs have contributed significantly to the employment bottleneck.

The state general secretary further stressed that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are talented, educated, and capable. However, the mismatch between their qualifications and the available job opportunities is creating a generation of frustrated individuals, he added.

## Samsung Electronics unveils 'AI Home' Vision at Welcome to Bespoke AI Event

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, unveiled its refreshed "AI Home" vision and innovative appliance lineup at its global launch event, Welcome to Bespoke AI, in Seoul, Korea. With a focus on providing a more secure and intuitive user experience, the company introduced an AI Home experience, showcasing advanced AI features and a wider range of screen-enabled appliances. Jeong Seung Moon, EVP and Head of the R&D Team for Digital Appliances Business at Samsung Electronics, opened the global press conference by introducing the company's vision for creating an AI Home

that harmoniously connects various devices and, as a result, caters to user needs in every room of the home. "Through our Bespoke AI appliances, Samsung has brought an AI Home to life that not only enhances everyday convenience but also enables energy savings and care," said Jeong Seung Moon. "We will continue to expand the advanced AI Home to more households, leveraging smart screens, Bixby and Knox security." During the event, Samsung introduced its Bespoke AI appliances for 2025, which bring new and innovative functionalities to solve users' difficult problems.

At the heart of the company's vision is the AI Home display.

## Indian Army conducts Friendly Volleyball Match with Locals at Doda



JINNEWS SERVICE  
DODA: 04 APR 2025

On popular demand of local residents, Indian Army organised a friendly volleyball match between Indian Army and Government Degree College team at Government City Middle School at Doda in alignment with "Khelo India". Both the teams participated enthusiastically & displayed a very high degree of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit. It was a thrilling and exciting match till the end. 69 x Students, 10 x teachers, 30 x participants & 07 x Media persons participated in the event.

The Volleyball match was aimed at developing a competitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent. The match was witnessed with keen interest by one and all, thus generating bonhomie amongst the players as well as locals. The Indian Army graced the event as Chief Guest and congratulated both the teams for the sterling performance and distributed prizes to both the teams. Team members and locals expressed their heartfelt gratitude for organizing the event and requested for more such sporting events in the future.

## MP Gulam Ali Slams Waqf Mismanagement, Strongly Backs Waqf (Amendment) Bill in RS

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

In a forceful and emotionally charged intervention during the ongoing discussion in the Rajya Sabha, Member of Parliament Shri Gulam Ali on Thursday lent unequivocal support to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, describing it as a long-overdue corrective measure to safeguard the spiritual, social, and constitutional sanctity of waqf properties in India.

Shri Gulam Ali, a nominated member of the

Upper House, pulled no punches as he exposed decades of what he termed "organized loot and political interference" in waqf institutions. "This Bill is not just a legal amendment—it is a revival of a sacred trust, a religious and moral obligation," he said, adding that waqf in Islam is a continuous charity meant for the welfare of people, not a tool for political patronage.

Citing Quranic verses and prophetic traditions,

MP Gulam Ali underlined the spiritual ethos behind waqf and lamented its degradation due to corruption and misgovernance. "When waqf made in the name of Allah ends up serving the interests of political families and land mafias, then reform is not just desirable, it becomes imperative," he stated.

The MP, who also served on the Select Committee that reviewed the Bill, described the revelations during deliberations as "deeply disturbing." He noted that

waqf boards in several states had become hotbeds of corruption, with properties either encroached upon, leased out at throwaway prices, or sold altogether. "In Karnataka alone, nearly Rs 2,000 crore worth of waqf land has been lost. In Maharashtra and Delhi, grave misuse of authority led to the handing over of mosques and dargahs to private interests," he alleged.

Taking direct aim at the Congress party, Shri Gulam Ali accused suc-

cessive governments of turning a blind eye to these issues while exploiting the Muslim community for electoral gains. "The same party that appointed the Sachar Committee chose to ignore its findings when it came to implementing real reforms," he said.

Shri Gulam Ali strongly defended the Bill's provisions, particularly the roles assigned to district collectors for waqf surveys and the checks on unlawful waqf

declarations, insisting they were designed to enhance transparency and inclusivity, not curtail religious rights. "This Bill ensures that waqf remains an institution of the people, for the people," he affirmed.

Ending his speech on a poetic note, he quoted verses urging reform and resurgence, urging the House not to succumb to the pressure of vested interests who, according to him, "fear accountability after years of unchecked exploitation."

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### LG Sinha defends...

four Congress legislators led by chief whip Nizamuddin Bhat and independents supporting the National Conference government attended the meeting.

The meeting of the alliance partners was held in the backdrop of LG Sinha ordering transfer and posting of 48 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). KNO

### Spring arrives, CM...

Tanvir Sadiq, Director Tourism, and senior officials. As per the news agency the garden echoed with Kashmiri music, drawing a large crowd. Celebrated artists including Noor Mohammad, Irfan Bilal, and Zaid Sikandar delivered live performances that captivated the audience and added cultural flavour to the blooming landscape.

Similarly, stalls offering local delicacies and crafts were set up around the park, giving visitors a taste of Kashmir's rich heritage.

Families were seen arriving in large numbers by evening, carrying home-cooked meals and enjoying picnics under the white and pink canopy of almond blossoms.

Additionally, security arrangements were robust, with deployment of personnel from almost every police post in Downtown Srinagar. 'Entry and exit points were closely monitored, ensuring a peaceful environment for the gathering.'

Meanwhile, the festival served as a celebration of Kashmir's changing season, with locals embracing the opportunity to unwind in one of the Valley's most iconic spaces.

Tamana, a resident of Hawal, said we wait for this bloom every year. It reminds us that winter is over and better days are coming. This festival brings life back to the old city.

Aqib Hussain a college student said, "Badamwari looks magical in spring, and today it truly felt like a celebration of Kashmir." KNO

### MLAs of ruling alliance...

which is non-negotiable," he said. He said New Delhi should construe their cooperation for weakness.

"Let there be no misunderstanding—our cooperation should not be mistaken for weakness. This is our final appeal, not a request but a resolute warning: Do not push us to the wall," he said.

He said the meeting also condemned the Waqf Bill passed by the Parliament.

"This Bill is against Muslims and minorities in the country, and we oppose it," he said.

MLA Bandipora and chief whip of Congress Nizam-

ud-Din Bhat said both long-term and short-term issues were discussed in detail.

"All MLAs in the government stand firmly behind the leader of the House. On sensitive matters like the Waqf Bill and public mandate, there is unanimous agreement that these issues must be resolved through dialogue with the Centre," he said. KNO

### 1.6 lakh patients...

visited AIIMS Delhi in the last six years. Patients from Ladakh accounted for 5,866 outpatient visits and 1,623 inpatient admissions during the same period.

AIIMS Delhi has facilities for patients and attendants, including Vishram Sadans, which has over 1,500 beds. Other amenities include clean drinking water, mobile charging stations, cafeteria services, and rest areas.

Initiatives such as the Online Registration System (ORS), Smart Lab Facility, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, e-shuttle services, and ramps for accessibility have been introduced to assist patients, the ministry said. KNO

### NC obsessed with...

other issues—that it would protect us. But sadly, six months have passed, and there has been no talk of the youth rotting in jails, no discussion about our employees being terminated. Daily wagers are struggling—the youth are unemployed, there's an atmosphere of crack-downs, raids are being conducted everywhere," Mehbooba said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister as per Kashmir News Observer lambasted the NC's reluctance to confront the Central Government on substantive issues, noting that even as basic amenities fail and institutions like the historic Jama Masjid remain shuttered, the ruling party remains silent. "They say, 'We don't want confrontation with the Centre. No one wants conflict with Delhi, but you surrendered before even trying! You're too afraid to even speak about the issues for which people voted for you. For the transfer of a patwari, an entire alliance of MLAs gathers—is this why the people of Jammu and Kashmir voted for you? Is the patwari's transfer their only concern? Is that the biggest issue—or is it the youth languishing in jails?'"

She said that it is concerning that the NC led government has adopted a stoic silence on core issues confronting Jammu and Kashmir. "The moment they [NC] formed the government, they surrendered. Now look—train being inaugurated will be stopped at Katra, —did Omar sahib speak up about this? Did he even call the railway minister? What are they even doing? They don't take a stand on issues that actually matter. Forget Article 370—they don't even dare take its name," said Mehbooba.

According to the PDP President, the real problems—

causing people pain every day, the growing hardships—no one talks about it. "Instead, they [NC] ask: 'Why did the LG sahib transfer the patwari? Why can't we do it?'" To me, this is absurd. A government with such a massive mandate—and they're wasting time on petty issues, calling big meetings over trivial matters. This, I believe, is a mockery of the mandate people gave them," said Mehbooba Mufti. KNO

### Over 28,000 women...

awareness have limited accessibility. The government has been conducting door-to-door campaigns and using digital platforms to improve outreach.

The Ministry has launched a 100-day women's empowerment campaign under HEW, focusing on health camps, gender sensitization workshops, and community mobilisation efforts. Special registration drives for PMMVY are also being conducted in the rural belts of Kashmir and Ladakh to maximise coverage.

With the Union Territory administrations prioritising women's welfare and financial independence, the success of these schemes will be crucial in shaping gender-inclusive development in the region. KNO

### 10 injured in...

In another incident at Levdoora Flyover, five passengers were injured in a head-on collision between two vehicles. The accident occurred due to high speed, officials said.

Police, including SDPO and SHO Qazigund, reached the spot and evacuated the injured to a nearby hospital. All ten injured people are said to be in stable condition.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of both accidents. KNO

### Karra, Mir...

Senior Congress leader Nizam-ud-din Bhat while talking to the reporters here said that the two leaders couldn't attend the meeting due to prior commitments in New Delhi.

Moreover, MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also skipped the meeting due to prior commitments in Tamil Nadu, sources said.

Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a crucial meeting at Deputy Chief Minister's official residence at Fairview, Gupkar, Srinagar in which around 46 MLAs participated wherein two resolutions were passed—one condemning the passage of the Waqf Bill in Parliament and the other urging the Union government to respect the people's mandate in the Union Territory. KNO

## Congress condoles demise of Ch Abdul Aziz Father of Adv Zunaid of Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

Congress has condoled the sad demise of Chaudhary Abdul Aziz, father of Senior Congress Leader of Rajouri Advocate Zunaid Chaudhary.

In a condolence message, JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has deeply condoled the sad demise of Chaudhary Abdul Aziz. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to Adv Zunaid Chaudhary and other family members. He prayed for peace to the departed soul, on behalf of entire rank and file of the party.

Several Senior Congress Leaders have also conveyed heartfelt condolences to Shri Zunaid Chaudhary and expressed deep sympathies & prayed for peace to the departed soul.

They include Working President Tara Chand (Former Dy CM, Ex - Speaker) & Shri Raman Bhalla (former Minister),

Shri Mula Ram, former minister, Shri Balwan Singh, Ex MLA, Shri Ravinder Sharma, Shri Ved Mahajan, Ex MLC, Shri Jahangir Mir, Ex Chairman Legislative Council, Shri Shabir Ahmed Khan, Ex - Minister, DCC President, Shri Iftikhar Ahmed, MLA, Sain Abdul Rasheed DDC, Shri Shakeel Mir, Shri Sajad Tariq, Shri Lalit Mahajan, Rasheed Azam Inqilabi, Shri Rajesh Bittu, Shri Ashok Sharma, Rajinder Prasad, Shri Sushil Sharma, Manju Sharma, Shri Khurshed Janam, Shri Balkrishan, Adv Aiyaz Kataria, Adv Bhavishya Sudan, Adv Dalfi, Amit Sayal, Dheeraj Sharma, DFO N C Sharma, Sdr Nirmal Singh, Yog Raj Sharma, S Isher Singh, Vijay Bakshi, Sat Pal Sharma (PCC member), Adv Surinder Bharti, Ravinder Chouhan, Vijay Guru, Sdr Rajinder Singh & several others.

## District admin B'la bids farewell to outgoing ADC, welcomes new officers

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 04

The District Administration Baramulla organized a farewell function at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to honor the outgoing Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina and to welcome the newly appointed ADC, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gulmarg, Mir Jaleel Ahmed.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, presided over the event and lauded the service of Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, acknowledging his dedication, efficiency, and commitment to public welfare. He highlighted Dr. Raina's instrumental role in ensuring smooth governance, timely execution of development projects, and effective public grievance redressal. The DC also praised Dr. Raina's contribution to revenue administration, particularly in land acquisition cases, dispute



resolution, and strengthening revenue records. Additionally, his efforts in overseeing election-related duties, ensuring smooth conduct of polling, and maintaining coordination with various departments were appreciated. The DC expressed gratitude for Dr. Raina's contributions and wished him success in his future endeavors.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Sopore S.A. Raina, newly appointed ADC Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Joint Director Planning Javed Ahmad, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Arshad Ahmad

Khan, Dy SP HQ Baramulla, Altaf Ahmad Khan also lauded the dedicated services of Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina. They commended his professionalism, administrative acumen, and people-centric approach, highlighting his pivotal role in addressing public grievances, handling revenue matters efficiently, and ensuring seamless coordination between departments.

As a mark of appreciation, mementos were presented to both the outgoing and incoming officers by the district officials and officials.

## ADC Nowshera reviews status of public services delivery, arrangements for upcoming festivals



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NOWSHERA, APRIL 04

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa today chaired a meeting with officers of line departments in his office chamber to review the status of public services delivery in the sub-division.

During the interaction, the ADC emphasized the importance of dedicated and responsive governance. He urged officers to discharge their duties with commitment and adopt a proactive approach in addressing public grievances. He stressed that

timely delivery of services must be prioritized so that the general public does not face any inconvenience.

Later in the day, the ADC visited the revered Mangla Devi Temple to take stock of the preparations underway for Durga Ashtami and Ramnavmi festivals. Accompanied by officers and members of the temple management committee, he conducted a detailed inspection of arrangements related to sanitation, security, water and power supply, fire safety, medical facilities, traffic and crowd management, and other essential services.

He also reviewed the arrangements made at Mangla Mata Temple and issued necessary directions for further improvement.

The ADC further directed the concerned officers to conduct market checking and inspection drives to curb overpricing and ensure the availability of quality essential commodities during the festive period.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Tehsildar, BDO, BMO, EO MC, TSO, and other sectoral officers attended the meeting and accompanied the ADC during the visit.

## DC Shopian directs immediate reparation of Narwah Road



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 4

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today assessed the condition of damaged segment of road at Narwah & directed concerned agencies for immediate reparations.

While visiting the site, DC took stock of the identified stretches that require immediate reparation work to facilitate the smooth movement of transportation.

Emphasizing the importance of road connectivity for local commuters, DC directed the concerned departments,

including R&B Department and PMGSY to coordinate with PC Division looking after the NH 444 and expedite execution of necessary repair and maintenance works.

He also interacted with locals, who projected their grievances & demands regarding different issues.

While assuring prompt redressal, DC reiterated the administration's commitment to infrastructure development and responsive governance.

ADC, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, officers and other officials accompanied DC during the inspection.

## Satish Sharma declares open "All India University Powerlifting Championship"

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 04

Minister for Food Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today declared open the "All India University Powerlifting Championship 2025" at University of Kashmir.

The event is being organised by the University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities. More than 1200 best athletes from around 150 Universities from across India are participating in the tournament.

Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Professor Nilofer Khan presided over the event, while VC CUK Professor Ravinder Nath, VC IUST, Professor Sha-keel A. Romshoo and VC CUK Professor Mohammad Mubeen were also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Minister asserted that this championship will set a new benchmark in promoting inclusivity, equality and sports



excellence in J&K. He exhorted that presence of so many athletes reflects the growing enthusiasm, commitment and discipline of our youth towards fitness and competitive sports.

The Minister emphasized that Powerlifting is not just a physical test, but, a symbol of inner resilience, mental grit and determination. "It teaches us that even the heaviest challenges can be lifted with consistent efforts and perseverance", he added.

The Minister said that the government believes in transformative power of sports in shaping character, instilling discipline and fostering excellence. He reiterated that J&K has witnessed a huge

resurgence in sports in recent past and the government under the leadership of Chief Minister is committed to strengthen the sports ecosystem by providing facilities at grassroots level to elite level training so that our youth can shine on global platforms.

The Minister said that initiatives like Khelo India, Fit India Movement, National School Games and University level championships are paving the way for stronger, healthier and more confident India.

Satish Sharma added that in this era of technology and digital transformation, sports play a vital role in keeping us physically and mentally strong and also keep our youth away from various social ills.

The Minister commended the University of Kashmir for organising this grand event. He said that hosting national level championships is not only a matter of pride but also a testament to the University's determination in promoting youth engagement, sportsmanship and national integrity.

## RTA approves 79 MUMKIN Scheme cases, sanctions 9 Minibus permits



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Friday convened a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) at his Office Chamber to discuss and strategize seamless public transport services in the district.

The meeting addressed different aspects of public transport, with an emphasis on reviewing applications for road permits.

The meeting assessed and approved 79 MUMKIN Scheme cases, paving the way for applicants to own small commercial vehicles at subsidized price. Additionally, the meeting sanctioned 9 mini bus permits. However, it rejected all 9 applications for auto rickshaw permits, with a directive to promote the use of e-rickshaws.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner highlighted the necessity of conducting feasibility studies for the operation of mini buses on the newly approved routes, instructing the relevant authorities to collaborate with the District Transport Inspector (DTI) to prepare comprehensive reports.

To address traffic congestion in the city, the DC, in his capacity as Chairman of the RTA, assured the provision of parking space for Tata Magic vehicles. He also urged the concerned officers to ensure proper traffic regulation and take necessary actions against violators, reaffirming the commitment to maintaining order on the roads.

In a compassionate gesture, DC Vikas Kundal presented a cheque of Rs 1 lakh to road accident victim Parambir Singh, providing immediate support to his family.

## J&K Govt, BISAG-N explore tech collaborations to establish Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

In a major push towards harnessing the emerging technologies for governance and development, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting to deliberate on collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N) for establishing a Centre of Excellence in the Union Territory.

The meeting was graced by Director General, BISAG-N, T.P. Singh and Special Director General, BISAG-N, Dr. Vinay Thakur, who presented an overview of potential technological interventions, ongoing national projects and the institutional framework being followed in other states.

The proposed structure of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in J&K was discussed in detail, aligning with the Government of India's

vision under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and its flagship India AI Mission, which promotes AI and digital innovation across governance sectors.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that J&K must emerge as a national example in applying Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Cloud Computing and GIS-based decision making in governance. He called upon the departments to identify priority areas that could benefit from BISAG-N's expertise. He directed for preparing a formal proposal for submission to MeitY at the earliest. He also suggested for exploring collaboration with IIT Jammu for capacity building and knowledge partnership.

Speaking on the occasion, T P Singh, Director General, BISAG-N, highlighted the need for outcome-driven implementation with clear, measurable timelines. He further emphasised the impor-



tance of engaging the local youth in development and implementation to ensure sustainability and skill development in the region.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Dr. Vinay Thakur, spoke on BISAG-N's national level initiatives and offered support to Jammu and Kashmir in designing bespoke applications based on departmental requirements.

A potential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UT Government and BISAG-N was also discussed, with the Chief Secretary directing that all modalities be finalised at the earliest to kick-start the implementa-

tion.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education and Financial Commissioner, Shantmanu; Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner Revenue, Shaleen Kabra; Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad; Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Saurabh Bhagat; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha

Mudgal; Director, Industries & Commerce, Arun Kumar Manhas; Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Sanna Khan and other senior officers of the administration.

The Chief Secretary expressed gratitude to BISAG-N for its support and affirmed that this collaboration would serve as a transformative leap towards digital governance and technology-led growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of various departments presented comprehensive inputs on potential areas of collaboration. These included digitisation,

automation and real-time updation of land records and records of rights in the Revenue & Land Records department.

In Tourism, they discussed real-time tourist facilitation, analytics for tourism augmentation and smart management of tourist flows. The Power Development Department could benefit from monitoring power purchases and reducing transmission and distribution losses using predictive analytics.

For Industries & Commerce, early warning systems for MSMEs in distress and improving service delivery frameworks were proposed. The GST and the Finance department could utilise AI-based anomaly detection systems to identify and prevent tax fraud.

In Jal Shakti & Irrigation, flood monitoring, water resource mapping and irrigation network optimisation through satellite imagery and AI models was considered.

## Prof. Soz Slams LG Office Over Transfer Orders in J&K

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 4

Former Union Minister and senior Jammu and Kashmir politician, Prof. Saifuddin Soz, has strongly criticized the Lt. Governor's office for issuing transfer orders in the absence of an elected government. Calling the move "unprecedented" and a "bad precedent" for democracy, he questioned the legitimacy of such executive decisions.

## EDITORIAL

## Heading for a seamless tourist season!

As the snow-capped peaks of Ladakh begin to thaw and the land of high passes readies itself to welcome a fresh wave of tourists, both domestic and international, the Union Territory administration is leaving no stone unturned in preparing for a smooth and enriching tourist season. The latest initiatives spearheaded by UT administration signal a proactive and commendable shift towards not just managing tourist inflow, but enhancing the very soul of the Ladakhi travel experience. The UT's commitment to ramping up infrastructure, streamlining transport, and bolstering departmental coordination reflects a clear understanding: tourism is not merely about numbers—it's about the journey, the hospitality, and the memories that travelers carry back. In a region where geographical and environmental sensitivities demand special care, administrative efficiency becomes all the more critical. The comprehensive review meeting in Leh was therefore not just a bureaucratic formality, but a strategic planning session focused on enforcement, reform, and accountability. Key among the concerns addressed were traffic congestion, unauthorized check posts, and the persistent issue of illegal parking—problems that can quickly sour a tourist's experience if not tackled head-on. By mandating real-time data collection and enforcing daily reporting from Assistant Regional Transport Officers in Leh and Kargil, the administration is building a responsive mechanism where decisions can be made quickly and backed by hard data. Of particular note is the administration's strong stance on unauthorized check posts—an issue that has plagued certain routes like Chilling. The government's clear message that no private body can disrupt a traveler's journey is a reassuring one. Tourism thrives not in chaos, but in an environment of trust and predictability, and this move reasserts the rule of law. Equally thoughtful is the plan to launch a comprehensive training and sensitization programme for drivers. Often, drivers are the first ambassadors of a destination—through them, visitors get their first glimpse of local culture, values, and hospitality. By equipping them with not just road safety norms but also lessons in courtesy, cultural awareness, and emergency response, Ladakh is investing in human capital that can elevate the tourist experience from ordinary to exceptional. In a region as breathtaking and as fragile as Ladakh, the tourism model must always strike a balance between access and sustainability. The steps taken by the administration—including smoother permit issuance systems and rationalized departmental roles—signal a mature, forward-looking governance approach. As tourists begin to trickle in, drawn by Ladakh's stark beauty, spiritual calm, and adventurous terrain, they will find not just a land ready to receive them, but a system ready to serve them. If these measures are implemented with the consistency and commitment they deserve, Ladakh could well set a national benchmark in responsible, people-centric tourism governance. In Ladakh, the roads may be high and winding, but the vision is clear and straight.

SATENDRA SINGH

The recent catastrophic earthquakes in Myanmar and Thailand have highlighted the urgent requirement for an effective and unified disaster response system in South Asia. Even with regional bodies like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in place, prompt and efficient aid to impacted nations continues to be problematic because of bureaucratic hold-ups, logistical hurdles and differing national strategies. The number of fatalities and damage to infrastructure could be greatly minimised if an organised and cooperative framework existed to guarantee a swift and smooth response across borders.

The BIMSTEC countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand – often face natural and human-induced disasters because of their specific geological, climatic and economic conditions. This makes them well-suited to set up a Rapid Regional Disaster Response Centre (RRDRC). This centre would function as a focused platform for member states to collaborate on urgent disaster relief initiatives by exchanging information, skills and resources. This mechanism would not only improve disaster resilience but also bolster diplomatic

relations and promote a sense of regional unity. India, boasting its specialised and well-prepared National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), can take a pivotal role in this effort. The NDRF, overseen by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is an exceptionally skilled force focused on disaster response and management. It comprises several battalions skilled in search and rescue missions, medical support and engineering services. India has a strong history of helping countries affected by disasters, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan, Indonesia and Turkey. Establishing a comparable coordinated initiative within BIMSTEC would guarantee prompt and efficient support in the event of a disaster.

A significant challenge in regional disaster response is the swift and effective transportation of personnel, equipment, and relief supplies across borders. A Rapid Regional Disaster Response Agreement within BIMSTEC could facilitate the creation of a systematic method for collaboration. This pact must define explicit operational protocols, guaranteeing that every nation honours the sovereignty and rules of others while facilitating aid when necessary. Within this framework, the impacted nation would hold the main responsibility for coordinating disaster response on its land. Nonetheless, it would have the opportunity to seek help from other BIMSTEC countries, which would reply according to

established protocols. An assigned agency within BIMSTEC, like the BIMSTEC Disaster Response Cell, might act as the primary coordinator for these initiatives.

For the RRDRC to thrive, BIMSTEC countries must dedicate themselves to several crucial obligations. They ought to collaborate to establish monitoring and early warning systems, enact measures for disaster risk reduction and set up contingency plans for emergency response. In the event of a disaster, impacted nations must promptly exchange information with other members, allowing for swift action to be taken. Every country should be prepared to provide human and material resources for regional disaster response efforts. Exchanging technical knowledge and optimal strategies will enhance overall disaster resilience. Moreover, national Governments ought to integrate essential legal and administrative actions to ensure seamless collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework.

For the RRDRC to be effective, it is crucial to create Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for every BIMSTEC member state. These processes must encompass regional standby plans for disaster assistance, the use of logistical resources, and coordination systems for disaster response. Creating collaborative strategies and backup plans would aid in minimising losses during future disasters. Strengthening capacity

is another vital domain. Countries ought to conduct routine training sessions, simulation drills, and conferences to evaluate the readiness and response effectiveness of the RRDRC. The BIMSTEC focal point, in partnership with the RRDRC, must conduct regular assessments of these procedures to improve efficiency.

Every member state must guarantee that it possesses the essential resources—both human and material—ready for prompt disaster response. Effective mobilisation of response by assisting nations could be enhanced through clear communication regarding the scope and type of support required. To ensure seamless coordination, impacted countries should offer local resources and services to aid relief initiatives. The aid supplies offered by supporting nations must adhere to the quality and safety regulations of the impacted country. Staff and resources sent for support must comply with the national regulations of the country seeking help and function within the specified disaster-impacted regions. To guarantee seamless cross-border support, member States must establish legal frameworks that enable the deployment of disaster response teams and relief supplies. This encompasses providing tax relief, simplifying customs processes, and speeding up approvals for staff and equipment. A committed national focal point ought to be set up in every

member nation to collaborate with the RRDRC. This will guarantee that aid initiatives are effectively coordinated, minimising red tape and postponements. The creation of regional standby arrangements will enhance readiness, facilitating the swift deployment of response teams in the event of disasters.

The increasing occurrence and severity of disasters in South Asia necessitate a swift and unified response approach. The creation of the Rapid Regional Disaster Response Centre (RRDRC) within BIMSTEC is not merely a requirement but also a moral duty. Through promoting mutual assistance and teamwork, BIMSTEC nations can guarantee that disaster response is prompt, efficient and life-saving. The suggested framework, incorporating defined operational procedures, regional agreements and resource-sharing mechanisms, will greatly improve disaster readiness in the area. The moment to take action is now. BIMSTEC leaders should unite to formalise this framework, guaranteeing that no nation faces a disaster in isolation. By remaining united, we can create a safer, more resilient South Asia for future generations.

**(The writer is a retired IFS officer, a former Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management and a former Director of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre. Views expressed are personal)**

## A Swades moment revisited

APS MALHOTRA

It was a lazy Saturday evening – hot and humid outside, cool and comfortable in my bedroom. The air-conditioner was gasping for breath, fatigued by overwork. To beat the ennui and keep the drowsiness at bay, I started browsing through YouTube – one of my favourite pastimes in such situations. Without making much effort to choose what to watch and what to ignore, I started searching for Hindi film songs, as well as clips that I have seen umpteen times, but which, for me, have a deep-seated repeat value.

However, the clip that day, where my search ended, was a stark deviation from my usual preferences.

After having watched Swades, the Ashutosh

Gowariker directed, Shah Rukh Khan-starrer, on its release in 2004, I did not revisit it, till that evening, two decades later. And the clip which I watched is perhaps the highlight of the film, which captures the journey of a NASA scientist, Mohan Bhargava (Khan) to his village, located in Uttar Pradesh, after a long hiatus and how it changes the course of his life.

While Mohan is travelling in the second class compartment of a train, it makes a short halt at a non-decrepit railway station in the hinterland. There are not many passengers boarding or alighting.

Unlike most railway stations in our vast country, which are a beehive of activity – punctuated with different sounds, different flavours, different colours, different accents,

different clothes, different people, and much more – this station is a small building, painted in typical Sarkari yellow, with a desolate platform, steeped in silence. There is no vendor to be seen, no sound to be heard, except the deafening roar of the engine hooter.

Till, abruptly, a high-pitched voice pierces the air. It comes from an almost malnourished, not well-clothed boy. As he rushes from one window of a compartment to the next, from one compartment to the other, he asks passengers to purchase water from him to quench their thirst.

Finally, he reaches the window where Mohan is sitting. Seeing the child – who, ideally, should have been in school – earn a livelihood by selling water, drawing it from a bucket he carries in his arms

and using small killed cups, is gut-wrenching for the NASA scientist. A poignant, teary-eyed Mohan is rattled. Initially, apprehensive and wary of drinking it, Mohan finally takes a kullad from the boy's hand, which extends through the grills of the window. Sip by sip, he drinks it. And just as he drops a coin into the boy's hands, the train starts chugging out of the station. On looking back, he sees that the boy is taking stock of the coins he has collected, even as he becomes a blur, and then disappears.

Shahrukh – the actor, the artist – delves deep into his soul and embraces the character of Mohan with such conviction, such sincerity, such sensitivity, that for some time, one is forced to believe that this is not Shahrukh we are seeing on screen, but

Mohan. This, for me, is very personal.

Conscious of the fact that my poverty cannot be more than your poverty and that there can be no comparison or justification for human deprivation, it bothers me to no end that Mohan's experience that day on an isolated railway station platform somehow pales in comparison to what I have experienced in Delhi over the decades. Ever since I started comprehending deep fissures and disparities bedeviling our society, I have been profoundly affected by what I have seen at perhaps every traffic junction in my city.

What was a trickle a few years ago and much less a few decades ago, has metamorphosed into a horrific deluge that threatens to submerge whatever remains of our tattered conscience.

Is there, can there be a solution to stem this rot?

Well, unlike Mohan, who managed to bring significant changes to the lives of the people of that small village, or rather, a hamlet, through his tireless efforts – as of now, I do not see myself suitably equipped to be harbinger of change, other than through what I can do best, albeit with a limited range, my writings. However, optimism is a shadow for me and I am sure, one day, my Swades moments will propel me to do something more tangible.

But that evening, two decades down the line since Swades was released, I pondered as to where that boy – now a young man – would be. And what would he be doing?

**(The writer works with an oil and gas PSU. Views expressed are personal)**

## Mastering mind and body: Path to fitness

RAVI VALLURI

The gym instructor resolutely addressed a motley crowd of flabby men and women with bulging midriffs, "You need to burn six hundred plus calories everyday by foot-slogging on the treadmill, scorch fat on the cross-trainer or the elliptical machine, doing the sideways and straight plank for at least five to 10 minutes, enduring the pain till your abdomen shivers. Another technique is to engage your body with several reps of flutter kicks. And this needs to be done daily in an unflinching manner."

He further said, "Remember, this is not mind boggling. Undertaking cardio exercises and toning the muscles is primarily a mind game." An estimable Yoga instructor guided his clients through several sets of Surya namaskars and various other postures of Hath Yoga. Upon completion of the session, he exhorted the potential yogis to overreach their minds to execute 108 sets of the Sun salutations for efficacious results. "Phew! Gosh!" exclaimed the novitiates.

In the neighbourhood, a Sri Sri Yoga teacher (of the Art of Living) directed his group of tutees to complete yet another

round of Padma Sadhana (a set of yogic postures accompanied by meditation, which is taught in the Advanced Meditation and the DSN courses) so that maximal benefit accrued for the body and mind. "It is all in the mind," the teacher remarked.

A middle-aged couple huffed and puffed while clambering up to the Nahargarh Fort in Jaipur. Soon they were to meet a nutritionist to regain some semblance of fitness.

"Your abs are made in the kitchen. Cut down on sugar, salt and fried stuff and go for long walks every morning and evening without fail," remarked the dietician. "But most important, parry all cravings by controlling the thoughts that arise in your mind through mindful meditation, particularly the 'Yoga Nidra', which seeps into the subconscious mind," she singularly added.

In his purple patch, Virat Kohli in all three formats of the game many a times at variance with those of his illustrious predecessors, was blessed with a formidable pedigree? The answer is a firm 'yes' when one measures in terms of physical fitness.

According to his compatriot Ravichandran Ashwin, his former captain Virat is maniacal

and zealous in terms of diet and practice. The talismanic captain has without any doubt raised the bar of physical endurance and fitness for his teammates and efficacious results are noticeable in the performance of the team.

Why are we awestruck by the mere glimpse of a rainbow? The variegated colors of violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red influence the mind immediately. The mind is suffused with a measure of tranquillity, which dissipates nugatory and Sisyphean thoughts. Similarly, the mind has seven shades to it, which makes it robust and reinforce its mojo. These are vacuuming, volume, veracity, a seeker, a proficient solicitor, a prominent scientist or a high-octane performing sportsper-son, all need to delve deep into the seven Vs of the mind to produce a virtuoso product. By doing so, one can separate the chaff from the grain and wade through the swathes of antipathetic cobwebs, which often mushroom in the human mind.

The process of vacuuming helps in cleansing the thought process and acquisition of humongous knowledge and wisdom. This is through regu-

lar practice and sadhana. It may appear coarse and tedious but in the long haul pays enormous dividends to refine the skill-sets. An archer like Arjuna through practice not only expanded his horizons to add weaponry to his arsenal but could also amplify his mind to receive the Celestial Song from Lord Krishna.

Regular application may appear repetitive on the surface, but the process improves faculties of the mind to absorb volumes of information, which provides a cutting edge over fellow competitors. The individual is soon saddled and yoked with enormous confidence to combat any disadvantageous position he may confront and develops the propensity to upend the pyramid. Over some time variety becomes the Holy Grail of the mind. This differentiates an embellished mind from a wanted one. Heterogeneity and diversification soon become the trademarks of such a qualified mind. A misadventure or a muddled situation can be viewed from the prism of variety. The halcyon mind goes for the jugular and can furnish different solutions to problems, from the elementary to the most multiplex ones, in a facile manner.

Exactness and precision are buzzwords in the lexicon of a

trained mind. It is written in the epic Mahabharata that the chariot of Yudhishtira, which remained afloat several inches above the battlefield as he was always wedded to truth, was grounded once he lied about the purported felling of Ashwathama to his Guru Dronacharya. Therefore, a mind encompassed with the attributes and traits of veracity invariably resounds with positive attributes and results.

The mind, through interminable and unremitting training, performance and retention of prescriptive, predictive and diagnostic data adds value to its consciousness and abilities. For instance, regular practice of Surya Namaskars, Yoga, pranayama and Sudarshan Kriya enlarges the size of the solar plexus, which in turn enhances the intuitive ability. The mind and body become a vajra – a diamond that gleams and shimmers. Such a mind becomes truly triumphant and victorious in all situations. It scores a victory even in the most woebegone situations.

**(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living. Views expressed are personal)**

## Reel mania puts Indian kids' eye health in danger, warn leading ophthalmologists

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Leading ophthalmologists on Tuesday warned that they are witnessing a sharp increase in cases of dry eye syndrome, myopia progression, eye strain and even early-onset squinting in children who spend hours watching reels on various social media platforms.

After raising the alarm bell about the impact of short-form videos on mental health, doctors are now concerned about a new, growing crisis – 'Reel-Induced Eye Damage.'

Excessive screen time, particularly binge-watching reels on social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube, is leading to a spike in eye disorders across all age groups, especially among children and young adults, said healthcare experts during the joint meeting of Asia



Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and All India Ophthalmological Society in the national capital.

"A student recently visited us complaining of persistent eye irritation and blurry vision. After examination, we found his eyes were not producing enough tears due to prolonged screen time at home watching reels," said Dr Lalit Verma, President, Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

"He was immediately put on eye drops and advised to follow the 20-20-20 rule – taking a 20-second break every 20 minutes to look at something 20 feet away," said Verma.

Studies show that an increasing number of people, especially students and working professionals, are struggling with digital eye strain, squinting, and worsening eyesight due to prolonged

exposure to high-speed, visually stimulating content.

Doctors also note a troubling trend of social isolation, mental fatigue and cognitive overload associated with constant reel consumption.

Dr Harbansh Lal, Chairman of Organising Committee and Past President of All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS), explained the severity of the issue at the event.

"Short, engaging reels are designed to capture and hold attention for long periods. However, this constant screen fixation reduces blink rates by 50 per cent, leading to dry-eye syndrome and accommodation spasms (difficulty in shifting focus between near and distant objects)," he noted.

Experts warn that if this habit continues unchecked, it could result in long-term vision problems and even permanent eye strain".

## New AI algorithm to predict risk of cardiovascular events, heart-related death

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A team of researchers in South Korea has developed a novel artificial intelligence (AI)-based algorithm that uses electrocardiograph (ECG) data to predict the risk of cardiovascular events, and heart-related death.

To create the algorithm, the team from Inha University Hospital analysed standard 12-lead electrocardiograph (ECG) data taken from almost half a million cases.

The novel algorithm can identify people most at risk of cardiovascular events and mortality by predicting the biological age of the heart, which is based on how the heart functions.

For example, a person who is 50 but has poor heart health could have a biological heart age of 60, while someone aged 50 with optimal heart health could have a biological



heart age of 40.

"Our research showed that when the biological age of the heart exceeded its chronological age by seven years, the risk of all-cause mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events increased sharply," said Yong-Soo Baek, Associate Professor at Inha University Hospital.

"Conversely, if the algorithm estimated the biological heart as seven years younger than the chronological age, that reduced the risk of death and major adverse cardiovascular events," Baek added.

The study showed that

the integration of AI into clinical diagnostics presents novel opportunities for enhancing predictive accuracy in cardiology. "Using AI to develop algorithms in this way introduces a potential paradigm shift in cardiovascular risk assessment," said Baek.

For the study, the team developed a deep neural network and trained on a substantial dataset of 425,051 on 12-lead ECGs collected over fifteen years. It was subsequently validated and tested on an independent cohort of 97,058 ECGs. In statistical models, an AI ECG-heart

age exceeding the heart's chronological age by seven years was associated with an increased risk of all-cause mortality by 62 per cent and of MACE by 92 per cent.

In contrast, an AI ECG heart age that was seven years younger than its chronological age reduced the risk of all-cause mortality by 14 per cent and MACE by 27 per cent.

MACE is Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events and includes heart attack, stroke, Cardiovascular death and revascularisation procedures (such as angioplasty and bypass surgery).

"This study confirms the transformative potential of AI in refining clinical assessments and improving patient outcomes," said Baek.

The study was presented at the ongoing EHRA 2025, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in Vienna, Austria.

## 8 Benefits of Lemon Warm Water in Summer!

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

As the summer months approach, it's essential to prioritize our health and well-being. One simple yet effective way to do this is by incorporating a morning routine that involves drinking warm lemon water. This humble beverage offers numerous benefits, making it an excellent addition to your daily routine.

### Boosts Digestion

Drinking lemon warm water in the morning stimulates digestion and gets your metabolism going. Citric acid found in lemons breaks down food and facilitates the absorption of nutrients. This may result in better digestion, less bloating, and a flat stomach.

### Alkalizes the Body

While lemons are acidic, they alkalize the body. Consuming lemon warm water neutralizes the pH level of the body, thereby



lowering the chances of developing chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and osteoporosis.

### Hydrates and Detoxifies

Consuming lemon warm water in the morning assists in rehydrating the body after a night of rest. The water aids in flushing out the toxins and waste products, maintaining healthy skin, and diminishing the visibility of acne and other skin problems.

### Aids in Weight Loss

Lemon warm water may help in weight loss by enhancing metabolism and reducing hunger. The citric acid found in lemons increases the metabolic

rate of the body, enabling it to burn fat more effectively.

### Improves Immune Function

Lemons contain vitamin C, which is vital for a strong immune system. Taking warm lemon water in the morning boosts the immune system, preventing diseases such as the common cold and flu.

### Reduces Inflammation

Lemons possess anti-inflammatory compounds, which can minimize inflammation and promote good health. Taking warm lemon water in the morning can relieve the symptoms of arthritis, gout, and other inflammatory conditions.

### How to Make Warm Lemon Water

Making warm lemon water is quite straightforward:

**Ingredients:**  
1 cup warm water  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
Honey or sugar (optional)

**Instructions:**  
Boil water and allow it to cool for a few minutes.  
Squeeze the juice of 1/2 lemon into the water.  
Add honey or sugar to taste, if needed.  
Mix well and consume immediately.

### Conclusion

Adding warm lemon water to your morning routine can make a big difference in your overall health and well-being. With its many advantages, such as improving digestion, alkalizing the body, and aiding in weight loss, lemon warm water is a great addition to your daily routine. So, begin your day with a refreshing glass of warm lemon water!

## 4 degree Celsius rise in global temperatures may cut world GDP by 40 pc: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A team of Australian researchers on Tuesday said that 4-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures would cut world GDP by around 40 per cent by 2100 – a sharp increase from previous estimates of around 11 per cent.

New projections by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Institute for Climate Risk and Response (ICRR) – published in the journal Environmental Research – fixes an oversight in the current economic model underpinning global climate policy, topping previous carbon benchmarks.

According to the analysis, the results support limiting global warming to 1.7-degree Celsius, which is in line with significantly faster decarbonisation goals like the Paris Agreement, and far lower than the 2.7-degree Celsius supported under previous



models.

"Economists have traditionally looked at historical data comparing weather events to economic growth to cost climate damages," said lead researcher Dr Timothy Neal, a 'Scientia Senior Lecturer' in the School of Economics and also the ICRR.

What they fail to account for, he said, are interruptions to the global supply chains cur-

rently buffering economic shocks.

"In a hotter future, we can expect cascading supply chain disruptions triggered by extreme weather events worldwide," Dr Neal added.

He further stated that the economic case for stronger climate change actions is clear. "Because these damages haven't been taken into account, prior economic models have inadvertently con-

cluded that even severe climate change wasn't a big problem for the economy – and it's had profound implications for climate policy," said the lead researcher.

The local-only damage models have been used in the economic forecasting that has shaped the major powers' climate policies and played a crucial role in international agreements.

The updated projection should underscore to all nations that they are vulnerable to climate change. "There's an assumption that some colder countries, like Russia or Canada, will benefit from climate change, but supply chain dependencies mean no country is immune," Dr Neal emphasised.

However, there's still work to be done as "his research doesn't account for climate adaptation, like human migration, which is politically and logistically complex and not yet fully modelled", said the study.

## New highly accurate blood test to measure progress of Alzheimer's

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

US researchers have developed a new blood test that not only aids in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease but also indicates how far it has progressed.

While currently available blood tests for Alzheimer's disease can diagnose the disease, they do not indicate the clinical stage of the disease symptoms – that is, the degree of impairment in thinking or memory due to Alzheimer's dementia.

The new test can help doctors determine which patients are likely to benefit from drug treatment and to what extent. It can also provide insight on whether a person's symptoms are likely due to Alzheimer's versus some other cause, said the researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, US and Lund University in Sweden.

In the study, published



in the journal Nature Medicine, the researchers found that levels of a protein called MTBR-tau243 in the blood accurately reflect the amount of toxic accumulation of tau aggregates in the brain and correlate with the severity of Alzheimer's disease.

Analysing blood levels of MTBR-tau243 from a group of people with cognitive decline, the researchers were able to distinguish between people with early- or later-stage Alzheimer's dis-

ease and separate both groups of patients from people whose symptoms were caused by something other than Alzheimer's.

"This blood test clearly identifies Alzheimer's tau tangles, which is our best biomarker measure of Alzheimer's symptoms and dementia," said co-senior author Randall J. Bateman, Professor of Neurology at Washington University.

"In clinical practice right now, we don't have easy or accessible mea-

sures of Alzheimer's tangles and dementia, and so a tangle blood test like this can provide a much better indication if the symptoms are due to Alzheimer's and may also help doctors decide which treatments are best for their patients," he added.

The researchers developed a technique to measure MTBR-tau243 levels in people's blood and compared it to the amount of tau tangles in their brains as measured by brain scans.

They piloted the approach on data from two cohorts: 108 people from the US, and a subset of 55 people from Sweden. To assess whether the approach was generalisable, they validated it in an independent dataset consisting of the remaining 739 people in Sweden.

The researchers' analysis showed that blood MTBR-tau243 levels reflected the amount of tau tangles in the brain with 92 per cent accuracy.

## Prolonged use of antidepressants linked to risk of sudden cardiac death: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

People with prolonged use of antidepressants may be at an increased risk of sudden cardiac death, which varies based on age and time of exposure, finds a study.

Sudden cardiac death refers to an unexpected death of a person, believed to be caused by a heart-related issue.

It occurs within one hour of the onset of symptoms in witnessed cases or within 24 hours of the person being last seen alive in unwitnessed cases.

The study, on 4.3 million residents in Denmark, showed that people exposed to antidepressants for 1 to 5 years had a 56 per cent higher risk of sudden cardiac death. On the other hand, those exposed to antidepressants for six or more years experienced a 2.2 times higher risk.



Among individuals aged 30-39 years, compared with the unexposed general population, those with one to five years of antidepressant exposure were around three times more likely to suffer sudden cardiac death. This risk increased to five times higher for those with six or more years of antidepressant exposure.

In individuals aged 50-59 years, those exposed to antidepressants for one to five years saw their risk of sudden cardiac death doubled. Among individuals exposed to antidepressants for six or more

years, the risk of sudden cardiac death was four times higher.

"Exposure time to antidepressants was associated with a higher risk of sudden cardiac death, and linked to how long the person had been exposed to antidepressants," said Dr Jasmin Mujkanovic from the Rigshospitalet Hjertecentret, Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Those exposed for six years, or more were at even more increased risk than those exposed for one to five years, when compared with people unexposed to antidepres-

sants in the general population," Mujkanovic added.

The causes in people under the age of 39 are often a thickening of the heart muscle or an electrical problem with the heart. In older people, it is more likely to be caused by a narrowing of the blood vessels that supply the heart, said the researchers, presenting the study at EHRA 2025, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology.

Mujkanovic explained that the risk of sudden cardiac death may be caused by the potential adverse effects of the antidepressants as well as exposure time.

In addition, "the increase could be influenced by behavioural or lifestyle factors associated with depression, such as delayed healthcare seeking, and poor cardiovascular health," she added, calling for further research.

# Khan welcomes formation of high-level Committee for Regularization of Temporary Employees

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 04

The Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC), the largest joint platform of employee organizations, has welcomed the government's decision to form a high-level committee to resolve the issue of regularizing temporary employees within six months. The EJCC emphasized that until a final decision is taken, the Minimum Wages Guarantee Act should be implemented for all such employees.

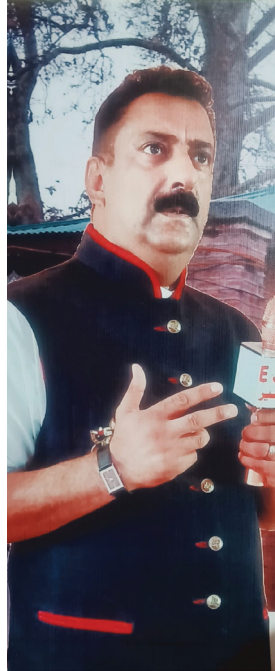
EJCC Chairman Aijaz Ahmad Khan also demanded an increase in the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers and urged the government to address the issues related to employees' GP Fund. He welcomed the implementation of the Minimum Wages Guarantee Act for temporary employees of the Waqf Board.

According to a statement issued by the EJCC spokesperson, an important meeting of the

Employees Joint Consultative Committee was held on Thursday at the central office in Srinagar under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan. The meeting was attended by the presidents of all employee organizations affiliated with the union.

Several key members, including Shabir Ahmad Langu, Sajjad Khwaja, Khalid Mahmood, Javed Ahmad Akhoo, Abdul Qayoom Baig, Munir Falgroo, Peer Nisar, Rahmatullah Khan, Saleem Sagar, Javed Ahmad Bhat, Farooq Ahmad Kawa, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Farooq Ahmad Rather, Javed Ahmad Malik, Hamidullah Trumboo Riaz Ahmad Kar, Fida Muhammad, Mukhtar Ahmad Wani, Ghulam Nabi Ganai, Abdul Qayoom Lone, Sabiya Ji, Aamna Ji, and Azmat Iqbal, participated in the meeting.

Following extensive discussions and consultations, EJCC Chairman Aijaz Ahmad Khan addressed the meeting, stating that as a significant forum,



they welcome Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's announcement in the assembly regarding the formation of a high-level committee to regularize daily wagers, casual laborers, and other temporary employees working in various government departments. The committee has been given six months to

submit its recommendations.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan stressed that until the final decision is taken, the Minimum Wages Guarantee Act should be implemented for all such employees. He reiterated the demand for an increase in the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers and urged the resolution of pending GP Fund issues. He highlighted that many employees' GP Fund issues remain unresolved despite the Chief Minister setting a March 31 deadline for their resolution.

Furthermore, the EJCC chairman demanded that the government implement the Old Age Pension Scheme for employees and restore SRO-43 to its original form. He also called for the reorganization of all government departments and made it mandatory for department heads to hold at least two DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) meetings annually.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan urged the government to include teachers appoint-

ed in government schools under the leave benefits. Referring to the Chief Minister's statement in the assembly regarding the salary hike for Members of the Legislative Assembly, he emphasized that the concerns, difficulties, and demands of government employees should also be addressed.

He concluded by stating that during the important meeting, it was decided that the forum would wait for one month for the government to fulfill all the legitimate demands of temporary and permanent employees. The EJCC remains hopeful that the government will resolve all long-standing and rightful demands of the employees within the stipulated time.

He further added that the Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC), as the largest platform for employee organizations, does not favor protests. However, if forced, they will take to the streets again to highlight their demands and grievances.

## CO, 7 J&K Bn NCC visits GDC Langate & GHSS Langate to inspire youth



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 04

In a significant move to strengthen community ties and inspire youth participation in NCC, the Commanding Officer of the 7 Jammu & Kashmir Battalion NCC, Kupwara, paid an official visit to Government Degree College (GDC), Langate & GHSS Langate on April 4, 2025.

The visit was aimed at reinforcing the core values of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), including unity, discipline, leadership, and service to the nation. Addressing the cadets and

students, the Commanding Officer emphasized the importance of youth engagement in national development.

"The youth have a vital role in shaping the future of our community and nation," he said. "The NCC provides a platform to build strong leaders, foster unity between citizens and discipline among the cadets."

During the interactive session, the Commanding Officer enlightened the audience about the activities and opportunities provided by NCC. He encouraged the cadets to

uphold high standards of discipline and teamwork. He highlighted the NCC's role in grooming cadets and preparing them to take on leadership roles in various sectors of society especially armed forces.

The visit also served to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the college staff and NCC officers in the region. The Commanding Officer extended his appreciation to them for their unwavering commitment and emphasized the importance of collaboration in imparting quality training to the cadets.

## HDFC Bank was adjudged 'India's Best for HNW' at Euromoney Private Banking Awards 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 04

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, was adjudged as 'India's Best for HNW' at the Euromoney Private Banking Awards 2025. The awards were organized by Euromoney magazine. On its website, Euromoney writes, "HDFC Bank continues to build momentum in India's high net-worth (HNW) segment via its flagship Imperia programme, a premium service that offers personalised wealth solutions. At the heart of this offering is a model where wealth relationship managers collaborate closely with bank specialists to deliver tailored investment and banking support." Euromoney further writes, "In the

digital space, the bank recently introduced the SmartWealth platform, an investment service aimed at expanding coverage to the mass-affluent segment. This mobile platform provides clients with the ability to track portfolios, execute investments and access goal-based investment recommendations. By integrating gamification and an intuitive user experience, SmartWealth democratizes access to the bank's research capabilities, empowering a broader client base to make informed financial decisions independently." Rakesh K Singh, Group Head - Investment Banking, Private Banking, International Banking, Digital Ecosystems and BaaS, HDFC Bank said,

"We are honoured to have been recognised as India's Best for HNW. We believe that we are in the business of preserving client's wealth, ensuring its growth and retaining their trust. Our strong brand as well as experience of over two and a half decades resonates trust in our customers. We have strengthened this trust through our robust processes and diligent research methodology. From Ultra-HNW and Super-Affluent to Mass-Affluent segment, our relationship managers are equipped to understand & meet the unique and ever-changing investment needs and goals of our clients. This year, we increased our focus in the mass affluent category with the introduction of our digital

platform - SmartWealth, which is equipped with an unassisted journey to invest through need-based recommendation basis risk appetite. This ensures every client gets to experience a specialised and curated investment service, especially the digitally savvy generation. "Euromoney's Private Banking Awards is the distinguished annual awards programme of the worldwide private banking and wealth management industry. For over 20 years, the programme has recognised the private banks of distinction across key categories. This includes high to ultra-high net worth, family office services, succession planning, digital services, discretionary portfolio management, sustainability and more.

## Director Health Services, Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, visits hometown Baderwah

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, APRIL 4

After assuming charge as Director Health Services (DHS) Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar made his maiden visit to his hometown, Baderwah, in District Doda on 04-04-2025.

During his visit, Dr. Zargar inspected Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Baderwah, where he was accorded a warm and rousing welcome by the hospital staff, including Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, and Block Medical Officer Baderwah, Dr. Mohd Ashraf Kuchay.

Dr. Zargar conducted a thorough visit to various sections of the hospital, interacting with the medical and paramedical staff, who honored him with garlands and tokens of



appreciation. Several local NGOs and prominent citizens also welcomed him on his promotion as DHS Jammu, highlighting various demands concerning the healthcare sector. They particularly stressed the need for improved facilities, staff augmentation, and infrastructure development in SDH

Baderwah and other peripheral health institutions.

In response, Dr. Zargar assured the public that all possible measures will be taken to enhance healthcare services in the region. He reiterated his commitment to strengthening infrastructure, ensuring the availability of medical

personnel, and improving patient care services in SDH Baderwah and surrounding health centers.

During his visit, the DHS also reviewed the ongoing screening camp at SDH Baderwah, which is being conducted ahead of the upcoming mega surgical camp organized by Rotary International India from 16th April 2025 onwards.

CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, along with BMO Baderwah and hospital staff, extended their warm regards to Dr. Zargar and provided a detailed briefing on the functioning and requirements of SDH Baderwah. Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening healthcare facilities across the region.

## Northern Railway makes New Record in Scrap Sale

JI NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 04

Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager, Northern Railway informed that Northern Railway stands at No.1 in scrap sale amongst all Zonal Railways and Production Units of Indian Railway by disposing off scrap worth Rs. 781.07 Crores in FY 2024-25. With the close of e-auction for FY 2024-25, Northern Railway recorded a total sale of Rs. 781.07 Cr. upto the month of March-25, which is the highest ever sale.

With this, Northern Railway has once again created a record in the field of scrap disposal by generating revenue worth Rs. 781.07 Crores during the FY 2024-25 against Railway Board's Annual Sale Target of Rs. 530 Cr which is 147.36% of the sale target and stands at Rank-1 amongst all Zonal Railways and Production units (PUs) of Indian Railways. Northern Railway is



the only Railway to cross the mark of Rs. 700 Cr. in scrap sale this year.

This is the fourth consecutive year in which Northern Railway surpasses the total sale of Rs. 600 Cr and attained Rank-1 for 4 years back to back among all Zonal Railways & PUs. In the process, Northern Railway has sold 3244 Nos. of Lots in 592 E-Auctions from 8 locations. Scrap disposal is an important activity. Besides generating revenue from Scrap, it also helps to maintain the working premises neat & tidy. Availability of Scrap

like Rail pieces, Sleepers, Tie Bars etc. nearby Railway lines is a potential safety hazard.

Northern Railway has also taken the task of disposal of abandoned structures like staff quarters, cabins, sheds, water tanks etc. in a mission mode. This helped not only in generating revenue but also resulted in valuable space being available for better use and avoiding possible misuse of old structures by miscreants. Their quick disposal has priority area and monitored at the highest level.

Scrap PRC/PSC Concrete Sleepers which have also accumulated in large quantity over Northern Railway are also being disposed off to release the valuable area for Railway activities besides generating revenue. In the current financial year, Northern Railway has become the only Railway to dispatch ERC (Elastic Rail Clip) clips which were lying idle in various sections over NR to Rail Wheel Factory-Bengaluru/Rail Wheel Plant-Bela (Bihar) for use as raw materials for manufacturing new Wheel & Axles.

Details of Revenue generated are as follows: Northern Railway has disposed P-Way Scrap of 81570 MT worth Rs. 304.76 Cr including 37049 MT of ferrous scrap worth Rs. 128.37 Cr. along with 2016 MT of Non-Ferrous Scrap worth Rs. 53.13 Cr. Besides, condemned rolling stock having total worth Rs. 33.62 Cr has been sold which includes

600 Nos of Wagons, 114 Nos of Coaches & 6 Nos of stripped, unserviceable Locomotives. 25 Nos of Accidental Wagons & 06 Nos of Accidental Coaches have also been disposed off in quickest time.

In addition to this, 12706 MT of Wheel & Axles Scrap worth Rs. 30.63 Cr along with 1259 MT of ERC worth Rs. 4.18 Cr has been dispatched to PUs i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru and Rail Wheel Plant, Bela (Bihar) in this Financial Year.

Further, total 77,453 Nos of scrap PRC/PSC Concrete Sleepers worth of Rs. 3.27 Cr and Abandoned Structures comprising of 2127 Units worth Rs. 9.30 Cr. have been sold through E-Auction.

This could be possible with all out efforts of PHODs, DRMs & other Officers to cleanse the system from scrap on a Mission Mode to achieve "Zero Scrap" status.

## Conduct of an Awareness Lecture on Drug Abuse for Youth at Tota Gali, Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 04 APR 2025

Indian Army conducted an awareness lecture on Drug abuse at Tota Gali, Poonch. The main aim of the event was to focus on educating young individuals about the perils and outcomes of drug misuse. This campaign had the objectives of advocating preventive

measures, delivering crucial information and support to those impacted by substance abuse, reducing the stigma linked to addiction and urging young people to reach out for assistance when necessary. The campaign provided precise insight into various drug types, their effects on the human body, signs of addiction

and available resources for treatment and support. The villagers highly appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to conduct the Awareness Campaign on Drug Abuse and also pledged to extend their whole hearted support for the noble cause.

## Setting the pace for a successful 2025: BMW Group India delivers strong performance in Q1 with record-breaking car deliveries

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 4

Beginning 2025 with a strong start, BMW Group India has delivered its best-ever Q1 car deliveries with +7% growth. The company delivered 3,914 cars (BMW and MINI) and 1,373 motorcycles (BMW Motorrad) between January- March 2025. BMW sold 3,761 units and MINI 150 units.

Monthly sales in each month - January, February and March - also recorded their peak.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group India has set the tone for a successful year ahead, delivering record-breaking performance



in the first quarter. BMW Group India clocked the highest-ever Q1 car deliveries till date with 3,914 units, also growing by +7%. Continuing our lead as the most preferred luxury EV brand, we have seen phenomenal growth of over 200% in our electric car sales. Similarly, BMW long wheelbase models have captured the imagina-

tion of luxury connoisseurs across the board, growing by a remarkable +187%. Our robust strategy has driven momentum for us despite a challenging environment. BMW is a highly aspirational brand with a pioneering spirit, and we will continue to unlock the true potential of Indian luxury automotive market with

unparalleled customer experience."

BMW Group Electric Vehicles (EV)

BMW Group India is the most sought-after luxury EV brand for last three years. In Q1 2025, this leading position continues with 6Li6 BMW and MINI EVs delivered. The exponential growth of +206% year-on-year in electric sales, reflects the high level of sustainability, performance and innovation that progressive Indians associate with the BMW Group brands. The first-ever BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase, launched at Auto Expo 2025, disrupted the market and garnered over 1,500 bookings. It became the largest selling BMW EV in Q1.

## Billawaria visits Gangyal, listens public demands

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 4

Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria visited Sector-3 Ward 56 Gangyal of Jammu city and listened to the demands of the residents of the locality. Billawaria listened to the demands of the people related to paver tiles on the road, street lights and other development related issues. The local residents put forth the demand of installing iron grating on the drain along with paver tiles instead of black topping. Speaking on the occasion, Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria said that a meaningful discussion was held with the residents of Sector-3 Gangyal and many demands have come up during the visit. He said



that the officers of the concerned departments will be instructed to immediately prepare the estimate for paver tiles on the road of the area and start the work as soon as possible. Regarding the demand for faulty street lights, Billawaria said that it will be brought to the notice of the Jammu Municipal Corporation Commissioner so that the demands can be met by installing street lights at adequate places. He also said that the present MLA Dr. Narinder Singh is committed to the development of the area

and these demands will be brought to his notice and resolved as soon as possible. Billawaria further said that the Prime Minister of India Narendra Bhai Modi is making every effort to make the life of the people easy, comfortable and civilized. He informed the people about the benefits of the recently re-launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0). He said that the objective of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 2.0 is to provide safe and stable housing to every Indian citizen, the govern-

ment has included many new facilities and benefits, so that more and more people can take advantage of this scheme. Billawaria praised the residents of Sector 3 Gangyal and said that the people of the area are fulfilling their responsibility towards cleanliness and cooperating with the Municipal Corporation in keeping the environment around them clean and beautiful. He said that the residents of the locality are playing their role in realising the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Sector-3 Gangyal Mohalla residents also expressed their gratitude to Billawaria for the development work done earlier. Ranjeet Singh, Jugal Kishore, Jatinder Singh, Preet Pal Singh, GS Suri, Dilip Bhatt, Naresht Gupta, Dr Sunny, Madan Lal, Omkar kumar and other dignitaries were present.

## Govt should crack down on online companies doing fraud with consumers: Traders Federation

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 4

Reacting sharply on cheating the consumers in the name of low cost by big online companies, Traders Federation Warehouse Nehru Market has appealed to the government to crack down on such companies. Federation President Deepak Gupta, while addressing a press conference in the presence of Anil Gupta, President Bahu Plaza and Bharat Kerni, President Footwear Association, said that these foreign companies doing online business are deceiving people by using fake ISI marks. Referring to the recent raids on the warehouses of Amazon and Flipkart in Delhi's Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area, Deepak Gupta said

that in this action of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), goods worth more than Rs 80 lakh have been seized which either did not have the ISI mark or if they had it, they were fake. It is clear from this that there is no guarantee about the quality of the things that consumers buy on Amazon and Flipkart. It is clear from this that online companies like Amazon and Flipkart are selling low quality products of big brands in the name of giving cheap goods to customers, he said. Deepak Gupta said that if we talk about the big malls of these foreign companies opened in Jammu, then who will guarantee that quality goods are available here too. There is a Flipkart Best Price store in Jammu. People buy a lot of goods from here. People even buy



food items. Electronics, footwear and much more. Who will gurantee that all these products are of good quality. There is no quality check in these big stores. If we talk about our local retail and wholesale markets, many agencies like Metrology, BIS, ISI Mark, FSSAI and the GST department do routine checking here. FSSAI checks whether the food items are pure or not. Metrology checks the weight of the goods, its manufacturer and other information like helpline

numbers. These agencies take samples from shops from time to time and conduct tests, but we have never heard that these agencies have conducted any such tests in the big stores of these big foreign and Indian companies. We want that there should be routine checking here also so that the goods which our people buy from these big stores should be of good quality.

Along with this, we demand that the administration and agencies like

Metrology, BIS, ISI Mark, FSSAI should make people aware of how to check the quality of goods bought online and from these big stores. The goods seized in the warehouses of Amazon and Flipkart's Godowns had fake ISI Mark. Therefore, we demand that an App should be developed where people can check information like ISI Mark and can also lodge a complaint if a fake ISI Mark is found. We also demand that a monitoring committee should be formed to monitor online trade, which should, from time to time, check the goods being sold by them so that our people do not get fake goods. We also demand that the government should constitute a Traders Welfare Board which protects the interests of

the traders because today we are seeing that some people are coming from outside and selling cheap goods due to which our small traders are incurring losses. Those who come from outside and sell cheap goods here should be investigated because anyone can sell goods at a lower price only if there is some fraud in it. Therefore, there should be a Traders Welfare Board which takes care of all these things and trade leaders should also be included in this board.

On this occasion Sr. Vice President of Federation Dheeraj Mahajan, Vc. President Vishal Gupta, General Secretary Abhimanyu Gupta, Secretary Rahul Gupta, Cashier Nitish Gupta and Former Sr. Vc. President Sham Lal Gupta were also present.

## Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre organizes Ayushman Bharat Camp



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

In a significant step towards ensuring better healthcare access for senior citizens, the Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre (SCRC) organized a special Ayushman Bharat Camp to provide free health check-ups and awareness about government health schemes. The camp was inaugurated by senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan, who lauded the initiative and emphasized the Modi Government's commitment to senior citizens' welfare.

The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including SCRC President K.S. Samyal, Advisor Shubchander Verma, Chief Patron Ashok Gupta, Vice President T.R. Puri, and General Secretary T.C. Taggar. The leaders appreciated the efforts of SCRC in organizing the camp and ensuring that elderly citizens receive proper medical attention.

During the camp, a team of medical professionals conducted free check-ups, offered consultations, and provided information on healthcare benefits under Ayushman Bharat. Senior citizens expressed their gratitude for the initiative,

stating that such camps bridge the gap between the elderly and essential healthcare services.

Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan highlighted that senior citizens are the backbone of our society, holding invaluable experience and wisdom that guide the younger generations. She stated, "It is our collective responsibility to ensure their well-being, dignity, and access to quality healthcare. The BJP-led government has launched various welfare schemes to safeguard their health and financial security, and Ayushman Bharat is one of the most impactful among them."

Rekha Mahajan further stressed the need to expand such outreach programs to reach every senior citizen in Jammu and Kashmir. "The BJP-led government is committed to providing quality healthcare and social security to the elderly, ensuring that they lead a dignified and healthy life," she said.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the SCRC leadership, who reiterated their commitment to continuing such welfare-driven programs for senior citizens in the future.

## JKESL Leadership meets Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, VSM ADG NCC NCC Dte to Strengthen Collaboration for Cadet Training



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU: 04 APR 2025

JKESL is the largest and oldest Govt recognized body since 1951 which is engaged in the welfare of the Veterans, Veer Naris and serving soldiers of J&K. Brig Ghansara Singh, RB, OBE, OBI was the founder of this organization in 1951. It has more than 22,000 members as on date.

JKESL members comprising of Col Rajinder Singh, Gen Secretary & Lt Col OS Chouhan, Secretary JKESL under the lead-

ership of Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Sharma, AVSM, SM (Retd) President, J&K Ex-services league called on Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, ADG NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh on 03 Apr at the office premises in Jammu.

During the meeting the major issues concerning JKESL were projected and explained to the ADG. The issues projected before the ADG NCC included maximum participation of NCC Cadets in the various functions organized by JKESL viz Martyrdom Day and Birth anniversary

of our great heroes like Gen Zorawar Singh, "the Napoleon of India" and Brig Rajinder Singh, the "Saviour of Kashmir", Sharing of training programme of NCC Cadets with JKESL and conduct of motivational lectures by the war decorated soldiers based on personal experience to be organized by JKESL.

The ADG NCC Directorate Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, was extremely positive and assured of all the assistance possible to the JKESL.

## Arvind reviews devp works in Kotli Colony

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

Strengthening his commitment to the holistic development of Jammu West, MLA Arvind Gupta today conducted an extensive visit to Kotli Colony Janj Ghar, Ward No. 25, to inspect and expedite various ongoing and pending infrastructure projects. The visit was aimed at ensuring that developmental works are progressing in a time-bound and efficient manner to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the area.

Accompanied by Mandal President Kushant Daffara, former Corporator and senior BJP leader Arun Khanna, AEE JMC Ravi Sharma, and JE JMC Mukesh Gupta, MLA Arvind interacted with local residents and officials to assess the current status of infrastructure projects and discuss ways to overcome bottlenecks in their execution. He emphasized the importance of direct communication with the people to address their grievances effectively and ensure their concerns are promptly resolved.

During the inspection, MLA Arvind took stock of road maintenance, drainage improvements, sanitation facilities, and other essential civic amenities. He assured the public that all pending projects



would be completed without unnecessary delays and in strict adherence to quality standards. He also highlighted that special attention is being given to addressing issues related to water supply, street lighting, and waste management to create a cleaner and more sustainable urban environment.

Reaffirming the BJP's commitment to development, Arvind Gupta stated that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new era of infrastructural growth and urban transformation. He urged the concerned officials to accelerate the pace of work and directed them to ensure timely completion

of all projects.

He further stated that the welfare of the people remains the topmost priority and that no stone would be left unturned in meeting their developmental aspirations. He expressed confidence that sustained efforts in the region would pave the way for a more prosperous and well-equipped Jammu West. Residents of Kotli Colony welcomed the MLA's proactive approach and appreciated his commitment to addressing their issues. They expressed hope that the development initiatives undertaken under his leadership would lead to lasting improvements in the locality.

## Final Merit of Army Agniveer Recruitment Rally Uploaded on Indian Army Website

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU: 04 APR 2025

Army Agniveer Recruitment Rally for male candidates was conducted at Zorawar Stadium, Sunjuwan military station in Feb 2025. The final merit list as on 02 Apr 2025 has been uploaded on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in website. All candidates whose name has appeared in the merit list are required

to report to ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE, BC ROAD, REHARI CHOWK, JAMMU as per their districts with dates mentioned against each:

- 07 Apr 25 - Kathua.
- 08 Apr 25 - Jammu.
- 09 Apr 25 - Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi & Udhampur.
- 10 Apr 25 - Poonch, Rajouri & Samba.

## IIM Jammu to holds Its 07 and 08 Annual Convocation

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu will host its 07 and 08 Annual Convocation on 6th April 2025 at the Rang Mach Amphitheatre, IIM Jammu Jagti Campus. Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest and deliver the convocation address. Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, will deliver the welcome address, while Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, will present the Director's Report, highlighting the key achievements of the Institute.

Expressing his views on the convocation, Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, BoG, IIM Jammu emphasized that the event marks a significant milestone in the academic journey of the graduating students, preparing them for leader-

ship roles in the corporate world. He highlighted that IIM Jammu remains committed to fostering excellence in management education and shaping future leaders. He further noted that the Institute's recent achievement of the prestigious Business Graduates Association (BGA) Accreditation reflects its dedication to global academic standards and continuous improvement, positioning it among the most sought-after management institutions worldwide.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu stated that IIM Jammu takes a lot of efforts in nurturing students through a transformative learning experience that blends academic rigor, industry exposure, and global perspectives. He underscored that the BGA Accreditation, a first among third-generation IIMs, validates the Institute's commitment to world-class education and measurable

impact on students and society. He added that the convocation is not only a celebration of students' achievements but also a testament to the Institute's relentless pursuit of academic excellence and institutional growth. On this momentous occasion of the upcoming convocation, on behalf of the IIM Jammu fraternity, I look forward to extending a warm welcome to Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange, who will be gracing the event as the Chief Guest. His insights and experiences will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration for our graduating students.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, reiterated that the convocation is a celebration of students' dedication and perseverance in achieving their degrees. The Institute looks forward to their active participation in the convocation ceremony and

remains committed to providing them with a strong foundation for their professional journeys.

A total of 772 students will receive their degrees at the convocation. This includes 499 students from the MBA program, 114 students from MBA (Hospital Administration & Healthcare Management), 99 students from the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), 3 students from the Ph.D. program, and 57 students from the Executive MBA (EMBA) program. The event will also recognize meritorious students with the Chairman's Gold Medal (MBA, EMBA, MBA HA & HM & IPM), Director's Silver Medal (MBA, IPM and Chairperson MBA Bronze Medal (MBA & IPM) for their outstanding academic performance.

The Institute, ranked 22nd in the IIRF Rankings 2025, has established 21 international partnerships and has been awarded the

prestigious BGA Accreditation.

As part of its commitment to academic excellence, IIM Jammu offers diverse programs, including MBA, MBA (Hospital Administration & Healthcare Management) in collaboration with IIT Jammu and AIIMS Jammu, B.Tech +MBA, a Dual Degree Programme with IIT Jammu with IIT Jammu, Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), Ph.D. Programme, & Executive MBA.

IIM Jammu continues to set benchmarks in management education, staying true to its vision "To develop leaders and entrepreneurs who can perform globally to make a valuable difference to the Inclusive Society and the Corporate world." The upcoming convocation will celebrate the hard work and perseverance of its students while reinforcing the Institute's commitment to nurturing global leaders of tomorrow.

## Langeh reviews preparations for BJP Foundation Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 4

Former MLA and BJP District President Ramban, Neelam Langeh, today chaired a crucial meeting at the Party Office in Ramban to review the preparations for the upcoming BJP Foundation Day celebrations. The meeting was attended by the in-charge and co-in-charge of the programme, along with senior party functionaries.

Addressing the gathering, Langeh emphasized the significance of BJP's Foundation Day and urged party workers to actively participate in the celebrations. He directed them to hoist the party flag at the homes of BJP workers as a mark of commitment to the party's ideology and its service-oriented approach towards the nation.



Langeh stated that BJP's journey has been one of relentless dedication to nationalism, development, and good governance under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He called upon party workers to make the Foundation Day celebrations a grand success by ensuring grassroots-level participation and outreach.

He further added that

the event will not only strengthen party unity but also serve as a reminder of the sacrifices and dedication of the founding leaders who laid the groundwork for the BJP's rise as the world's largest political party.

The meeting was attended by I/c Adv Balbir Bali, Co incharge Gurdeep Singh Chib, Adv Khajur Singh and Madan Singh.

## Hakeem Yaseen calls for clarity between govt, admin, demands restoration of statehood

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 04

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, expressed serious concern over the prevailing confusion between the administration and the government in Jammu and Kashmir. He said this ambiguity has left the people disillusioned and uncertain about who holds real authority in the Union Territory.

"It is unfortunate that a region once known for its identity and glory is now facing a crisis of leadership. Since 1952, the leadership in Jammu and Kashmir has prioritized securing their positions over addressing the genuine concerns of the people," Yaseen said.

Criticizing recent political moves, Hakeem Yaseen stated that merely passing



Hakeem Yaseen urged the central government to reconsider its approach towards Jammu and Kashmir.

"The people should not continue to suffer. The Centre must show statesmanship and restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," he demanded.

He further criticized the present government, accusing it of misleading the public with unrealistic promises during elections.

"They were fully aware of their limitations within a Union Territory but still deceived the people. It is unfortunate that they are now expressing regret over the very issues they once used as election slogans," Yaseen added.

The PDF chief reiterated his call for accountability and genuine governance, stating that only through sincerity and clarity in leadership can Jammu and Kashmir move towards peace and development.

resolutions is not a meaningful form of opposition. "Resolutions do not bring revolutions. They are only attention-seeking tools and rarely lead to real action on the ground," he said.

Appealing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Yaseen stressed that Jammu and Kashmir remain a sensitive region where people continue to suffer due to policy uncertainty and a lack of political will.

"When confusion dominates governance, how can we expect peace, employment, or the eradication of poverty?" he questioned.

## Career Lecture to Join Indian Army organized for Students at Kalal, Rajouri



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 04 APR 2025

In the ongoing efforts to bring the local youth into the mainstream and to motivate the students to join the defence forces. Indian Army organised a Motivational talk on "Live a life less ordinary: Join Indian Army" at Govt High School Dabbar Potha, Rajouri. The aim of the lecture was to motivate students to join the Armed Forces and also apprise them of the various entry schemes and qualification requirements to join the Indian Army through various entries. Students were shown snippets of a "Life

less Ordinary". The lecture centred around showcasing the wondrous opportunities of job satisfaction as well as the adventurous life of armed forces. The students were informed about the required education qualification for Indian Army in various schemes. Special schemes such as permanent and short services were also

deliberated. The student's queries were responded by the representative of Indian Army. The program was attended by 04 teachers and 28 students of the school and conveyed that conduct of such lectures will go a long way in helping the students of the region to join the Armed Forces and serve the motherland with pride.

## ADGP Armed J&K Decorates Newly Promoted Officers



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 04

In a pipping ceremony held at Armed Police Headquarters J&K, Jammu today, Shri Anand Jain, IPS, Addl. Director General Armed Police J&K decorated DySP rank to Sh. Bashir Ahmad and Ms. Neelam Sharma who have been recently promoted to the present Rank of DYSP(M) Vide J&K Home Deptt Order No. 176-Home of 2025 dated 24-03-2025. While congratulating

the newly promoted Officers, the ADGP extended good wishes to both the Officers and their Families for future endeavours.

He hoped that the promotion will inspire the Officers to work with more vigour and responsibility in their working assignments and they will continue to work with same zeal & zest.

Sh. Dalip Kumar SSP, Staff Officer to ADGP Armed alongwith Other Officers were also present on the occasion.

## Raman Suri lauds midnight triumph of Waqf Bills in Parliament

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 4

Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), today expressed his heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the historic passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill in both Houses of Parliament. This landmark legislation, passed with unwavering resolve under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, marks a transformative moment in India's journey toward transparency, accountability, and inclusive growth, he said.

In an extraordinary session, while the nation slept, history was being written in the Rajya Sabha at 2:33 AM, he said adding that with a resounding majority of 128-95, the Waqf Amendment Bill was passed, and this victory is a testament to the relentless efforts of the Modi-led NDA government and the support of visionary leaders of alliance parties. Suri reserved special praise for Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whose speech



in Parliament on the Waqf Amendment Bill was a masterclass in legislative skill and leadership. "Amit Shah's ability to navigate complex issues and outmanoeuvre his opponents with characteristic wit is unparalleled. His masterful handling of the debate underscored the NDA government's unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability," he remarked. Equally commendable was the role of Union Minister Kiren Rijju, who presented the Bill in the Lok Sabha with meticulous preparation and devotion.

The BJP leader lambasted political parties such as Congress, Samajwadi Party, TMC, JMM, DMK, Uddhav Thackeray's faction, the Left, Sharad Pawar's NCP, RJD, and Kejriwal's AAP for opposing the bill and supporting the land-grabbing agenda. "These parties will be remembered for centuries


for siding with those who sought to seize lands and discriminate with poor Muslims," Suri declared. He highlighted Amit Shah's revelation in Parliament saying Waqf holds 39 lakh acres of land, but 21 lakh acres were added after 2013 due to amendments passed by Congress. Just 25 days before the 2014 elections, they handed over 123 VVIP properties in Lutyens Delhi to Waqf. This exposé laid bare the Congress's vote-bank politics, which Shah dismantled with his brilliant reply.

Suri lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, emphasizing that his promise-keeping is the cornerstone of how the nation is governed. "From Gauvansh Sanrakshan to tackling Love Jihad conversion, Triple Talaq, Article 370, CAA-NRC, Ram Mandir, Uniform Civil Code, and now Waqf, every decision by PM Modi is aimed at making Bharat a strong and vibrant nation—one that leads from the front and shows the world how a nation is built," he said. The passage of these bills is a triumph of justice over vested interests, a victory for the marginalized,

and a step toward a more transparent and equitable India.

The BJP remains committed to its vision of a united, prosperous, and inclusive nation under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Had it not been for their resolve, those elements supporting the Wakf Board's illegal occupation of land would have prevailed. These forces must not receive a single vote in the future, he said, adding that the passage of these bills represents a watershed moment in our collective quest for socio-economic justice. Raman Suri said that for decades, the Waqf system has been plagued by a lack of transparency and accountability, disproportionately harming Muslim women, poor Muslims, and Pasmanda Muslims which now stands corrected.

Raman Suri said these legislations passed by Parliament will usher in a modern framework that prioritizes social justice, safeguards people's rights, and ensures inclusive development for those long relegated to the margins of society.



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, UDHAMPUR**  
DFO Office, Near Sailain Talab, Udhampur, PIN Code: 182101  
Phone: 01992-294067, email: dfo.udh@gmail.com

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Subject:** Notification of Villages in Udhampur Forest Division as per approved Felling Program of Khair (*Acacia Catechu*) trees in the proprietary lands for the year 2025-26 – Public Notice thereof:

It is for the information of the general public that consequent upon the accord of sanction by the Empowered Officer (Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu) under Sub-Section 2, Section 5 of SRO-111 of 2016 dated 31-03-2016 issued vide order under endorsement no.CCF//1822-37 dated 10-09-2016 for adopting 10 years felling programme of Khair trees (*Acacia catechu*) growing on the proprietary land of farmers, following villages under Udhampur Forest Division having Khair trees sanctioned for being felled are hereby notified for year 2025-26 is as under:

S. No.	Name of Forest Division	Name of Forest Range	Name of the village (s)	Tehsil	District
1.	Udhampur	Udhampur	Lehanu	Udhampur	Udhampur
2.			Dhandal	Ramnagar	Udhampur

Hence, interested farmers shall apply on Form-B which can be obtained from the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur. The duly filed application form (Form-B) supported with requisite documents as mandated under the Management plan for Khair (*Acacia catechu*) and SRO-111 shall be received in the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur upto **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2025**.

It is to be noted that as per the revised timeline approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in I.A. No.172781 of 2024 with I.A. No.172375 of 2024 in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No.171/1996, that were notified in the relevant portion of Para-I of the Management Plan notified vide notification No.PCCF/Coord/Khair/Management Plan/2016/2608-78 dated 26-04-2016, and has been recently amended as per PCCF Office Notification No.PCCF/Cord/Khair/Management Plan/2016/190-260 dated 25-01-2025, the Form "B" submitted to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, the period of application is only for two months i.e. April, 2025 and May, 2025.

**Note:**

- The application (Form-B) shall strictly be received from the farmers directly, not from any contractor/ agent, etc.
- No application (Form-B) shall be entertained after 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2025.

*Navneet Singh*  
(Navneet Singh, IFS)  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Udhampur Forest Division  
Udhampur

**DIP/J-68/25**  
**Date: 4-4-25**

## Indian Army distributes Blankets to Gujjar, Bakkarwal Communities at Gadyog, Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 04 APR 2025

The Indian Army at Samote distributed blankets to 15 Gujjar and Bakkarwal families in Gadyog, Rajouri. This humanitarian effort aimed to provide relief to these underprivileged communities, who often face harsh weather conditions due to their nomadic lifestyle. The Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities migrate seasonally, exposing them to extreme cold conditions during transhumance. The Indian Army's



initiative ensures their well-being and comfort during these challenging times. This welfare initiative demonstrates the Indian Army's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities in Rajouri. By providing essential aid, the Indian Army is making a positive impact on the lives of these families.

## Kavinder slams opposition's misrepresentation of Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 04

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has expressed strong disapproval of the opposition's reaction to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 passed in the Parliament. The bill received approval from both houses of Parliament, with the Lok Sabha passing it on April 3, 2025, and the Rajya Sabha following suit in the early hours of April 4, 2025.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, the BJP stalwart emphasized that the amendments are designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of Waqf properties, which have historically been susceptible to mismanagement and corruption. He highlighted that the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf boards aims to promote diversity and ensure impartial oversight, thereby strengthening communal harmony.

Kavinder criticized the opposition for distorting the intent of the legislation, accusing them of attempting to mislead the public and foment un-



necessary communal tension. He stated that the amendments are a step toward inclusive and transparent management, free from communal biases.

Furthermore, the senior BJP leader criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's meeting with Alliance MLAs concerning the transfers of JKAS officers. He pointed out that under the current Union Territory governance structure, the authority to reshuffle administrative officers lies solely with the Lieutenant Governor.

He asserted that routine transfers of government officers are essential for maintaining efficiency and accountability in governance. He accused Omar Abdullah of politicizing standard administrative decisions for personal and political gain,

rather than focusing on real governance challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former deputy Chief Minister called upon political leaders to respect the constitutional framework and allow the administration to operate without unwarranted political interference. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to good governance, transparency, and the rule of law in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that political stability and administrative integrity are paramount for the region's development.

"Political stability and administrative integrity are the cornerstones of progress. It is imperative that we prioritize the interests of the people over political theatrics," he added.

## HSS congratulates PM Modi on passing of Waqf (Amendment) Bill

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor has praised the passing of Waqf (Amendment) Bill and Muslim Waqf (Abolition) Bill by the Parliament and congratulated PM Modi for this. Along with this, he said that the Central Government should form a Hindu Temple Board for the maintenance of Hindu temples. He described the passing of the Waqf Bill in both the houses of Parliament as an important step towards socio-economic justice in India.

Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu. Let us tell



you that the Waqf Amendment Bill was passed on Wednesday amid a fierce debate between the ruling party and the opposition members in the Lok Sabha. In Rajya Sabha too, this bill was passed amidst heated debate between the ruling party and opposition members. In the voting held on this in Lok Sabha, a total of 288 votes were cast in its favour while 232 MPs voted against it. Whereas

Rajya Sabha approved this bill with a majority of 128 votes against 95.

He said that the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Muslim Waqf (Abolition) Bill by both the Houses of Parliament is an important moment for socio-economic justice. Slamming the opposition for opposing it to mislead Muslims, Vikrant Kapoor said that it will be beneficial for Muslims. He further said that these

reforms will bring long-pending transparency in the Waqf system. He said that the law passed by Parliament will promote transparency and also protect the rights of the people.

He advised the opposition not to cross the limits of appeasement to serve their political interests and said that the opposition should not try to mislead Muslims regarding this bill. Let us tell you that many opposition parties including Congress, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and AIMIM have termed it anti-constitutional.

Vikrant Kapoor said that this will benefit poor Muslims. Calling it a historic day, he said that now not only poor Muslims will

get the benefit of this but people of OBC and Pasmanda communities will also get representation in the Waqf Board. Now this bill will be sent to President Draupadi Murmu for her approval before it becomes a law.

He said that he will also write a letter to PM Modi to congratulate him on behalf of Hindustan Shiv Sena and will also request him to constitute a Hindu Temple Board for the maintenance of Hindu temples.

Senior Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders Sunil debotra, Rakesh Bhadwaraj, Baba Ram Kaith, Abhishek, Himanshu, Amit, women wing leader Jyoti Devi and others were also present during the press conference.

## Monthly Baithak organized by Music Deptt, IMFA, University of Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

The Music Department of the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu, organized its monthly Baithak today at the Department of Dance, celebrating the rich cultural traditions of Indian classical arts.

The event was graced by esteemed Chief Guests Sh. Suresh Sharma, retired Session Judge, social worker, and receiver of Panchvaktar Mahadev Mandir, along with his wife, Prof. Shruti Sharma, a prominent educationist. Sh. Deepak Kumar, renowned theatre artist, attended as the Special Guest. The occasion began with a solemn tribute to Padma Shri Manoj Kumar, the legendary film actor popularly known as Bharat Kumar, who passed away earlier today.

The Baithak commenced on a spiritual note as Vedic students from Panchvaktar Mahadev Mandir presented an enlightening Ved Path, emphasizing the deep connection between Indian classical music and the Vedas, especially the Samaveda, which laid the foundation of musical notes and rhythm in Indian tradition. These sacred chants not only



bring spiritual elevation but also stand as the earliest documented examples of structured sound and melody. This was followed by a series of vibrant performances by students from various departments.

Poojan Kumar presented a soulful vocal recital, while Raghav accompanied the audience with his Sitar performance, and Hilal Farooq played a mesmerizing piece on the Violin. The rhythmic synergy of Peeyush Verma and Varun Kalotra on Tabla added depth to the performance, complemented by Jatinder Kumar on Harmonium. In the dance segment, Sonia and Manu showcased their expressive movements.

The event was eloquently anchored by Pragya Sharma. The aura of the occasion was enhanced by the Ved Path recitation by Rudransh, Naksh, Sam-

arth, Rishi, Akhil, Rahul, Vidushi, Vishal, Partiksh, and Krishna.

The welcome address was delivered by Sh. Rajkumar Sharma, who emphasized the significance of sustaining these monthly cultural gatherings. The Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr. Priya Dutta, Head of the Music Department, who highlighted how she, along with dedicated faculty members and with the support of Principal Prof. Shohab Malik, is working towards reviving and nurturing this age-old tradition of Baithak in an institutional setting.

Sh. Suresh Sharma, in his address, appreciated the efforts of the Music Department and encouraged the students to continue their artistic pursuits with dedication. He remarked, "It is heartening to see young artists deeply engaged in preserv-

ing our classical heritage. Such platforms are vital in fostering a cultural renaissance."

Sh. Deepak Kumar, speaking on the occasion, emphasized the vital role of the IMFA Music Department in propagating, promoting, and spreading awareness about our rich cultural heritage among the masses. He stated, "Music and performing arts are the soul of our tradition. Through these initiatives, we not only safeguard our heritage but also pass it on to the next generation in its most authentic form."

The event was attended by distinguished faculty members, including Dr. Sumeet Madan, Dr. Rishi Shaminotra, Bindu Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Jasmeet Kour, Vijay Kumar, Shivani Kapoor, Chanderdhari Kesar, Amit Anand, Mohit Kumar, Prabhat Bali, and Ajay Kumar.

On this occasion, certificates were also awarded to the participants in recognition of their performances. The Monthly Baithak once again proved to be a harmonious blend of music, tradition, and cultural learning, keeping the spirit of Indian classical arts alive among the youth.

## NC Propaganda cannot conceal Betrayal of people: BJP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 4

High-intensity propaganda unleashed by the National Conference government regarding fulfilling its poll promises is backfiring. Aimed at manipulating public opinion through techniques like repetition, emotional appeals, and publicity messaging is a not delivering desired result for the government and the party as people remember quite the promises made by NC during the poll campaign and through its manifesto. Former MLC and spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina said in his press statement.

Recalling how the National Conference manifesto had promised to "Provide one lac jobs to youth" besides passing "the Jammu and Kashmir Youth Employment Generation Act" within the first three months of government formation.

However, there is no sign of keeping this promise made to the youth even after six months of running the government, he stressed.

Similarly, GL Raina reminded that commitment was made to Provide "200 units" of free electricity" and pay "Rs5000 to female heads of EWS" along with 12 cylinders free of cost per year. Again, NC in its manifesto promised to enhance the old age and widow pension to Rs3000. Instead of keeping its promise NC has betrayed people's trust

Increasing medical allowance of pensioners and family pensioners from existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 per month was also promised, stressed former MLC. The NC government has failed the citizens of Jammu Kashmir on all these fronts, he added.

Instead of providing relief the people have been overburdened with an increase in petrol and diesel charges that has a cascading impact on the economy in all its forms. GL Raina cautioned people against fake propaganda and demanded relief for the people of Jammu Kashmir particularly from the price rise and asked the NC government to roll back the steep rise in bus fares.

## J&K Dharmarth Trust to organize Grand 'Rath Yatra' on April 5 on eve of Ram Navmi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

J&K Dharmarth Trust is organizing a grand Rath Yatra on April 5, 2025 on the eve of Ram Navmi celebrations.

This was informed by Dr. Parshotam Singh Pathania, President of J&K Dharmarth Trust while addressing a press conference at Trust's Central Office in Jammu. On the occasion, Ashok Kumar Sharma, IPS Retd, Secretary and members of Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Dharmik Yuvak Mandal were also present.

Briefing media persons, Dr. Pathania, President informed that the Trust is organizing the grand Rath Yatra with traditional zeal and enthusiasm. The Shoba Yatra will be conducted in collaboration with Sanatan Dharm Sabha and Dharmik Yuvak Mandal, he added.

Dr. Pathania said that the Shoba Yatra will cover the traditional route this year commencing from historical Shri Raghunathji Temple and after passing through various markets of Jammu Old City and will



finally culminate at Shri Raghunath Ji Temple. He further informed that the Shobha Murti Poojan ceremony will be performed at 4 PM on April 5, 2025, in the premises of Shri Raghunath ji Temple followed by Rath Poojan. After that the Rath Yatra will start from Shri Raghunath ji Temple, he added.

Ashok Kumar Sharma (IPS Retd), Trust's Secretary informed that the Rath Yatra shall start from the Shree Raghunath Ji Temple Complex and pass through Residency Road, Rajinder Bazar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazar, Chowk

Chabutra, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazar, Gita Bhawan, Ranbireswar Temple then again move towards again City Chowk, Raghunath Bazaar and finally culminate at Raghunath Ji Temple.

The Secretary appealed to the people of Jammu to participate in the Shoba Yatra in large numbers and let us all come together to celebrate this auspicious occasion with harmony and joy.

Among those who were present include Anil Sharma, President Dharmik Yuvak Mandal and Nischal Anand, Treasurer Dharmik Yuvak Manda.

## Two-day long Sanawar Military Literature Festival kicks off

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, APR 4

The two-day Sanawar Military Literature Festival commenced with an inspiring celebration of courage, legacy, and gender inclusion within the armed forces, bringing together a distinguished gathering of authors, military veterans, historians, and enthusiasts at The Lawrence School, Sanawar. This historic event aimed to explore the deep-rooted influence of military literature on society, culture, and national identity.

In his welcome address, the school's Headmaster, Himmat Singh Dhillon, emphasized Sanawar's proud 178-year-old legacy, underscoring its role in shaping generations of brave individuals who served with distinction in both British and Indian armies. He described the



festival as a tribute to these heroes whose stories continue to inspire the youth and enrich the nation's military narrative. One of the key highlights was the panel discussion on the "Role and Legacy of Women in the Armed Forces," where Komal Chadha and several senior army lady officers, women veterans, and spouses of officers illuminated the evolving role of women in

defense. Their stories of courage, leadership, and resilience challenged traditional gender roles and marked a transformative shift in military dynamics.

Major Priya Jhingan, one of the first women cadets in the Indian Army and a former faculty member at Sanawar, lauded progressive policies such as the permanent commission for women and the opening of NDA for female

aspirants as pivotal steps towards inclusion. Army wife and author Ambreen Zaidi, known for her impactful books "Warrior Widows" and "Soldiering On," emotionally recalled the untold struggles of war widows and stressed the need for greater empathy and recognition of the silent sacrifices made by military families. Squadron Leader Phagun Rishi, an alumna from the 2009 batch, shared how witnessing a female aviator alongside Chief of Army Staff Gen JJ Singh during a Founders' Day event had sparked her ambition to join the Indian Air Force, eventually making her Sanawar's first woman IAF officer. Other speakers like Mahua Pal Singh, Beeban Sidhu, and Rindy Shergill echoed the call for continued reforms and societal encouragement to strengthen women's roles in national defense.

## DC directs maintenance, beautification of Shopian Public Park

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited a recreational Park at Shopian town to review the available facilities, assess its maintenance besides review security and sanitation measures.

The visit aimed to take stock of the management of park in order to promote its recreational purpose for the residents of the district.

During the visit, DC inspected various attractions and directed concerned authorities of Revenue, Police, MC Shopian and Floriculture departments for argumentation of amenities & beautification of park.

He also directed them for installation of CCTVs and street lights around



the park.

DC emphasized the need for developing the recreational area to boost its leisure options for residents especially children. ADDC, Dr Nasir Ahmad

Lone; ADC, Dr Zakir Husain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, ASP, Showkat Wani, District Floriculture Officer and other district officers were accompanying him.

## Five JK startups showcase innovation at Startup Mahakumbh 2.0

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 04

Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) marked a significant presence at Startup Mahakumbh 2.0, India's largest startup platform by showcasing five promising startups from J&K.

These startups demonstrated the innovative solutions, thereby taking the Startups from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to the national stage. The five startups representing Jammu & Kashmir at the event are CLMRAT India Pvt. Ltd., GR8 Sports Pvt. Ltd. Studio Agama, BISA Pvt Ltd, and Al-Hamdaan Crafts Pvt Ltd.

This participation facilitated by JKEDI under J&K Startup Policy 2024-



27, highlights the growing startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir and the government's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. The platform provided these startups with an opportunity to network with investors, industry leaders, and other ecosystem enablers, helping them scale their ventures to new heights.

Speaking about the participation, Secretary Industries & Commerce Department with addi-

tional charge of Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir emphasized that the presence of J&K-based startups at Startup Mahakumbh 2.0 underscored the commitment of JKEDI in nurturing the entrepreneurial talent and creating an enabling ecosystem. "We are proud of our startups for showcasing their innovations at this prestigious platform," he said.

Startup Mahakumbh 2.0, known as the largest confluence of startups, investors, and policymakers in India, serves as a catalyst for emerging businesses by providing them with visibility, networking opportunities, and access to market linkages. The participation of J&K startups reaffirms the Union Territory's focus on building a vibrant and sustainable startup ecosystem.

## Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 04

According to Chief Engineer, KPDC in view of dismantling of old / spared poles under stabilization of 33 KV Landoor line emanating from Grid Station GIS Lassipora, the power supply to receiving stations including Landoor, Moman (pertains to STD-Bijbehara) and feeding areas Landoor, Mantribugh, Chakoor, Hermain, Hajipora, Frisal, Watchi and Moomin shall remain affected on April 08 & 10 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM.

## Truck loaded with firewood seized at Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APRIL 04

In a continuous drive against the illegal smuggling of firewood from the border area, a Joint team of Forest Protection Force Gamma Unit J-3, Kathua and Forest Territorial staff of Kathua Forest Division seized a truck bearing Reg. No JK-01AS/7167 while trying to smuggle firewood outside UT.

A case has been registered under the provisions of Indian Forest Act and further investigation is on.

## DC Poonch joins devotees at special Navratri prayer at Kalika Temple

JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 04

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today attended a special Navratri congregation at revered Kalika Devi Temple here in Main Bazar Poonch. During his visit, the DC participated in the evening Maha Arti, joining local devotees in the vibrant celebration of faith and cultural heritage. His presence underscored the importance of spiritual observances in fostering unity and enhancing cultural pride among the residents of Poonch. The Temple management committee welcomed Deputy Commissioner Kundal, expressing their gratitude for his attendance at this significant event. Joining the gathering of devotees, he offered prayers for peace and prosperity in the region.

## Farewell accorded to outgoing ACR at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APRIL 04

The District Administration Doda today bid a warm farewell to Assistant Commissioner Revenue Sunil Bhutyal on his transfer and promotion as Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhandarwah. Bidding him farewell, officers and staff gathered to convey their best wishes, expressing confidence that he will continue to serve with the same passion and integrity in his new role.

His promotion is seen as a well-deserved recognition of his competence and unwavering dedication to public service.

## Executive Committee CAMPA formulates Annual Plan of Operations for 2025-26

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 4

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, J&K Forest Department, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today chaired the 36th meeting of the Executive Committee of J&K to review implementation of Annual Plan of Operations for 2024-25 and formulate and consider the APOs for 2025-26 under CAMPA scheme.

PCCF & HoFF, Suresh Kumar Gupta elucidated the contribution of CAMPA in achieving the target of planting 150 lakh saplings under the programme "Ek ped maa ke naam" during 2024-25. He further highlighted various ongoing works like stabilization of slopes along highways and building of infrastructure for frontline staff. He also



referred to the works being undertaken for protection of forest lands through installation of boundary pillars and fencing of vulnerable forests.

Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA, T Rabi Kumar, made a brief presentation highlighting the progress on implementation of the approved Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) 2024-25, covering actions taken on the decisions of the EC in its last meeting and proposed APOs for the next financial year 2025-26.

Regarding next year's APOs, a total of about 4500 ha area has been proposed to be afforested

with planting of about 40 lakh saplings including beating up of casualties through assisted natural and artificial regeneration. A special emphasis is being given for soil and moisture conservation measures including construction of DRSM, crates and water harvesting structures in the APOs. Planting of local species and a mix of indigenous fodder species has been proposed to augment the fodder supply.

The Wildlife Protection Department has proposed a number of protection and conservation measures. These included improvement of wildlife

habitat, soil and water conservation works, management of protected areas, creation and maintenance of animal rescue centres, eco-development activities and development of wildlife related infrastructure. The APOs also included construction and maintenance of official accommodation for frontline staff like Guard huts, Block Office and Range Office.

After detailed discussion on all aspects of the proposals, the Executive Committee considered the proposed Annual Plan of Operations for FY 2025-26 with an outlay of about Rs. 157 crore. The EC recommended the proposal for approval of the Steering Committee for onward submission to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for final approval.

## Rajouri admin mulls to take up tourism, other projects on Public-Private Partnership mode

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 04

Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa today convened a meeting to discuss the projects proposed to be undertaken under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The meeting, held in the office chamber of the ADDC, focused on exploring the feasibility of the developmental projects aimed at enhancing tourism, infrastructure, and public amenities in the district.

Dr. Thapa emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive pre-feasibility study for each proposed project to assess their viability under the PPP model. The projects dis-

cussed during the meeting included Ropeway from Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah Shrine at Shahdara to Seeri, Ropeway from Shakar Marg Darhal to Seven Lakes, Construction of a Modern Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) with Cafeteria, Parking, Public Convenience Services (PCS), Shopping Complex at Shahdara Sharief, Construction of a Modern TRC with similar facilities at Tatapani Barmandal, Development of a Modern Park at Alpha Gate Phalyana & construction of a Cinema Hall and Multi-Storey Car Parking Facility in Rajouri Town

potential benefits and sustainability of implementing them under the PPP framework.

The ADDC reiterated the administration's commitment to exploring innovative solutions for infrastructure development, with a focus on public-private collaboration to boost tourism and economic growth in the district.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, Fareed Ahmed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chouhan; Chief Planning Officer, Maqsood Ahmed; Assistant Commissioner Development, Vijay Kumar Verma; Executive Engineer, Sardar Khan; Executive Officer Municipality, Yousaf ul Umar; and Tourist Officer, Mumtaz Ahmed.

## Nasha Mukht J&K: IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse kicks off in Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 04

District Administration Ganderbal today launched the Information Education and Communication campaign against drug abuse under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir, with a mega awareness event held at the Auditorium Hall of Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Ganderbal.

The event was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, as the chief guest. Among other dignitaries present were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bihari, District Social Welfare Officer, Deputy CEO, and a large gathering of locals and students.

The objective of the program was to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and promote healthy living, and engage youth in community building.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the grave threat posed by drug abuse, particularly to the youth and their families.

Highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse, the DC said that the drugs destroy lives and once



someone falls into the trap, it becomes very difficult to come out.

He emphasized that the campaign isn't just about warnings or statistics, it's about building a compassionate society that treats addiction as a health crisis rather than a moral failure.

Emphasizing the importance of empathy and support, he said that we must change our mindset towards addicts and need to stand beside those who are suffering and help them rehabilitate.

He maintained that the district administration is committed to making Ganderbal drug-free and our collective efforts should ensure this message reaches every nook and corner of the district.

The ADC, while addressing the gathering, pointed out that students, especially those in vulnerable age

groups are most at risk. He called for collective vigilance, urging parents and teachers to recognize the subtle signs and take preventive steps before it's too late.

The ADC implored students to act as ambassadors of the campaign and appealed to them to become our mouthpieces and share this awareness with your families and friends.

Resource persons from Education, Social Welfare and Health at the event also delivered informative sessions, educating the audience about the ill effects of drug abuse and sharing practical preventive measures.

The campaign aims to spread awareness, encourage rehabilitation, and mobilize community support to eliminate the menace of drugs from Ganderbal district.

## GGM Science College hosts Inspiring Expert Talk on 'Motivation through Goal Setting'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 04

GGM Science College on Friday organized an insightful expert talk on "Motivation Through Goal Setting," aimed at inspiring students to adopt a structured approach towards success. The event was spearheaded by the College Committee for Debates, Seminars, and Symposiums in association with the NSS wing. Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College hailed the Committee's endeavor.

The keynote speaker for the session was Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir and a distinguished motivational speaker Rizwan Uddin. He emphasized the transformative power of goal setting in both personal and professional growth, urging students to take the first step with confidence. "Uncertainty is certain, but it's our mindset that matters," he remarked, encouraging attendees to develop resilience and self-belief in the face of challenges.

Rizwan Uddin elaborated on the crucial role



of clear objectives, self-discipline, and determination in achieving success. Through real-life examples and interactive discussions, he guided students in aligning their aspirations with practical, actionable steps. The session received an enthusiastic response, with attendees appreciating the motivational insights and tangible strategies provided.

Earlier, the event commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Ashaq Hussain, who introduced the keynote speaker and extended gratitude on behalf of GGM Science

College. Later, in his closing remarks, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta expressed deep appreciation for Rizwan Uddin's thought-provoking and inspiring discourse, emphasizing the significance of such engagements in shaping young minds.

The session witnessed the participation of senior faculty members, including Prof. Vandana Khajuria, Dr. Naninder Kumar, and committee members Prof. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Prof. Akanksha Parihar, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, and

Prof. Neha Sharma, NSS Program Officer of the College. The event concluded with a dynamic question-answer segment, where students eagerly interacted with the speaker, seeking guidance on overcoming obstacles in goal implementation.

The event formally ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Akanksha Parihar, who acknowledged the speaker's invaluable insights and expressed appreciation for the collective efforts of the entire team and NSS in making the event a resounding success.