

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint pain
- Severe muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe fatigue
- Severe dizziness
- Severe skin rash
- Severe vomiting
- Severe bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## BRIEFLY

**Proposal for ACP for 10+2 lecturers under active consideration: Govt**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that a proposal for Assured Career Progression (ACP) for 10+2 lecturers appointed through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) is currently under active consideration.

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**3 Bills passed by Assembly assented by LG: Secy LA**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 07 (KNO)

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit Monday informed the House that three Bills, passed by Legislative Assembly have been assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on 25th of March, 2025.

The Secretary further read out "Three Bills, passed

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**NC inciting religious sentiments on Waqf Bill: BJP's Sunil Sharma**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma Monday said that the National Conference (NC) is inciting religious sentiments on the Waqf Amendment Bill.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, as per the news agency said that the Waqf Bill has been passed in the Parliament and is now subjudice, therefore, discussing the

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**Srinagar records season's hottest day at 28.2 degrees Celsius**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and other parts of Kashmir recorded the hottest day of the season on Monday while as the weatherman here

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**Amid pandemonium, Statehood resolutions lapse**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 07 (KNO)

With J&K Legislative Assembly failing to transact any business on Monday due to protest from MLAs of the ruling alliance, the three resolutions seeking the restoration of statehood lapsed.

As per news agency, the three resolutions seeking statehood were listed in the business of the House for discussion and voting. However, the resolutions couldn't be discussed due to protests from ruling alliance over rejection of an adjournment motion for discussion over Waqf Bill. The resolution were

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# Terrorism curbed, not eliminated completely: HM Amit Shah



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 07 (KNO)

Asserting that terrorism has been curbed, but it has not been completely eliminated, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that under the leadership of

PM Modi, significant progress has been achieved in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah, according to the news agency, met the families of J&K policemen, who laid down

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**Amit Shah visits Lop Sharma's residence in Jammu**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 07 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is on three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, visited the residence of Leader of opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Monday afternoon.

As per the details received by the news agency, the Home Minister visited Sunil Sharma's residence in Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu today.

Sources said that the duo discussed several issues pertaining to the development and security of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar this afternoon and

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**BSF always played crucial role in every war with Pakistan: Amit Shah**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APR 07 (KNO)

Amid the ongoing anti-terror operation in Kathua, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that the Border Security Force (BSF) has played a crucial role alongside the Army in every war with Pakistan.

Shah interacted with BSF personnel deployed there. He was accompanied by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, and Director-General of the Border Security Force, and other dignitaries.

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**Your 'zero terror plan' has given us motivation to destroy terror network: DGP Prabhat to Home Minister Amit Shah**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, APR 07 (KNO)

Stating that "zero terror plan" given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has given security forces motivation to fight and destroy the terror network, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday thanked Union Home Minister for Centre's support.

Addressing BSF jawans at 'Vinay' border outpost here the DGP, according to the news agency said, "Today we have gathered to pay tribute to martyrs. Sir, your Zero terror plan has given us motivation to fight and destroy the terror network."

He said, "1620 policemen have been martyred so far. Few days back, two Pakistani terrorists were



killed by our brave policemen. The terror network has been destroyed by J&K police. There is very good coordination between all the agencies. We will try to make J&K terrorism free." KNO

**HM arrives in Srinagar, visits residence of late DySP Humayun Muzamil**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar on Monday evening.

He was received by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other dignitaries at Srinagar Airport.

After landing in Kashmir, Shah, according to the news agency, visited the residence of Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Muzamil, 32, who was one among the four officers who lost their lives in the line of duty during an



encounter with terrorists in south Kashmir's Kokernag area on September 13, 2023. Bhat was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Shah, who is on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, spent nearly 20 minutes with the slain

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**Repeated adjournments in Assembly over Waqf Bill**



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed repeated disruptions on Monday after the Speaker disallowed an adjournment motion brought by legislators from the ruling NC-led alliance on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill- 2025. The chaos led to two adjournments before the Speaker eventually adjourned the House for the day.

As soon as proceedings of the House began this morning, as per news agency, MLAs from the ruling alliance stood up, demanding that adjournment motion brought by them on Waqf Bill should be allowed.

"There should be a discussion

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**Opposition slams NC over its stance on Waqf Bill**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

Peoples Democratic and Peoples Conference on Monday slammed National Conference over its role in scuttling adjournment motion to discuss Waqf (Amendment) Bill-2025 and lapsing of statehood resolutions.

As per the news agency, Peoples Conference chairman and Handwara lawmaker Sajad Lone asked NC why they are not moving a no-confidence

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**Rs 5,677 cr disbursed under GPF in FY 2024-25: Govt**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday clarified that General Provident Fund (GPF) bills for in-service and retired employees are being cleared regularly, but strictly as per the availability of resources.

Responding to a query by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, the I/C Minister

Finance, as per the news agency, stated that during the financial year 2024-25, a substantial amount of Rs 5,677 crores has been already paid under GPF.

The Minister added that the bills are being cleared regularly as per the availability of resources, which indicates any delays may be linked to constraints in fund availability rather than systematic negligence.

**Over Rs 300 crore allocated to tourism sector in J&K in 2-years: Govt**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that it has allocated over Rs 305.27 crore in the past two financial years to boost the tourism sector in the Union Territory.

Data accessed by the news agency, suggested that the Kashmir division received the lion's share – Rs 9,210 lakh in 2022-23 and Rs 9,527 lakh in 2023-24, while Jammu division was allocated Rs 5,685 lakh in 2022-23 and Rs 6,105 lakh in 2023-24. Notably, the government launched several initiatives

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**Over 8 lakh beneficiaries receive monthly pension in J&K: Govt**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that over 8 lakh beneficiaries across the Union Territory receive monthly financial assistance under several schemes, with 4.5 lakh in Kashmir and 3.6 lakh in Jammu.

Responding to a query by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, the minister incharge, as per the news agency, while denying the claims of disbursement delay also

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**928 cases of SRO-43 1994 pending in J&K: Govt**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said there are 928 cases of SRO-43 of 1994 pending in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a query by MLA Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the government in a written reply, as reported by the news agency, said there are 928

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**Debate over JKAS promotions: Govt forms panel to address concerns**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has acknowledged concerns over the 'alleged arbitrary supersession' of senior JKAS officers by their juniors from departmental or feeding services, and has constituted a committee to streamline the career progression within the premier administrative service.

Responding to a question by legislator Muzaffar Iqbal Khan during the ongoing session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the government as per the news

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## DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Public Works Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today convened a comprehensive review meeting with the Public Works Department (R&B) to assess the department's performance and monitor the progress of ongoing developmental projects across the district.

The review meeting focused on key aspects including project progress, financial utilization, adherence to regulations and the timely completion of works.

At the outset, Superintending Engineer (SE), PWD Circle Ganderbal, provided a detailed presentation outlining the physical and financial status of development



works under both Ganderbal and Kangan divisions.

The chair was briefed on the current pace of execution, financial expenditures, and future work plans.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability and strict compliance with tendering procedures and execution protocols.

He reiterated that all works must be carried out in accordance with

established norms and regulations.

Highlighting the significance of timely completion, the DC directed the officers to closely monitor the progress of each project to ensure quality standards and efficient utilization of funds.

The meeting was attended by SE PWD Circle Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal, AEEs, AEs, and JEs of the department.

## World Health Day: DLSA, DH Budgam organize awareness programme on physical & mental health

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

An awareness programme on importance of physical and mental health and well-being was today organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with District Hospital Budgam to observe 'World Health Day'.

The programme focused on the linkage between legal rights and access to health services, and highlighted the role of health services in legal and social justice, particularly for marginalized groups.

The event was organized under the super-

vision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and sessions Judge) Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' was the theme for World Health Day-2025. This year's theme kicks-off a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health. This initiative will encourage governments and the healthcare sector to intensify their actions to eliminate preventable maternal and newborn deaths. It will also focus on the long-term health and well-being of women.

The program was

graced by the presence of resource persons from DLSA Budgam including Amir and Iqbal Wani, Panel Lawyers DLSA Budgam who highlighted critical issues for global health which underpins life-long health, stronger communities, and collective future.

The event was attended by healthcare workers, DLSA Staff and community members who were all eager to learn more about the significance subject. Participants were also given practical advice on stress management, coping strategies, and ways to maintain a balanced and healthy mind.

## IEC activities organised across District Udhampur under Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 07

As part of the ongoing under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education and Communication activities were conducted across different blocks of District Udhampur.

The awareness campaign was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local people including students and Youths.

A sensitization session was also organized which emphasized the urgent need for community-level interventions in tackling drug abuse particularly among the youth.

A video documentary showcasing the devastating impact of drug addiction was screened to spread awareness about the physical, mental and social consequences of substance abuse.

The initiative aimed to mobilize communities and instill a sense of responsibility among citizens, especially the younger generation to join hands in building a drug-free society.

## GMC Doda hosts Quiz Competition, Academic Engagement to mark World Health Day-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APRIL 07

The Department of Community Medicine of Government Medical College (GMC) Doda celebrated World Health Day 2025 with great zeal and academic fervour under the guidance of Dr. Suresh Kotwal, Head of the Department, and the able leadership of Principal Dr. Rakesh Bahl.

This year's theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," highlighted the essential right of every individual to access quality healthcare, proper education, and a clean and supportive living environment.

To commemorate the occasion, a thought-provoking Undergraduate Quiz Competition was organized under the banner of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine



(IAPSM). The competition aimed to enhance awareness among medical students about pressing public health challenges while encouraging academic curiosity and problem-solving abilities. The quiz focused on key subjects such as maternal and child health, health equity, nutrition, disease prevention, and healthcare systems.

The event was conducted successfully by Dr. Imran Zaffer Senior Resi-

dent from the Department of Community Medicine and Dr. Gurjinder Senior Resident from the Department of Biochemistry. It witnessed active participation from undergraduate students who demonstrated commendable knowledge, enthusiasm, and teamwork in tackling complex questions on preventive and social medicine.

In his address, Principal Dr. Rakesh Bahl appreciated the organising Com-

mittee and emphasized the importance of such academic initiatives in shaping the perspectives of future healthcare professionals. He also reiterated the need for ongoing learning and awareness to build a resilient and equitable healthcare system.

The Department of Community Medicine extended sincere thanks to all faculty members, students and volunteers for making the event a grand success.

## Advisor to CM meets delegations, individuals; assures prompt action on genuine concerns

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

Continuing government's commitment to resolve issues of general public, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, met various delegations and individuals at Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office, Gupkar here today.

The JK Government Employees Joint Consultative Committee led by its Chairman, Aijaz Khan, called on the Advisor and highlighted various issues confronted by the Employees. They also discussed several welfare measures concerning the employees.

The Advisor heard the delegations patiently and assured them that all their issues and concerns would be addressed in a phased manner.

He stated that the present government is



quite aware of the issues of employees and every effort would be made to resolve the same on the basis of their genuineness.

Similarly, JK Higher Education Contractual Teachers Association also met the Advisor and presented a memorandum of their demands.

They demanded parity in terms of engagement with Health and Medical Education Department under SRO 364.

Responding to their demands, the Advisor said that Omar led government is determined to understand and address the hardships of our employees. He emphasized that these issues and concerns would be thoroughly looked into and resolved promptly.

Meanwhile, scores of individuals called on the Advisor and highlighted their issues. These issues, inter alia, included adjustment under SRO 43,

payments pending with SICOP and other concerns regarding better basic amenities in their respective areas.

Pertinently, the Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office is being daily thronged by dozens of delegations and individuals for resolution of their issues and concerns. A robust mechanism is in place to address the issues and concerns of the public both in offline and online mode.

## DC Baramulla reviews PMAY-G, PMAY-U & MGNREGA progress

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and MGNREGA in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla informed that under PMAY-G, a total of 339 houses were sanctioned under the SECC category, out of which 336 have been completed, marking a 99% completion rate. Similarly, under the non-SECC category, 5621 houses have been completed against a target of 5999, achieving a 94% success rate.

Appreciating the overall performance, the DC directed that the remaining houses be completed by June 2025. He stressed the importance of expediting the remaining works and ensuring all genuine beneficiaries receive timely assistance.

Under PMAY-U, it was informed that 70% of



the targeted houses have been completed. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that construction work is initiated immediately by those beneficiaries who have not yet started work on their houses.

He also instructed Executive Officers of Municipal Councils/ Committees to identify suitable land for BPL beneficiaries under PMAY-U and initiate the process of identifying eligible beneficiaries for the upcoming PMAY Urban 2.0 phase.

The DC emphasized transparency, effective monitoring and inter-departmental coordination to achieve full saturation and realize the goal of 'Housing for All'.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of MGNREGA in the district, during which Additional Deputy Commissioner apprised him of significant achievements under

the scheme. Against the targeted 11.35 lakh mandays, the district has generated 24.06 lakh mandays, reflecting substantial overachievement.

A total of 15,000 works have been taken up under MGNREGA, out of which 14,100 have been physically completed and 6,937 completed financially. The remaining 8,063 works are under various stages of execution. The district has ensured timely wage disbursement, achieving 99.96% payments within the stipulated 15-day period. The total material liability under the scheme stands at Rs.32 crore.

Joint Director Planning Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Executive Officers of Urban Local Bodies and Block Development Officers were present in the meeting.

## Govt to establish Joint Control Rooms for Forest Fires

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 7

Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Sheetal Nanda, today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and action plan for forest fires management.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Suresh Gupta; Chief Wildlife Warden, Sarvesh Rai; Additional PCCF, T Rabi Kumar; Director, Forest Protection Force, Sandeep Kujur; Secretary in Forest Department, Pardeep Kumar; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officers of the department attended the meeting.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on the prevailing scenario with regard to forest fires. It was informed that the Kashmir Division is prone to forest fires during March and April and less precipitation during the recent winters has increased the risk of these incidents. It was also revealed that in addition to natural reasons, the forest fires are also being caused by the unscrupulous elements. While the Department is taking preventive measures to mitigate these fires due to natural causes, it has also initiated action



against the culprits who deliberately set forest fires. There are 8 FIRs lodged in this regard, and the investigation has been initiated by the Police Department.

During the presentation, it was noted that although forest fires affected a small percentage of the total forest area, with damage limited to ground fires and no major crown damage reported, the Forest Ecology & Environment Department team is actively engaged in controlling and preventing these fires.

It was mentioned that the forest fires in Jammu Division usually occur during the dry and hot season of April to June. The department has already initiated various preventive measures in this regard.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the department to shift focus from fire fighting to preventive management of the forest fires.

It was also informed that for structured response to the forest fires, a detailed SOP is being formulated

which defines the criteria for categorization of low risk farm fires to high risk crown fires. The SOP also describes the preventive measures like creating fire breaks and control burns, preparedness through establishing fire response units, response protocols, use of technology, community engagements and awareness programmes. The SOP will notify the composition of fire response teams, fire fighting equipments of each unit as also the format for

reporting mechanism for forest fires.

The Commissioner Secretary directed that SOP needs to be made more specific with heat maps based on the past fire incidents and exclusive KMZ mapping of fire lines.

It was decided that present practice of having multiple control rooms shall be dispensed with to ensure optimum utilization of resources. For this purpose, joint forest fire control rooms shall be established in vulnerable areas, after proper mapping with pooling of the trained staff from Territorial, Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Protection and other organizations which shall be equipped with all requisite fire fighting equipment.

The Commissioner Secretary directed for immediate notification of duty rosters, on this account, by the respective DFOs. He also asked for devising an interactive online reporting mechanism for forest fires for better coordination among all stakeholders. He directed the field agencies to launch aggressive IEC campaigns to sensitize the general public for achieving the desired objectives.

## DC Ganderbal reviews progress of Ring Road Project Phase IIA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a key meeting to discuss the progress of Ring Road Project as well as assessment of structures, trees, crops and other utilities falling within the alignment of the Ring Road Project Phase IIA from Pandach to Manigam.

The meeting focused on ensuring a comprehensive inventory of all affected utilities and assets to facilitate smooth execution of the project.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the ongoing efforts related to the preparation of the inventory, covering structures, fruit and non-fruit bearing trees, mechanical and electrical equipment,



and other utilities impacted by the proposed alignment.

The DC directed all concerned departments to submit the inventory-cum-assessment reports at the earliest, emphasizing strict adherence to rules and regulations during the process.

He stressed that joint site visits by the concerned departments are essential before preparing final assessments to ensure accuracy and transparency.

The DC underlined the

importance of coordination among departments to ensure a smooth and fair assessment process for landowners affected by the project, which is vital for expediting land acquisition and compensation procedures.

The meeting was attended by A.C (Revenue) Ganderbal, SE O&M Circle Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Tehsildar Ganderbal, Tehsildar Lar, and officials from the NHAI.

## World Health Day: Free Medical Camp, Health Card facilitation held for Senior Citizens at Ahata Waqar Chanapora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre, observed World Health Day at Ahata Waqar, a day-care and recreational centre for the elderly in Chanapora.

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

Key dignitaries and speakers addressed the gathering, underlining the importance of physical and emotional well-being of senior citizens.

Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, who was the chief guest on the occasion, interacted warmly with the elderly attendees, listened patiently to their concerns, and offered on-the-spot solutions to



their grievances—demonstrating the Legal Services Authority's commitment to accessible justice and schemes available to senior citizens.

Mustafa Nazir, Manager of Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre emphasized the significance of inter-organizational collaboration in creating a support system for vulnerable groups.

A major highlight of the program was the Free Medical Camp, which offered specialized geriatric

consultations to cater to the distinct health needs of elderly individuals.

In addition to this, physiotherapy services were provided to support mobility and promote active living among the senior population.

The distribution of Vandana Health Cards added immense value by connecting the attendees to ongoing health benefits, thereby enhancing their access to essential medical services in the long term.

## Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Series of anti-drug awareness events held across Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, APRIL 07

As part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir" campaign, a series of impactful awareness and outreach activities were organized across various locations in Kathua district to educate communities, especially the youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign was conducted in Panchayat Gurah Kalyal where a community awareness session was held. Local residents, including youth and elders, actively participated in the session aimed at sensitizing people to the growing threat of substance abuse. Resource persons from health, social welfare and other departments highlighted the social, psychological, and physical impacts of drug addiction and emphasized the need for community vigilance and support systems.

In another significant outreach initiative, an awareness program was organized at Government School Gurha Mundian. The session, conducted under the aegis of Nasha Mukt campaign, featured informative talks by educators and counselors, who discussed the impor-



tance of making informed life choices and resisting peer pressure. Students were encouraged to become ambassadors of change in their communities by spreading awareness among their peers and families.

Recognizing the power of sports in channeling youth energy positively, various sports were organized at Panchayat Bhaddu Lower. The event drew enthusiastic participation from local youth and featured friendly competitions in volleyball, kabaddi, and athletics. The event served as a reminder of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the role of physical activity in building resilience against substance abuse.

An IEC campaign was also held at Government

School Jandore, Block Keerian Gandyal. The initiative included poster displays, awareness talks, and interactive sessions with students and faculty. The campaign reinforced the message that preventive education is key in curbing drug abuse and fostering a safe, healthy environment for future generations.

These activities are part of the larger goal of the Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir campaign, which aims to create drug-free communities through education, engagement, and empowerment. The District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with local institutions, continues its commitment to the cause with active participation from civil society.

## DC Kulgam takes review of Revenue Deptt; directs officers for efficient service delivery

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, APRIL 07

To review the functioning of Revenue Department, and ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The meeting reviewed in detail the tehsil wise progress on status of online services provided to citizens on JanSugam and Revenue Plus e.g Issuance of certificates, Fards, Demarcations etc, digitization and scanning of revenue records, removal of encroachment from state/kacharia land, Change of Land Use cases, grievances regarding Migrant properties, progress of revenue court cases in different offices, progress of different services under PSGA, progress of Mus-savias and Geo-referencing in each tehsil, disposal of



SRO cases, progress on land allotment to different departments for govt projects.

Besides, the meeting also discussed Land Acquisition for PWD, PMGSY, Jal Shakti and other depts, progress on Samadhan registrations disposal, disposal of grievances on Revenue Plus portal, Issuance of Land Pass books to the farmers and land identification for Compensatory Afforestation under CAMPA.

DC urged the revenue officers to ease out the day to day difficulties of common masses by visiting for on spot inspections.

He said that the progress of each Tehsildar is being monitored strictly on the basis of above parameters.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; all Tehsildars of the district, besides other officials of revenue department.

## IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse: GDC Sumbal organises Awareness programme

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 07



As part of the IEC campaign against Drug Abuse, Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal today organized a massive awareness programme on drug abuse under the banner of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan is a nationwide initiative by the Government of India to combat substance abuse

and promote a drug-free society.

The programme held under the patronage of the Principal GDC Sumbal, Prof. Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl was aimed to educate students about the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society, aligning with the campaign's broader objective of fostering awareness and encouraging collective action.

## DDC Member Hajin A, ADC participate in IEC campaign against Drug Abuse at HSS Aragam



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 07

As part of the UT Level IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse, an awareness programme was today held at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Aragam.

The programme, aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, was attended by District Development Council Member Hajin A, Dr.Ghulam Mustafa Khan; ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl besides a large gathering of public including parents and youth.

On the occasion, a series of engaging activities were held, including informative lectures by resource persons on the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction besides engaging interactive sessions were also held.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Member emphasized the importance of public involvement and

educational efforts in combating the drug menace.

He highlighted the pivotal role of sports in keeping youth away from the path of drug addiction.

Dr.Mustafa said that the youth are the future, and it is our collective responsibility to protect them from the clutches of drug abuse.

In his address, ADC emphasized the urgent need to combat the growing menace of drug abuse, highlighting the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

He said the IEC campaign is a vital step in educating our students and youth about the dangers of drugs and empowering them to make healthy choices.

Besides others, the event also witnessed participation from resource persons of the education department, health department, police and other concerned departments.

## Satish Sharma inaugurates new sports facilities at KCPS, KCSC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 07

Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated four new Pickleball courts at KC Public School and one outdoor Box Cricket arena at KC Sports Club.

While speaking on the occasion, the Minister applauded the efforts of KC Public School and KC Sports Club in bringing two more ultra-modern game facilities in Jammu.

He said that the sports complexes of KC Public School and KC Sports Club already have a complete range of world class



indoor and outdoor games and sports facilities that include Cricket, Football, Basketball, Net Ball, Volleyball, Lawn Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, Squash and swimming. Besides, it has added two more games which have gained incredible popularity in the entire world in terms of space requirements and the paucity of it in large metropolises, cities and towns all over the world. The Minister tried his hand at both these new games after inaugurating these facilities. He congratulated the KC Public School for creating and maintaining sports facilities of international standards and thereby offering the youths of Jammu and Kashmir the opportunities to excel in sports of their

choice.

The inauguration ceremonies at both these venues were witnessed by a large gathering of distinguished dignitaries like Chairman KC Public School Raju Chowdhary, Managing Director KCPS Arti Chowdhary, Managing Partner KC Sports Club Arjun Chowdhary, Principal KCPS AK Mishra, Former IAS Anil Goswami besides hundreds of sports enthusiasts and students and staff of both KC Public School and KC Sports Club including students and staff of Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, who are in Jammu on a cultural exchange visit to KC Public School.

## Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin DC inaugurates Collection-cum-Segregation Shed at village Dhanore Dhindian - Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated a collection-cum-segregation shed at Dhanore Dhindian constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G).

The newly inaugurated facility is aimed at enhancing solid waste management in the area, especially with regard to plastic waste. It will cater to the waste collection and segregation needs of several adjoining panchayats and the nearby Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), ensuring a cleaner and more sus-



tainable environment, the officials said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the establishment of the segregation shed is a significant step towards effective waste management and environmental conservation. "All plastic waste from the surrounding areas will now be scientifically collected

and segregated here. This initiative will go a long way in supporting the vision of a clean and green Rajouri," he added.

He also urged the local community members and educational institutions to actively participate in keeping their surroundings clean and cooperate with the administration in achieving the objectives of SBM-G.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Terrorism curbed...

their lives in line of duty in an encounter with terrorists in Kathua district recently. He also handed over appointment letters to nine nominees on compassionate grounds. He paid rich tribute to the slain police personnel and expressed gratitude to their families.

Addressing the families of the slain police personnel he said, "Whole country is proud of the brave policemen who sacrificed their lives to protect the country. Today under the leadership of PM Modi, significant progress has been achieved in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology. Our mission is still not accomplished, because terrorism has been curbed, but it has not been completely eliminated."

The Union Home Minister said, "For more than three and a half decades, Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the devastating effects of terrorism. We are proud of the sacrifice of our brave policemen who laid down their lives to protect our country, our homes and our future."

The Home Minister urged J&K Government to take positive steps for compassionate appointment of 12-year-old Yuvraj Singh, son of martyr SGCT Jaswant Singh, upon attaining adulthood (18 years of age).

Shah also paid his respects and gratitude to the family of late Shashi Bhushan Abrol, Deputy Manager/Designer, APCO Construction Company, Gagangir, District Ganderbal.

Late Shashi Bhushan Abrol made the supreme sacrifice while on duty during a terrorist attack on the critical infrastructure project of Sonamarg Tunnel on 20 October 2024.

The Home Minister said, "No amount of words can take away the pain being felt by the bereaved, but it symbolizes our deep gratitude and the government's unwavering commitment to stand with the families of the brave martyrs, just as the loved ones of the martyrs have stood by the nation."

"Everyone should follow the ideals of the martyrs and have an eternal love for duty, honour and 'Maa Bharti'. The sacrifice, courage and commitment of the martyrs will always remain etched in our hearts and will continue to inspire us to build the India of their dreams," he added. KNO

## HM arrives in...

police officer's father, retired IGP Ghulam Hassan Bhat, before heading to Raj Bhawan in Srinagar, sources said.

Shah will stay in Srinagar till Tuesday afternoon. He will chair a high level meeting on developmental works at Raj Bhawan tomorrow and would also lead a comprehensive Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting, it would be attended by the officers of J&K Police, Army, CAPF, Central Intelligence agencies, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and senior MHA officials. KNO

## Amit Shah visits...

met the family of slain Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzamil, who was one of the four officers killed during an encounter with terrorists in south Kashmir's Kokernag area on September 13, 2023. KNO

## BSF always played...

Pertinently, security forces are carrying out a massive anti-terror operation in Kathua. In the recent skirmishes in the area, two Pakistani terrorists were killed, while four J&K policemen also laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the BSF soldiers at 'Vinay' border outpost in Kathua, Shah, according to the news agency said, "Entire country knows that the BSF is our first line of defense. In every war with Pakistan, the BSF has played a crucial role alongside the army."

The Home Minister said that the technical support provided to the BSF over the next 3-4 years will be used to complete border security measures along the India-Pakistan border and later on at the India-Bangladesh border as well. "This will include technologies such as advance threat detection and immediate response capabilities," he added.

Shah praised BSF's relentless dedication, enduring extreme weather conditions, and remaining alert 24/7. "The government is committed to enhancing border security with advanced technologies, offering unwavering support to the BSF's mission," he said, as per KNO.

"Here, one can truly understand the challenging conditions under which you (BSF) ensure the security of the nation's borders. Whether in intense cold, heavy rain, or 45-degree heat, not a single moment allows you to relax. You have to remain stationed 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in all types of weather and terrain, staying vigilant so that no adversary can make a move," the Home Minister said.

He maintained that the support from the Indian Government for the BSF has always been a top priority. "Whatever plans are provided to us; we are always ready to implement them. Currently, 26 experiments are underway, and within the next year, we will definitely reach a decision that will provide many benefits to you," he added.

The Union Home Minister said that government led by PM Modi is working to reduce the difficulties faced by soldiers in the discharge of their duties and will continue to do so.

He emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is fully committed to the welfare of security forces and their families. "The Government of India has launched several welfare schemes for security forces, including Ayushman APF, ex-gratia payments, accidental death insurance coverage under the APF salary package scheme, the Unified Pension Scheme, the Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme (PMSS), and E-Housing," he added.

Earlier the Home Minister paid tributes to the BSF Assistant Commandant Vinay Prasad of the Border Security Force, who made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty at the international border in Kathua district in 2019. Earlier, in 2021, the Home Minister had also visited the Makwal Border Post along the Jammu frontier.

During his visit Shah inaugurated newly built facilities at the border, including 8 women barracks, high-mast lights, a G+1 tower, and a composite BOP, all constructed at a cost of Rs 47.22 crore. These initiatives have strengthened the security arrangements during the Border Security Force personnel's duties and have also improved their living conditions. KNO

## Repeated adjournments...

on the Waqf bill in the Assembly of Muslim-majority state of Jammu & Kashmir. When farm laws and NRC were discussed in assemblies of different states, why couldn't we discuss the Waqf bill? It directly affects us," NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq demanded.

He asked the Speaker to adjourn the House for discussion on the issue.

"This is a matter of faith and religion, and there is no issue more urgent than this. Will you adjourn the House to address this critical concern?" he asked the Speaker.

As NC legislators continued with their demand for a discussion on the law, BJP MLAs stood up in protest, opposing the motion.

Amid commotion in the House, the Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that he has received an adjournment motion from nine MLAs for adjourning business of the House for discussing the Waqf law.

"I have examined Rules regarding adjournment motion," he said, adding that sub-rule VII of Rule 58 doesn't allow discussion on a matter which is under adjudication in the competent court of law.

He said the Waqf (amendment) Bill- 2025 has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Amid protests, PDP's Waheed Para asked the Speaker why the law cannot be discussed in the Assembly when resolutions disapproving it were passed in assemblies of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"The resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu assembly before it became sub-judice," the Speaker responded to him.

Citing the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in J&K Assembly, the Speaker pronounced that he has disallowed the motion.

The Speaker's ruling sparked protests from National Conference, Congress, and PDP legislators in the House, while BJP legislators welcomed it by thumping their benches.

Shouting slogans "Waqf Bill Na Manzoor" (Waqf Bill is unacceptable), "Kalaa Kanon Na Manzoor" (draconian law is unacceptable), the legislators from treasury benches tried to storm into the well, but were prevented by the Marshals from entering into it.

Amid continuous protests by legislators of NC-led alliance and BJP, the Speaker adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

This was for the first time during ongoing budget session that the Speaker adjourned the House.

As the House re-convened after 15 minutes, the legislators from NC and Congress rushed into the well and staged protests there.

PDP MLAs, PC president Sajad Gani Lone were also on their feet demanding discussion on the matter.

While some NC legislators tore question papers and threw them in air, a few of them tore black waistcoat of Majid Larmi and held its pieces as a mark of protest against the law.

Amid protests in the House, NC's Nazir Gurezi said that they will not allow House to function if discussion on the issue is not allowed.

"We are ready to sacrifice anything for it. This is our religious issue," he said.

With MLAs from ruling alliance and BJP shouting slogans against each other, the Speaker adjourned the House for 20 minutes.

As the House re-convened for the third time, the ruling alliance MLAs and BJP stood up, raising slogans.

While BJP MLAs raised slogans, 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram', MLAs from NC- Congress alliance raised chants of "Allah-u- Akbar".

Amid the continued disruptions, Congress MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone moved towards the opposition benches.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa tried to snatch posters from Irfan which bore slogans against the Waqf bill. However, before they could exchange blows, the Marshals separated them.

Later, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings of the House for the day. KNO

## Opposition slams...

motion against its own Speaker for rejecting their adjournment motion.

In a post on X, he said that the Speaker, a member of NC, acted at the party's direction and blocked a motion brought in by NC lawmakers. He questioned the explanation that the Waqf Bill was sub-judice, pointing out that the petition against it had not yet been admitted.

Lone said an adjournment motion is a tool to censure the government for its failures and not appropriate for legislative matters like the Waqf Bill. He added that the correct method to express collective disapproval was through a resolution.

He also referred to the lapse of three resolutions on statehood and compared it with the 2013 incident when a resolution on Afzal Guru lapsed after the NC Speaker adjourned the House amid disruptions.

Lone suggested that the protest over the Waqf Bill may have been a distraction from the statehood resolutions. He also pointed out that senior NC leaders, including Dr Farooq Abdullah and the Chief Minister, were seen walking with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who introduced the Waqf Bill in Parliament.

PDP leader and Pulwama lawmaker Waheed Parra said that the failure to pass a resolution against the Waqf Bill was a betrayal of the public mandate. He noted that J&K is the only Muslim-majority state in India, and with 60 Muslim MLAs and a Muslim Chief Minister, it should have taken the lead in opposing the Bill.

Parra said that while Tamil Nadu passed a resolution against the Waqf Bill, J&K remained silent. He said the government was playing politics, normalising controversial moves, and facilitating the BJP's agenda.

Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said it was disappointing that the Speaker had rejected the

motion on the Waqf Bill. She said the government, despite having a strong mandate, had yielded to what she described as BJP's agenda and lacked the courage to debate the issue. She added that the NC could learn from the Tamil Nadu government, which openly opposed the Bill. KNO

## 928 cases of...

pending cases under SRO-43 of 1994, while 1,279 applications received under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme are also pending.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the year 2024, a total of 1,116 SRO-43 cases were approved by the government. "The process for finalisation of all pending cases under SRO-43 is underway. Besides, all 1,279 applications received under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme have been forwarded to the concerned departments for their expeditious disposal," the concerned minister said.

He mentioned the key measures implemented for speedy disposal of pending cases.

Administrative departments have been empowered to handle compassionate appointment cases internally, provided no relaxation in age or educational qualifications is required and suitable posts are available, the minister informed.

He said the departments have been instructed to promptly settle all pending compassionate appointment cases under SRO-43/1994 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) that fall within their competence, ensuring due diligence and adherence to all formalities.

"Compliance reports detailing the number of cases settled are to be submitted to the General Administration Department fortnightly for review," the minister said, adding that the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022, has introduced a criteria-based assessment to ensure equity and transparency in compassionate appointments.

The scheme, he said, includes provisions for online application submissions, centralised processing, and a merit-based system for appointments. KNO

## Over Rs 300 crore...

to rejuvenate tourism in the region, which paved a way to enhance tourist footfall besides it opened up new areas for sustainable tourism development.

Meanwhile, the increased allocation suggests a long-term policy shift towards equitable tourism development across both divisions.

Jammu and Kashmir government earlier said that it has witnessed a significant surge in tourist footfall over the past two years, with over 1.29 crore tourists visiting the Union Territory excluding pilgrims.

The data revealed that a total of 55,15,679 tourists visited J&K in the year 2023, while the year 2024 saw a remarkable increase in tourism, recording 74,48,688 tourist arrivals.

In the year 2023, 55,327 foreigners visited the Union Territory, while in 2024, the number further rose to 65,452. This brings the total number of foreign tourists visiting J&K in the last two years to 1,20,779, the official figures states. KNO

## Over 8 lakh beneficiaries...

informed that pension is being regularly disbursed in accordance with scheme guidelines.

"4,50,797 eligible beneficiaries in Kashmir Division receive monthly financial aid under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), with an additional 64,881 beneficiaries covered under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). In Jammu Division, 3,61,182 beneficiaries avail pension benefits under the same schemes", the minister said.

Responding to another query, he said that there is delay in marriage assistance disbursement.

"In instances where departmental funds are not available, payments may be delayed until after the marriage, but only for applicants who applied at least one month prior to their wedding date", he said. KNO

## Debate over JKAS...

agency, cited Rule 11(I) of the JKAS Rules, 2008, which governs promotions to time scale posts.

As per the rules, 50% of the time scale posts are to be filled by promotion from directly recruited junior scale officers, while the remaining 50% are filled from feeding services in proportion to their respective strength.

Additionally, 10% of the feeding service quota is allocated to other eligible government departments under clause (c) of Rule 6.

However, in light of the grievances raised, the government, through Order No. 2088-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 13, 2024, has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Financial Commissioner (ACS), Jal Shakti Department. The committee's mandate is to examine and streamline promotion mechanisms and ensure fair career progression for all JKAS officers.

Additionally, the move comes amid growing concern that SRO-386 of 2008 may have led to an imbalance in promotional opportunities within the JKAS cadre, affecting morale among direct recruits. KNO

## Proposal for ACP...

The response was given to a question raised by MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa during the ongoing session of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

According to the news agency, in response to concerns regarding stagnation and limited promotional avenues, the government clarified that 10+2 lecturers appointed through JKPCS are promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer with two advance increments.

Subsequently, they are elevated to the positions of Principals and their equivalents under Pay Level-10A (Rs 56,600-1,79,800), as per the rules. Eligible Principals are further promoted to the posts of Chief Education Officers or equivalent positions.

Regarding the demand for Functional Upgradation (NFU) or ACP on the lines of Assistant Surgeons, Dental and Veterinary Doctors, and ISM doctors, the School

Education Department has proposed the introduction of ACP. The proposal was deliberated in the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee meeting held on June 5, 2024.

"A sub-committee was constituted by the General Administration Department (GAD) vide Government Order No. 1339-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated July 9, 2024, to examine the proposals of various departments. Additionally, an internal committee was constituted by the School Education Department vide Government Order No. 357-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated September 11, 2024, to further examine the matter," the government stated, adding that the issue is currently under active consideration of the department. KNO

## 3 Bills passed...

by Legislative Assembly have been assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on 25th of March, 2025. The Bills include The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 2025), The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 2025) and The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 2025)". KNO

## NC inciting religious...

Bill in the Assembly is unconstitutional.

He said that three National Conference parliamentarians remained silent on the issue and now the party including the speaker is trying to incite religious sentiments by demanding a discussion on the Bill in the assembly.

He added that the issue raised by them is aimed to get media attention. KNO

## Srinagar records season's...

predicted light snow and rains on April 9 (Wednesday).

According to the details available with the news agency, Srinagar recorded the season's hottest day today at 28.2 degree Celsius, which was 9.4 degree Celsius above than the normal temperature.

Qazigund in South Kashmir also recorded the hottest day at 27.6 degree Celsius, which was above 9.3 degree Celsius above than normal temperature.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 24.2 degree Celsius, which was above 8.9 degree Celsius above the normal while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a maximum temperature of 28.6 degree Celsius.

Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, also recorded 9.6 degree Celsius and 11.5 degree Celsius above normal temperatures respectively today as the mercury settled at 26.6 degree Celsius and 20.0 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman has predicted generally cloudy weather towards afternoon with possibility of light snow over higher reaches of north & Central Kashmir towards late night.

The local Meteorological department (MeT) has also issued a yellow alert for Wednesday, predicting isolated thunderstorm, hailstorm, lightning and gusty winds 30-40 KMPH in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that on April 09 & 10, generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of light rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected at many places of Kashmir division & scattered places of Jammu division with possibility of thunderstorm and Gusty winds (30-40 KMPH) at few places.

On 11th April, he said that generally cloudy weather with light rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected at scattered places towards morning & improvement thereafter.

He added that from April 12 to April 17, the weather would remain generally dry while from April 18 to 20, fresh spells of rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected during the period.

In its advisory, the MeT has advised travellers, tourists and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory.

Besides, the farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations during 9-10th April. KNO

## Amid pandemonium...

submitted by NC legislators Hilal Akbar Lone, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone and independent MLA Shabir Kulley. They were selected through draw-of-lots on March 25.

Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone, in a post on X, formerly twitter, questioned National Conference over its protest, saying whether they were protesting about Waqf Bill or stalling statehood resolutions. "3 resolutions seeking restoration of statehood lapsed today. This is a similar situation when resolution on Afzal Guru lapsed in 2013 when NC's speaker adjourned the House after Congress, then an ally of the NC-led government, created pandemonium out of blue," he said. KNO

## NOTICE

I, Sat Pal S/o Krishan Lal R/o Galwaday Chak, Tehsil Marh and District Jammu, am applying for correction of name of my son from Ritik Kumar to Ritik Sharma R/o Galwaday Chak, Tehsil Marh and District Jammu with CEO Jammu, DIET Jammu, Lower Roop Nagar. Objection if any may kindly be reported to the CEO Jammu, DIET Jammu, within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice

## NOTICE

I, Akash Kumar Sharma (old name) s/o,D/o,W/O Suresh Parshad Sharma R/o H.NO.32 preet nagar has changed my name from Akash Kumar Sharma (Old Name) to Akash Sharma ( New Name).I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Akash Sharma (New Name)

## Srinagar admin organizes Drug De-Addiction/ Awareness programme at Girls High School Balhama

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, an IEC (Information, Education and Communication) programme on Drug De-Addiction and Awareness was organized today at Girls High School, Balhama. The programme, aimed to sensitize students and the local community about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society, witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of school children, staff members and local residents.

The event was part of an ongoing initiative to educate the youth and the general public about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to fight it.

During the event, Block Development Officer Khonmoh addressed the gathering and emphasized the need for awareness and early intervention to curb the spread of drug



abuse, especially among youth. He called upon students to act as ambassadors of change and spread the message of healthy and responsible living.

Tehsil Social Welfare Officer North also delivered a detailed lecture, highlighting the psychological, social and economic consequences of drug addiction. He spoke about various government schemes and rehabilitation facilities available for those in need.

Other Officers and Experts present also

shared their insights and encouraged the audience to stand united against this social evil. The programme concluded with an interactive session where students raised queries and shared their thoughts on how to contribute to a drug-free society.

On the occasion, speakers underlined that such awareness initiatives play a vital role in community mobilization and strengthening the fight against drug abuse at the grassroots level.

## Preparations underway for Budgam, Nagrota bye-polls

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 07

In line with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (EC), rationalisation of polling stations for the upcoming bye-elections in the 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituencies was completed here today. The process is part of the

ongoing preparations to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the polls.

The number of polling stations in the constituency has been increased from 156 to 173 in Budgam and 145 to 150 in Nagrota Assembly Constituency. The draft roll for the Constituencies will be published tomorrow, April 8. According to an official

communicate received in this regard, the unregistered electors will have the opportunity to submit claims and objections regarding inclusion, correction or deletion of names in the electoral roll to the concerned ERO, AERO or BLO. They may also register through the ECI's website from April 8 to April 24.

## DC inspects upgradation, Development Works on Doda-Khellani stretch of NH



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the new Doda-Khellani stretch of National Highway, here. During the visit, he assessed the quality of work and instructed the General Manager NHIDCL to ensure repair work is carried out on the cracks and damaged areas of the road stretch.

Later, the DC Doda also reviewed the ongoing upgradation and blacktopping work on the old Highway Khellani-Doda road. He directed the executing agencies to adhere strictly to quality standards and expedite the pace of work to ensure timely completion.

During the inspection, local residents apprised the Deputy Commission-

er of several issues seeking upgradation of drainage system and the construction of retaining walls at vulnerable points to prevent erosion and enhance road safety. They also demanded blacktopping of the remaining stretches of the old road.

The DC assured the public that all their genuine demands would be looked into on priority and necessary actions would be taken in coordination with the concerned departments.

Meanwhile, DC Harvinder Singh visited the Ganpat area to inspect the ongoing development of Chenab river front. He expressed satisfaction over the progress and stated that the construction of the ark will soon be completed, offering much-needed recreational space and greenery to the residents of Doda town.

## NCORD meeting

## Drug control measures reviewed in Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 07

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review and enhance strategies to combat the menace of substance abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of each department regarding their activities and efforts aimed at achieving a drug-free Poonch. He directed the police department to intensify crackdown on drug peddlers and continue aggressive enforcement drives. All Executive Magistrates and line departments were instructed to extend full cooperation in the district-wide campaign against drugs.

The DC also emphasized the need for holding of regular divisional and tehsil-level NCORD meetings by all SDMs and Tehsildars. He directed them to invite heads of Panchayat-level Committees to these meetings and focus on assessing local drug-related challenges. Officials were also asked to regularly review the performance of Panchayat-level committees and promptly report any suspicious activities to the concerned authorities.

It was noted that the district has achieved 100% installation of CCTV cameras and computerized billing systems at all chemist shops. The DC called for strict monitoring of these systems to prevent sale of psychotropic drugs.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of proactive measures, directing the Education Department to install CCTV cameras in all educational institutions to monitor any illicit activity related to drug abuse. Additionally, he instructed the department to display 'Nasha Mukat' banners



prominently at the entry gates of schools and colleges.

The Deputy Commissioner mandated the appointment of Anti Drug Captains (ADC) in all educational institutions. These students will work closely with school administration to identify and support drug addicts within their institutions.

The DC called for joint initiatives involving all concerned departments, including Social Welfare, Health, JKSRM, Rural Development, Revenue, Police, Excise, Education and others to advocate for active awareness programs about the adverse effects of drug abuse. He reiterated the critical role of awareness campaigns in fostering a drug-free environment.

Moreover, he directed the Health & Transport Department to implement thorough testing measures and maintain comprehensive records.

The Deputy Commissioner further ordered the destruction of any illegal poppy straw cultivation in forest areas, reinforcing the commitment to combat drug proliferation.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centres and the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) in the district. The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality while ensuring effective treatment of patients.

The meeting concluded with a call to action for all concerned departments to ensure widespread dissemination of helpline numbers, including TeleMANAS, Mental Health Helplines, and Nasha Mukat Helplines, through hoardings and IEC activities across the district.

The meeting marked a decisive push towards enhancing the district-level mechanism to combat drug abuse and secure a healthier, drug-free future for Poonch.

This meeting was attended by SSP, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent DH, Divisional Forest Officer, SDM Mendhar, DSWO, ARTO, Tehsildars, Drug Inspector, Chief Education Officer and the Principals of Government Degree Colleges.

## DYSS organises intramural competitions, anti-drug rallies across Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 07

The District Youth Services and Sports Department today organized a series of intramural sports competitions and anti-drug awareness rallies across various educational institutions and zones of the district here under the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan.

In a spirited initiative to promote physical fitness and encourage sporting talent among youth, intramural competitions were conducted in the disciplines of Table Tennis, Yoga, Kho-Kho, Chess, and Carrom (Boys & Girls) under the leadership of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The events were held at GHSS Dool - Zone Nageni, GHS Balgran - Zone Drabshalla, GHS Basmina - Zone Warwan, GMS Indra Nagar, and GMS Berwar.

These competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation and showcased the dedication of young

athletes from across the district.

In a parallel effort to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse, the DYSS also organized impactful rallies as part of the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan under the theme "No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

The awareness drives were held at GHSS Sounder, GHSS Chattroo, GMS Sigdi, Pyt Laie and UPS Girls Razna Palmar.

Over 400 students, including 250 boys and 150 girls participated, carrying banners, raising slogans, and spreading messages of a drug-free and healthy lifestyle. The enthusiastic

involvement of students, teachers, and local communities made the event a great success.

Meanwhile, for smooth implementation of the Sports Activity Calendar, DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh chaired a meeting with all field officials, including Physical Education Masters (PEMs), Physical Education Teachers (PETs), Rehbar-e-Khel (REKs), and Sports Teachers. The meeting focused on strategic planning and monitoring of scheduled events for the current session, aiming to enhance participation and sports development at the grassroots level.



## JKPCC hosts public hearing for proposed Steel Manufacturing Unit at SICOP-Sahar Logate

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, APRIL 07

The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) today conducted a public hearing for the proposed steel manufacturing project by M/s German Steel Works here at SICOP Industrial Estate-Sahar Logate.

The proposed industrial unit is designed to manufacture steel billets, ingots, and TMT bars ranging in size from 8 mm to 32 mm. As part of its infrastructure, the project includes the installation of two induction furnaces (2x25 TPH), a continuous casting machine (CCM), and a steel rolling mill with a production capacity of 30 TPH.

The hearing was held at Sahar Logate and was supervised by officials from the JKPCC, the office of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, and the Divisional Officer PCC Kathua. Local residents and stakeholders actively participated in the



proceedings, expressing their views and concerns about the project. The entire session was video-graphed and recorded in compliance with regulatory requirements. The documentation will be submitted to the Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA) for further processing of the Environmental Clearance.

During the hearing, the project consultant presented a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report,

detailing findings from environmental monitoring and analysis carried out in accordance with prescribed norms.

Pertinently, this public hearing is a key statutory requirement under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. It ensures transparency and community participation in the environmental clearance process for industrial projects.

## Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan: District-wide Awareness drives held in Baramulla to combat Drug Abuse

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 07

In an effort to create a drug-free society, the District Administration Baramulla organized a series of awareness workshops and informative sessions across various pan-

chayats and educational institutions of the district under Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan.

As per the schedule, the programs were successfully conducted in five blocks of the district viz. Nadihal, Noorkhah, Pattan, Rafiabad and Rohama, draw-

## 'World Health Day' celebrated at Shopian



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 07

Health Department Shopian in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian celebrated World Health Day at Mini-Secretariat Shopian today.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Arshad Husain Tak was the chief guest on the occasion.

During inaugural speech, CMO said that the goal of World Health Day is to raise awareness about global health issues and encourage individuals, communities, and governments to take action towards improving health outcomes for all people, regardless of their socio-economic status, location, or background.

District Nodal Medical Officer, Shopian highlighted the role of the Ayush in

improving the health standard of the people.

Dr. Mohd Yousuf Nainkoo's and Dr. Abdul Rashid Parray provided crucial information in raising awareness about both health and legal rights. The inclusion of sessions on government health schemes and the intersection of law with healthcare access is especially valuable, as many individuals may not be fully aware of the resources available to them.

The goal is to educate people on the importance of taking care of their health and well-being, and to advocate for better access to healthcare, improved public health systems, and the reduction of health inequalities.

The officers and officials of the health department and other concerned were present.

ing participation from hundreds of students, youth and community members.

These sessions were conducted with the coordinated efforts of the Health Department, Police, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, and other concerned agencies.

The initiative witnessed active participation from students, youth, and community members who engaged in discussions and educational interactions on the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of collective action in eradicating this menace.

## EDITORIAL

## Sheer display of political opportunism?

In the strange theatre of Indian politics, few acts are as predictable as ideological flexibility cloaked in moral outrage. The Communist Party of India (Marxist), long known for its rigid ideological posturing, has now offered a masterclass in political opportunism by invoking the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh—whom it had for decades decried as a "despot" and "oppressor"—to mount its critique of the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A. This rhetorical U-turn, enshrined in the party's resolution at its 24th Congress in Madurai, is not just surprising—it is revealing. The very monarch once vilified as the symbol of feudal autocracy is now being retrofitted into the CPI(M)'s narrative as a historical custodian of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The irony would be amusing if it weren't so transparently tactical. The party's resolution decries the BJP-led central government's August 5, 2019 decisions as "unconstitutional" and "disastrous," citing the erosion of civil liberties, economic downturn, and rising insecurity in the region. These concerns—valid as they may be—are now strangely underpinned by a nostalgic appeal to the same princely ruler the Left once dismissed as the antithesis of democracy and justice. This move raises a critical question: is the CPI(M)'s sudden endorsement of Maharaja Hari Singh's policy framework a genuine reconsideration of history, or a convenient maneuver to score political points against the ruling party? To be clear, Jammu and Kashmir's post-370 reality is deeply complex. The region has seen a centralisation of authority, a shrinking space for dissent, and an economic downturn that has left daily-wage workers, apple growers, and artisans struggling to survive. The CPI(M)'s concerns about delayed payments, absence of legal protections like MSP, and misuse of stringent laws like UAPA and PSA reflect real anxieties. But when those concerns are filtered through a lens clouded by selective memory and ideological contradiction, their impact is inevitably diminished. What we are witnessing is not just a critique of policy—it is a reengineering of historical narrative to suit present-day political expediency. Citing the Maharaja's land and job protections as a moral precedent, after decades of castigating him as a relic of monarchic tyranny, only serves to dilute the CPI(M)'s credibility. Worse, it reveals the party's own vulnerability to the same opportunism it frequently accuses others of. In democratic discourse, consistency of values matters. When political parties bend history to serve their momentary needs, they undermine not only their own positions but also the public's ability to trust political dialogue. The CPI(M) may believe it is reclaiming a lost cause, but in doing so, it risks losing the moral high ground it so zealously guards. In the end, truth in politics is not just about what is said, but why and when. And when yesterday's "despot" becomes today's hero, the only thing truly exposed is the elasticity of conviction in the face of convenience.

## WAVES: India Leading the Way for Global Creative Content Revolution

DHARMENDRA TEWARI  
ADG, PIB, MINISTRY OF  
INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING

Creativity has no boundaries. From time immemorial, the creators have been shaping this world. The great Creative ideas, which shaped us as "modern human beings", across all civilizations, in our long evolutionary journey from the dark ages, pushed creative vision of earlier generations with an aim to improve their future i.e. "Our Present Life". As we, Baby boomers to GenZ, enjoy the benefits of progress in the 21st century, it is the creativity of our ancestors that made human life better for us in the modern times. Thus, identifying the creators, giving them mentorship, sharing state of the art knowhow, best global practices and by providing access to market for their creative work, becomes crucial for the policy makers in all generations.

In modern internet era, by unleashing the creative potential of the world, India is precisely riding on WAVES of creativity. New Delhi aims to unite the world politically as a "Creative Soft Power"

promoting the global harmony among comity of nations. At the same time at working level of Media & entertainment industry our policy makers are "Connecting the Creators" through WAVES 2025 by "Connecting Countries. Be it Indian brand of Yoga & Ayurveda from ancient times or "Entertaining" music of Bollywood in the last 100 years since talkies came into being, our creators have been shaping the world democratising the knowledge for creators of all generations. Thus WAVES, the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, happening in Mumbai from 1st to 4th May is a great opportunity for creators from across the globe to showcase their talent & truly be a part of creative journey, earn name & fame for their creativity. Be it films, music, games, comics or some tech innovation in making the education & healthcare more affordable, WAVES offers to the creators a "Wholesome Opportunity" to remain ahead by developing tools having potential to shape the media and entertainment industry.

Efforts of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in identifying creative

talent pool is bringing results. More than "750 Shortlisted Creators" from across the world filtered through 32 'Create in India, Create for the World' Challenges, will now showcase their work in Mumbai's Jio Convention Centre. They are not only creators but inventors in true sense. Some of the creators identified by government of India through a holistic approach of jury-based selection by industry experts & the market professionals have already come up with a great work that has a scalable potential to change our life by innovative means.

Next time when you go to cellular Jail in Port Blair as a tourist you will have a better experience to interact with freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. Simply because a creative firm used their Xtended Reality(XR) talent to make it possible. Under the aegis of WAVES challenge, Creators want to use the platform of WAVES to reach out to the other historical sites in India or abroad displaying their XR & Virtual Reality, VR skills while narrating historical stories & the folklores. Another team of creators have used VR to give a real-world commerce feeling in their

online purchase. Another tech-driven creative work, PosePerfect is an effort to correct the yogic postures of fitness freaks by using the XR as an Artificially Intelligent solution to imperfect poses of Yoga practitioners, a real time problem. With the right support and mentorship, youth creativity can position India as a global content hub, enhance governance, and create jobs, realising the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World' through WAVES.

Coders from the remote corners of India are also benefiting from CIC challenges under WAVES. A young 16-year-old boy from Kashmir has started giving shape to his dreams of making his own startup, thanks to the acknowledgement of his coding skills on the platform of WAVES. It is not just one story of a youth from Kashmir but there are many youths across the world who are trying their fate by showcasing their skills on the talent hunt forum, the CreatoSphere of WAVES. As the confluence of technology with artistic creation is at its peak, media & entertainment sector through its soft power has

an immense potential to lead the way making India as a top global content creation hub in the times to come.

Given rich heritage of storytelling and prowess in coding, we are well positioned to use our skills in making creation not only traditionally ethnic but also ethical at a time, when telling the truth is so important to democratise traditional knowledge. The WAVES is all set to project before the world how creators sharpened the human understanding in all generations. It is therefore imperative to judge the creative talent in all the formats of creativity, be it reel making or tell the truth hackathon. Top Comic makers & their creative comic animation is already making creatives WAVES in the media. In the world of classical Music, Dilli Gharana's talent hunt show on Doordarshan Wah Ustad is also reviving the traditional formats of creativity.

Further, if our modern GenZ creators play piano or any other musical instrument on their mobile app, Electronic Dance and Music & Djing Competition (EDM) is also tapping the new era talented creators. India has

already reached out to about 160 nations across the world to join and see for themselves global creative talent identified by top creators of the world during the Grand Finale of Create in India Challenges next month.

The first WAVES Summit is a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector. This historic summit will bring together global leaders, media professionals, artists, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Summit seeks to help India become the content hub of the world. With the advent of technology in creative space, some of the key challenges that have arisen are misuse of Artificial intelligence, Deepfakes in images, audio & unregulated streaming revolutions, intellectual property right violations, misinformation menace and concerns on legacy media sustainability. As the first-ever event of its kind, WAVES 2025 will deliberate these issues & come up with solutions that promote cultural diversity, innovation, and equitable access to media platforms. WAVES 2025 is not just a summit; it is a vision for a more connected, creative, and collaborative world.

## PADMA SHRI LALA MULK RAJ SARAF – PILLAR OF JAMMU CITY “A SOCIAL ACTIVIST” “FATHER OF JOURNALISM” “LION OF DUGGAR LAND” On the Occasion of his 131st Birth Anniversary which falls on 8th of April 2025 (8th April 1894-21st February 1989)

## PERSONALITY

RAVI ROHMETRA  
SOCIAL WORKER AND WRITER

Lala Mulk Raj Saraf was pioneer in Journalism especially in J&K State. He was born on 8th April 1894 at Samba to father Dayanand Saraf and mother Smt. Jamuna Devi. After matriculation, he joined Prince of Wales College (now Government College, Jammu) and graduated from Punjab University Lahore. Congress leaders had started working for "Daily Bande Matram" a leading news paper of the time which gained popularity among leading papers of the country and consequently it was here that Saraf joined a very nationalist daily Bande Matram as a sub-editor being brought out by the great nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai popularly known as the Sher-e-Punjab.

Saraf was elevated as sub-editor by the management but he resigned and returned to Jammu. At Jammu, he started his own daily Urdu paper "Ranvir" and an Urdu Journal "Rattan" in 1924. "Ranvir" became one of the leading Urdu daily paper of the country due to which Lala Mulk Raj Saraf was given the title of "Baba-e-Sahafat" (Father of Journalism).

He was awarded "Padamshree" in 1976. Working Journalists on the occasion of national conference at Cuttak in Orissa in 1986, through its president K Vikram Rao wrote to him "we wish to honour ourselves by honouring you. In another function, then Chief Minister Shiekh Mohammad Abdullah had rightly remarked-Shri Saraf earned the distinction of Padamshree

because of his superb qualities both as a journalist and a freedom fighter and the best service, we could do the country was to emulate his example.

Widely travelled Saraf took extensive tours to Soviet Union, Britain, Germany, China, America and Pakistan etc. His visits to Pakistan and America at the age of 86 and 92 respectively speak of his good health and his commitment to Journalism and social cause. He used to say I am still young and hope to be young even at the age of 100. When he visited Pakistan in 1979 several papers of that country had written articles praising him for his contribution in the field of Journalism. On his return he wrote a book - "Meri Pakistan Yatra" which was selected as "Book of the year" and was also awarded by J&K Cultural Academy.

He also wrote - "Insaniyat Abhi Zinda Hai" and "Nagooh-e-Ranvir". Besides he wrote more than two hundred articles on socio-economic, political and cultural topics which were published in his own paper "Ranvir" and "Chand" weekly edited by Dewan Narsingh Dass Nargis and in many other leading journals off the country. Today hundred of journals both dailies and periodicals are being published from Jammu and Kashmir one cannot



**LALA MULK RAJ SARAF**  
(Father of Journalism in Jammu and Kashmir)  
1894-1989

even think of the heroic task for obtaining even permission to bring out the first newspaper which ultimately appeared in 1924 from the state. Never the less Mulk Raj Saraf displaying the steel will got over all the hurdles with all the meager resources at his disposal, all necessary arrangements were made interestingly. Maharaja Partap Singh donated Rs 100 while Raja Hari Singh Rs 50 annually for the "Pioneer Enterprise". A dummy edition of the first newspaper "The Ranvir" was issued on May 20, 1924 which was received by the public very warmly. Thus the Ranvir made the his-

tory of press when its first regular issue appeared on May 24, 1924. It was only the dedication to journalism and determination of (now) late Mulk Raj Saraf that overcame the obduracy of the bureaucracy not to allow any outlet for voicing the grievances of the people, that made it possible interestingly as Saraf wrote in his fifty years as a journalist" in early 1970's the attitude and keen interest of the ruler of the state Maharaja Partap Singh who encouraged him in realising in pioneering venture in Jammu and Kashmir even then it took Saraf over three years to persuade the bureaucrats

of the state to get the permission to bring out the first newspaper from the state. It would be interesting to go through that saga of struggle by Lala Mulk Raj Saraf who is deservedly known as "Father of Journalism" in Jammu & Kashmir and whose 120th birth anniversary fell on 8th April.

He wrote a book on Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan Jeevan Katha in which he wrote a life history of the founder of Mahajan Sabha Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hans Raj Mahajan. In 1931 he became the President of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Shiromani Sabha. It was only on June 24, 1924 that a social activist of Jammu, Mulk Raj Saraf started a weekly called the Ranvir with the social regeneration as its motto. The publication of Ranvir in Jammu prompted others also to jump into the bandwagon of the social reform movement.

Following citation was read out as Mr. Mulk Raj Saraf was awarded Padma Shri by the President at the Durbar Hall of Rastrapati Bhavan on April 3, 1976.

'Shri Mulk Raj Saraf (81) is a veteran journalist of Jammu and Kashmir, with a career of half a century of distinguished journalism as well as social service to his credit.

"Shri Saraf graduated in 1919 and thereafter abandoned a law course at Lahore to start his journalistic career as a sub-editor of the famed nationalist newspaper, 'Bande Matram' under Lala Lajpat Rai. In 1924, Shri Saraf founded, as Editor, the very first newspaper in Jammu and Kashmir under the name 'Ranvir'. Later, as an advocate of the freedom struggle, the paper had its share of troubles when its publication was banned in 1930 because of its allegedly "subversive propaganda" in connection with Mahatma Gandhi's arrest at that time. The 'Ranvir' re-appeared in September that year and in critical times that followed, 'Ranvir' played an important role in mobilising popular resistance against Pakistan aggression. Between 1934 and 1947 Shri Saraf also brought out 'Rattan' which was the foremost Urdu journal for children.

Now in his eighties, Shri Mulk Raj Saraf continues to be active, interested in original and diverse forms of journalism. He has published nearly half a dozen books throwing light on various facets of the life of the State. Recently, Shri Saraf has gifted to the Jammu University, for research, all the files of the 'Ranvir' and 'Rattan'.

Shri Saraf has always associated himself with larger social cause of a constructive character.

With his long and distinguished services in the cause of journalism, Shri Saraf is rightly regarded as the father of journalism in Jammu and Kashmir".

This great journalist breathed his last on 21st February 1989 at the residence of his son Ved Rahi (a well known figure of film industry) in Bombay. He would be remembered for all the times to come.

## DRDO & Indian Army Successfully Test Army Version of MRSAM

**KULBHUSHAN SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, APR 7

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army have successfully conducted four flight tests of the Army version of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) on April 3 and 4, 2025. These tests were carried out from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.

All four missiles hit their targets directly, engaging high-speed

aerial threats at long, short, high, and low altitudes, demonstrating the system's full operational capability. The tests used a fully operational version of the weapon system, with performance validated through data from radars and electro-optical tracking systems.

The trials were conducted under DRDO supervision by Army teams from the Eastern and Southern Commands. The successful results pave the way for deploying the MRSAM

system in two regiments. Jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries, the MRSAM system includes a multi-function radar, command post, and mobile launch units.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the Indian Army, and industry partners for the successful tests, reaffirming the system's reliability. DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat praised the trials as a major milestone in strengthening the Army's combat readiness

## Raksha Mantri Addresses Senior Leadership at Army Commanders' Conference

**KULBHUSHAN SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, APR 7

The Army Commanders' Conference, a top-level biannual event, held in New Delhi from 1st to 4th April 2025. During the conference, senior Army leadership reviewed the current security scenario, border situations, internal challenges, and organisational matters including logistics, HR, modernisation, niche technology, and global impacts.

A key highlight was the address by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, following a brief on the "Year of Reforms." He reaffirmed the Indian Army's role as a trusted and inspiring institution, praising its efforts in guarding borders, fighting terrorism, and assisting civil authorities.

He said the Army plays a vital role across domains—security, HADR, medical aid, and national development—and appreciated its adoption of cutting-edge technology. The Raksha Mantri spoke on global uncertainties, hybrid warfare, and the

need for dynamic planning incorporating cyber, information, and finance domains.

He expressed full confidence in troops along the northern borders and lauded BRO's work on border roads. On the western front, he praised the Army's response to cross-border terrorism and synergy with CAPF and police in Jammu & Kashmir.

He acknowledged the Army's operational readiness and saluted the fallen heroes. He appreciated military diplomacy and suggested reorienting the Defence Attachés' roles. Praising efforts in tech collaboration and indigenisation, he stressed continuous engagement with emerging tech.

In conclusion, the Raksha Mantri emphasised the need for continuous deliberation on defence diplomacy, infrastructure, modernisation, and doctrinal changes. He assured full government support for reforms and capability enhancement, saying the Nation is proud of its Army.

## JKEJCC delegation meets Advisor to CM, raises key issues of employee

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 7 2025

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Consultative Committee (JKEJCC), led by its Chairman Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Khan, called on Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani, Hon'ble Advisor to the Chief Minister, at Srinagar today.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion took place on various issues and problems being faced by the employees across different departments. The delegation put forth the genuine concerns, demands, and aspirations of the employees in a detailed and constructive manner. Mr. Khan also apprised the Hon'ble Advisor about the dedication, sincerity, and work culture of the government employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Advisor gave a patient and encouraging hearing to the delegation. He assured that the government is fully aware of the concerns of its employees and is already working on addressing them. He emphasized that appropriate steps will be taken in a time-bound and systematic way to resolve the issues.

The Complete Delegation Who were part of this meeting were:

Mr Aijaz Ahmad Khan - Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Consultative Committee



Mr Aijaz Ahmad Khan - Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Consultative Committee

Mr Mohammad Shafi Rather - Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF).

Saleem Sagar- Chairman Teachers Joint Action Committee

Mr Javaid Ahmad Bhat- Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum and Manzoor Ishbari

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with mutual understanding and commitment to continued dialogue for the welfare of the employees.

## JKESL Leadership Meets Maj\* Gen Anupinder Bevl, VSM ADG NCC NCC Directorate to Strengthen Collaboration for Cadet Training

**KULBHUSHAN SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, APR 7

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 Bevl, 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

## Shesh Nag Mandir Super Speciality Hospital, Resham Ghar organizes Grand Bandara



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 7

The Management Committee of Shesh Nag Mandir Superspeciality Hospital, Rashemghar Colony, Jammu, organized a grand Bhandara on the auspicious occasion of Mahanavmi.

The event, held under the meticulous supervision of Vijay Bhardwaj and Renu Sharma, was a significant gathering that showcased the community's devotion, unity, and commitment to charitable service.

The Bhandara, a traditional community feast, attracted a large number of attendees, including prominent dignitaries, medical professionals, and local residents who came together to partake in the spiritual and cultural significance of the occasion. Among the esteemed guests were Dr. Arun Sharma, Dr. Kanit Bhardwaj, Dev Bhardwaj, Ashok Bhardwaj, and Swarn, whose presence added grace and prestige to the event. Their participation underscored the importance of collabora-

tion between community leaders, medical experts, and spiritual figures in fostering goodwill and social harmony.

The event was meticulously planned to ensure that it reflected the values of compassion, generosity, and inclusivity. A variety of traditional delicacies were served to all attendees, symbolizing the spirit of sharing and togetherness. The Management Committee expressed their gratitude to all volunteers, donors, and participants who contributed to the success of the Bhandara, making it a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for everyone involved.

Shesh Nag Mandir Superspeciality Hospital remains committed to not only providing top-tier medical services but also engaging in community initiatives that promote cultural heritage and social welfare. The Bhandara on Mahanavmi was a testament to this commitment, bringing people together in a celebration of faith, health, and community spirit.

## SvNidhi se Samridhi & Main Bhi Digital campaign Kick starts in Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 07

Municipal Council Udhampur today kick started the SvNidhi se Samridhi and Main Bhi Digital campaign in the city, aimed at empowering eligible beneficiaries of flagship schemes through financial inclusion and digital literacy.

As part of the initiative, beneficiaries were sensitized and linked to eight major socio-economic welfare schemes of the Government of India. These included PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, One Nation One Ration Card, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana etc.

The objective of the campaign was to ensure saturation of flagship government schemes, enabling holistic development.

During the campaign, officials from Municipal Council Udhampur and other departments interacted with beneficiaries, highlighting the benefits of digital payments, social security schemes and insurance coverage.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Municipality Udhampur Rajinder Dagra reiterated the commitment of the Council to extend the benefits of welfare schemes to every eligible citizen and ensure last-mile delivery of services.

The campaign will continue over the coming days with door-to-door outreach and on-ground awareness activities, ensuring that no beneficiary is left behind.



Adv Dakhseesh Sharma meets MOS for SJ&E Ram Dass Athawale at New Delhi. Discussed various Socio-Political issues pertaining to people of J&K.

## Rattan Lal elected new president of Akhnoor Ration Dealer Association



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR 7 APRIL (KISHORE)...

The new committee of Akhnoor Ration Dealer Association was formed unanimously.

In which Rattan Lal was made president, Darshan Lal vice president, Sham Lal general secretary, Ranjiv Verma cashier and Krishna Lal advisor.

Ration dealers of Akhnoor area participated in the meeting. The meeting was led by Krishna Lal Sharma. On this occasion,

various problems faced by ration dealers were discussed. The newly formed committee will solve the problems faced by the dealers by meeting the administration and the government.

President Ratan Lal said that it is necessary for ration dealers and ration card holders to coordinate with each other, this will solve many problems.

Ram Lal, Lucky Mehra, Omprakash, Mukesh Kumar, etc. were present on this occasion.

## Arrangements for Baisakhi festival finalized in Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

In order to review the arrangements for ensuing Baisakhi festival being celebrated on April 13, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi Monday chaired a meeting of Officers and members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee herewe.

On the occasion, the ADCD took a detailed assessment of the preparations and arrangements being put in place by the line departments and Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for smooth and seamless celebrations of the festival in Srinagar District.

The ADCD stressed on ensuring better arrangements well in advance with regard to safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, first-aid, sanitation measures, transport and parking facilities and other related arrangements. She also asked the concerned Departments to ensure proper sanitation and immediate repairing of defunct lights in and



around the Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi, Baghat Barzulla and other prominent Gurudwaras in the City.

The ADCD laid emphasis on adequate arrangements of fire fighting measures particularly near the Gurudwara Langar on the occasion. She instructed the concerned to make adequate transport and parking facilities on the occasion, so that devotees may not face any inconvenience while traveling to or from Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi.

Earlier, members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee put forth the demands for smooth and

hassle free celebrations of the festival.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintendent of Police, Showkat Ahmad; Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM West, Tehsil South, Tehsildar Khanwar, Executive Engineers of PHE & PDD, AC Food Safety, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, Officers of Health, Traffic, Legal Metrology and other Departments, besides President and members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee.

## Tony urges Amit Shah to announce date for restoration of Statehood to J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 7

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony today appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to spell out a clear timeline for the restoration of statehood to Jammu

and Kashmir, saying the people have waited long enough and deserve a definitive answer.

Speaking in the backdrop of Amit Shah's ongoing three-day visit to the Union Territory, the senior Congress leader said that merely holding elections without

restoring statehood is a futile and wasteful exercise. "This is nothing but another jumla to mislead the people. The BJP had made a solemn promise that statehood would be restored after elections, and even the Supreme Court had directed the Centre to restore state-

hood within a time-bound framework after conducting the elections in J&K. The delay is an outright betrayal," Tony stated.

Tony warned that continued delays will erode the credibility of BJP's leadership and its promises. "People of Jammu

and Kashmir are politically mature. They understand that promises made during election campaigns must be honoured. Otherwise, they will stop believing in BJP's slogans, which are increasingly seen as nothing more than hollow rhetoric to attract votes," he added.

He further said that the BJP government must honour its commitment and not take the sentiments of the people for granted. "The restoration of statehood is not just a political demand; it's a matter of identity, dignity, and constitutional assurance to the people of J&K."

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 07 (UND)

A store of the J&K Estate department near Peoples' Democratic Party office was damaged in fire on Monday morning, officials said.

They said the blaze originated in the Estates Department's store, located behind the PDP office, and did

not directly impact the building.

Fire and emergency services rushed to the spot and managed to bring the flames under control before they could spread further.

No injuries were reported in the incident, officials said.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire.



## Movement Kalki condemns disruption in water supply services

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

Shri Pritam Sharma, Advisory Board Member of Movement Kalki, issued a press statement today, launching a sharp attack on the Union Territory (UT) government over its anti-people policies. He said that while the government is promoting schemes like free bus travel for women, it is completely ignoring the basic needs of the common people – such as water supply – pushing the public into a serious crisis.

Areas like Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, EWS Colony, and several others are facing acute drinking water shortages. For years, houses that lacked pipeline-based water supply were being served



by free water tanker services provided by the PHE Department, monitored efficiently by local councillors. However, the current administration has abruptly terminated this service and introduced an app-based system, under which people are being charged Rs 300 per tanker. This app frequently malfunctions, causing

immense inconvenience to citizens. Moreover, the hike in taxes on petrol and diesel has led to a steep increase in the rates of private tanker services, placing an additional financial burden on the common man. Providing selective benefits to women while economically burdening entire families, directly or indirectly, is unfair.

Adding to this, frequent electricity cuts have worsened the water crisis. As temperatures continue to rise, people are suffering due to the dual shortage of water and electricity.

Movement Kalki puts forward the following key demands:

Immediate restoration of the free water tanker service previously provided by the PHE Department.

Scrapping of the app-based tanker booking system launched by GMC Jammu.

The government must ensure regular and free water supply to every household. If the government fails to act promptly on these demands, Movement Kalki will launch a public awareness campaign and take to the streets in a strong protest.

## SMVDU Civil Engineering Students complete Surveying Camp at Khajjiar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

Fourth-semester students from the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), participated in a week-long surveying camp at Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh. The camp aimed to provide hands-on training in essential surveying techniques, allowing students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical applications. Throughout the camp, students worked with modern instruments such as Total Stations and Auto Levels while also engaging in traditional methods like Plane Table and Compass Surveying. These activities enhanced their understanding of topographic mapping, contouring, and levelling. The



serene and challenging terrain of Khajjiar served as an ideal location for students to apply their skills in real-world scenarios. The camp not only strengthened their technical proficiency but also developed problem-solving abilities and

teamwork. By conducting field exercises in diverse surveying techniques, students gained confidence in handling advanced equipment and executing precise measurements. The experience reinforced their ability to analyze

data, interpret survey results, and create accurate maps—crucial skills for their future careers in civil engineering. The camp was organized under the guidance of Dr. Naqeeb Ul Islam (Assistant Professor, SoCE, and Course Coordinator), Dr. Shankar Singh Khushwaha, and Dr. Yati Aggarwal (Assistant Professors, SoCE), along with Mr. Love Sharma (Lab Assistant). Their mentorship and expertise provided students with valuable insights into real-world surveying challenges. Beyond academics, the trip also fostered a sense of adventure, as students explored the breathtaking landscapes of Khajjiar, making the learning experience both enriching and memorable.

## Indian Army conducts Amity Meeting with Sarpanch, Locals at Haribudha, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 07 APR 2025

The Indian Army conducted an Amity meeting with the Sarpanch, Numberdars, and Ward Members of Loran and Haribudha areas. The meeting focused on key community concerns, including the importance of reporting any incidents or suspicious activities to maintain safety and security. There was also a discussion on addressing the occupation of vacant dhoks, with ideas proposed to utilize them for community benefit. The migration and registration process for residents of deras was discussed to ensure proper integration and welfare. Additionally, the need for support



from the Indian Army was highlighted to strengthen security and provide assistance in various community development efforts. Furthermore, the ongoing Agniveer recruitment registration process was shared to encourage local youth to participate. The meeting concluded with a communal lunch and bhandara organized on the occasion of Ramnavmi, fostering goodwill and strengthening bonds among attendees. This

gesture reflected the spirit of unity and cooperation, which is essential for the growth and safety of the community. Local leadership expressed their commitment to continuous engagement with the community to address concerns and promote well-being. The collaborative efforts between the authorities and residents will pave the way for a stronger and more resilient future in both Loran and Haribudha.

## Sunaina Mehta inaugurates Beauty Saloon in Old City, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

Sunaina Mehta, (JKAS) Principal Revenue Training Institute (RTI) in presence of Namrata Sharma former councillor today inaugurated "Blush & Brush by Ankita" beauty salon here in Link Road area of Old City, Jammu.

The event, witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, well-wishers, and members of the owner Ankita Uppal, a young entrepreneur.

Chief Guest Sunaina Mehta, extended her best wishes to Ankita for her new venture and appreciated the initiative of bringing quality beauty services to the city.

She encouraged young entrepreneurs especially females to come forward



and avail benefits of the various employment-generating schemes launched by the Government of India and the J&K Government. Instead of solely aspiring for government jobs, our youth should believe in their capabilities

and strive to become job creators," she emphasized. Namrata Sharma, the guest of honour also congratulated the parents and other family members of Ankita who helped her in starting this enterprise. She urged the society to

avail the quality services provided by this salon.

While interacting with the media persons, Ankita informed that "Blush & Brush by Ankita" salon offers best quality services at the most economical price. She said she aims to offer top-notch makeup and beauty services, promising a premium experience for its clients.

Ankita also expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest, guest of honour and other friends. She said, "This is a dream come true for me, and I am thrilled to start this journey".

The prominent people who were present on this occasion include Suresh Uppal, Bindu Uppal, Jyoti Vaid, Aparna Bhat, Isha Jain, Pooja Basson, Anil and Dhruv Gupta.

## Mehbooba, Mirwaiz slam J&K Assembly Speaker for blocking debate on Waqf Bill

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 07

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Monday sharply criticised Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather for disallowing a discussion on the controversial Waqf Bill 2025, calling the move a "betrayal" of the public mandate and an alarming sign of "political capitulation".

The Speaker Assembly, disallowed discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 passed by Parliament, stating that the matter is sub judice. The legislators from the treasury benches - including members of the National Conference, Congress, and independents - demanded that the adjournment motion moved by 10 members to discuss the Waqf Amendment Bill be accepted.

Both Mufti and Mirwaiz expressed dismay over the Speaker's decision to block the debate on the grounds that the matter is sub judice.

Mufti accused the ruling National Conference of yielding to the BJP's "anti-Muslim agenda" despite having a clear electoral mandate, while Mirwaiz termed the Speaker's refusal "ridiculous and condemnable," especially in a Muslim-majority region like Jammu and Kashmir.

"It's profoundly disappointing that the speaker J&K Assembly has rejected the motion on the Waqf Bill. Despite securing a strong mandate, the government appears to have completely yielded to the BJP's anti-Muslim agenda, cynically attempting to appease both sides," Mufti said in a post on X.

"The National Conference (NC) could learn from Tamil Nadu's government, which has firmly opposed the Waqf Bill. In J&K, the only Muslim-majority region, it's alarming that a supposedly people-centric government lacks the courage even to debate this critical issue," she added.

Kashmir's chief cleric and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz termed the explanation by Speaker as an excuse to evade responsibility on an issue of critical importance to the Muslim of J&K.

## Acting Workshop by Natrang from 13 April

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 07-04-2025

Natrang Jammu is going to organise 'Acting Workshop' from 13th April, 2025 at Natrang studio Theatre, Jammu. This workshop will have special focus on various aspects of acting. In its continuous effort to provide training and generate awareness about theatre amongst youth, Natrang Jammu always endeavours to organise Acting workshops for freshers at Natrang Studio Theatre, Kachi Chawni, Jammu. Director Natrang, Padamshree Balwant Thakur while giving details said that this exclusive Acting Workshop will introduce elementary aspects of acting processes and also will meet a very noble purpose of making youth aware about their strengths and weaknesses which is must for their overall personality development. The workshop will be conducted by Neeraj Kant who has been working with youth since last 20 years and Sumeet Sharma who is a post-graduate in performing arts and Yuva Bismillah Khan Awardee for direction in theatre.

Theatre hones the skills of its practitioners and makes them more confident, creative, imaginative and spontaneous that is why Natrang keeps on organizing such workshops



for the benefit of the youth. Most importantly theatre helps in sharpening the communication skills and develops public speaking of the participants. Moreover in last few years there is a growing demand of actors in the industry of theatre, events, OTT, television and films and just to respond to that, Natrang has taken the initiative to help, support and train the fresh talents. Jammu, in the last few years has been very popular in the theatre and television industry and many young talents from Jammu have made a huge name in theatre, films and TV industry.

All those who want to be a part of this training programme and are above 15 years of age may immediately contact Natrang office situated at Municipal Building, Tange Wali Gali, Palace Road Jammu

or may mail requests to natrangjammu@gmail.com or telephonically approach the coordinator of the workshop on 9419106669, 8713049875 and 9906048670.

Many known faces of television like Harish Khanna (Saath Khoon Maaf, Film) Bhanu Goswami (Movies: Lakshya (2004), Dhokha (2007), Machhli Jal Ki Raani Hai (2012) and Unfreedom (2014) and television shows Special Squad (2005) as Aryan Khanna, Har Kadam Par Shaque (Specials @ 10 on Sony TV, 2009), Ek Tha Rusty (2012-2013) as Rusty, Hamari Sister Didi (2014) as Dr. Karan, Choker Bali (Rabindranath Tagore's stories on Epic channel, 2015) as Mahendra, Meri Awaaz Hai Pehchaan Hai (2016) as Rajram Gaekwad and Vijay Naamdhaari in 'Saam Daam Dand

Bhed', Sunil Palwal (Jolly LLB2, Maha Kumb, 24 'Mughal-e-Aazam' 'Yeh Dil Ramta Yogi', 'Chehra-the unknown mask', 'Satin Sin B's', MTV Rush, Shapptah, Rakshak, Sapne Suhaane Ladakpan Ke) Neelu Dogra (1971 Film) Mohit Raina (Devon Ke Dev Maha Dev) Anjali Abrol (Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat, Nachh Baliye, Singh Sahab The Great), Jyoti Singh (Yahaan, Film) Maansi Sharma (Saavdhaan India, Jugaadi.com-Punjabi Movie, Malyalam Film-Acha Din, Aasmaan Se Aage, Devon Ke Dev Mahadev, Mahabharat, Pavitra Rishita, Pyaar Ko Ho Jaane Do) Neelam Pathania (Badi Door Se Aaye Hai) Ekta Kaul (Rabb Se Sonu Ishq, Tere Angne Mei, Ek Rishita Aisa Bhi, Bade Acche Lagte Hai, Jhalak Dikhla Ja-Season 6, Box Cricket League, Yeh Hai Aashiqi), Tajasvi Sharma (Bhanwar), Mohit Sharma (Koi Laut Ke Aaya Hai, Akbar Birbal, CID, Super Cops vs Super Villain, Crime Petrol, Kabool Hai, Guddu Ki Gun Movie, Sun Yaar Try Maar, Beintehaa, Mahi Sagar, Jamai Raja) and Pankush Verma (Kabool Hai, Saavdhan India, CID, Super Cops vs Supper Villain) Vrinda Gujral (Sabse Bada Kakkar) are from Jammu and most of them are the products of similar kind of Natrang's workshops and training programmes.

## Movement Kalki organizes Health & Anti-Drug Awareness Program on World Health Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

On the occasion of World Health Day, members of Movement Kalki visited Springdale Higher Secondary School, Jammu, to conduct a special awareness session focusing on health, drug prevention, and environmental consciousness among students. The aim of the program was to inspire young minds to adopt a healthier lifestyle and stay away from harmful addictions.

The school's Principal, Mrs. Rashmi Malhotra, and teacher Mr. Bir Mattu extended a warm welcome to the delegation from Movement Kalki.

The awareness campaign was led by Mr. Pawan Sharma, In-Charge of the Anti-Drug Campaign of Movement Kalki. He was accompanied by Movement Kalki Founder Mr. Deepak Singh, Jammu Province In-Charge Mr. Rajkumar Lalotra, Advocate Mohd Bilal, Mr. Saurabh Sharma, Ms. Sapna Hindu, and Mr. Kotwal.

Speaking to the students, Pawan Sharma emphasized, "Stay away from fast food and addictions. A



balanced diet is the foundation of a healthy future. Drugs are silently destroying the youth, and the sooner we distance ourselves, the better our lives will be."

Rajkumar Lalotra said, "True friendship stands with you in difficult times. Any friend who leads you toward drugs or wrong activities should be avoided. Be wise in choosing your company."

Ms. Sapna Hindu advised students to spend quality time with their families.

"Eat dinner with your parents, share your thoughts, and keep mobile phones away—out of reach. Emotional and mental wellness comes from strong family bonds, not screens."

Movement Kalki Founder Mr. Deepak Singh deliv-

ered a thought-provoking message,

"Our body and the universe are made up of five elements. The more we distance ourselves from nature, the weaker we become—physically and mentally. Human greed has destroyed forests, killed innocent animals, and embraced harmful lifestyles. As a result, today's generation is weaker than their ancestors. We must return to a lifestyle that respects nature and focuses on balance."

At the end of the program, Principal Rashmi Malhotra thanked all members of Movement Kalki for their inspiring speeches and remarked,

"Such awareness initiatives have a lasting impact on students and help shape a healthier, more responsible generation."

## Empowering Future Professionals: TARANG Club organizes Group Discussion to Sharpen Communication Skills and Career Readiness

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 7

In a commendable effort to enhance student's communication skills and prepare them for future career opportunities, the TARANG Club of the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE) organized a Group Discussion (GD) session for 3rd-year ECE students, under the guidance of Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Head of the Department. A total of nine students actively participated in the session, engaging in a thoughtful discussion on the topic: "70-hour Work Week vs Work-Life Balance." The participants shared diverse perspectives, debating the benefits and challenges of an intense work culture compared to maintaining



a healthy work-life balance. The discussion was insightful, respectful, and interactive, allowing students to express themselves confidently and respond thoughtfully to differing opinions. The session was aimed at helping students overcome stage fear, develop public speaking skills, and strengthen interpersonal communication—key competencies for placement interviews, especially in group discussions and personal interaction rounds.

Dr. Vikram Singh, Faculty Coordinator of TARANG, expressed satisfaction with the conduct and outcome of the session. He emphasized the importance of such platforms in nurturing confidence, clarity of thought, and effective communication among students. Students appreciated the initiative, stating that it helped them gain confidence and offered a real-world setting to practice collaborative commu-

nication. Dr. Bhardwaj also reiterated the need for soft skills development alongside technical knowledge and encouraged students to continue engaging in such meaningful activities. The session was a successful step toward holistic student development and is expected to pave the way for more such initiatives, reaffirming the department's and TARANG Club's commitment to preparing students for academic and professional excellence.

## Police nab criminal with narcotics, pistol in Jammu outskirts

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 07

Jammu Police in a major crackdown on Monday apprehended a criminal with narcotics and a pistol during a routine patrol at Ring Road in the Pounichak area here in the city outskirts. Police said that the criminal was traveling from Ring Road towards Bhagatpur via the service lane and attempted to flee upon noticing the police presence.

However, the alert team acted swiftly and apprehended him on the spot. The arrested accused has been identified as Bhuvan Prasad Kewat, resident of Champa, Chhattisgarh.

During a search of his bag, police recovered approximately two kilograms of opium (ganja) and a pistol.

## Indian Army conducts Lecture on International Sports Day at Shikari, Reasi



**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, 07 APR 2025

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote physical fitness, community engagement and awareness of global initiatives, the Indian Army organized a special lecture on the occasion of International Sports Day for Development and Peace at the remote location of Shikari in Reasi district. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth, school students

and community members. Indian Army officials highlighted the significance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork and peace, emphasizing how physical activity plays a crucial role in personal development and communal harmony. The lecture aimed to inspire the younger generation to adopt sports as a way of life and also to recognize its value in building character and leadership. The Indian Army also encouraged local talent to pursue

sports more seriously, offering guidance and support wherever possible. The initiative was well received by the villagers, who appreciated the Indian Army's continuous outreach efforts in remote areas, not just in matters of security but also in education, health and social welfare. This event reflects the Indian Army's commitment to holistic nation-building and its role as a pillar of strength and unity in every corner of the country.

## SMVDU Co-Hosts International Conference on Advanced Materials for a Sustainable Future

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 7

The School of Mechanical Engineering (SME) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly co-hosted the two-day International Conference on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Future (ICAMSF-2025), themed "Energy, Efficiency, Economy for Sustainability" The event, held in collaboration with Chitkara University, Chandigarh, brought together a distinguished consortium of global academic institutions, including Bournemouth University (UK), Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea), Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), Luleå University of Technology (Sweden), University of Naples (Italy), and University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), alongside promi-



nent Indian universities such as PEC Chandigarh, VNIT Nagpur, and NIT Nagaland. Coordinated by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Professor, SME), Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SME) and Dr. Sanjay Mohan (Associate Professor, SME), the conference served as a dynamic platform for innovation and knowledge exchange. It explored critical topics such as Material Synthesis for Environmental Remediation, Energy Storage and Conversion, Advanced Manufacturing in Industry 4.0/5.0, Materials for Extreme Functionalities,

and Engineering Tribology. The event featured 39 sessions, with 343 participants and 33 renowned speakers presenting groundbreaking research and insights. ICAMSF-2025 was generously supported by leading research organizations, including the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The conference underscored SMVDU's growing stature in advanced materials research and its commitment to fostering

sustainable solutions for global challenges. During the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar graced the event as a special guest. In his address, he praised the organizers' efforts and highlighted SMVDU's potential as a key collaborator in cutting-edge research in materials science and tribology. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, also emphasized the significance of such initiatives in positioning SMVDU at the forefront of technological innovation.

The conference not only showcased the latest advancements in the field but also reinforced international and national partnerships aimed at driving sustainable development through academic and scientific collaboration.

## MASSH-Prolife Hospital highlights Elderly Joint Health Concerns in Ludhiana ahead of World Health Day

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 7

Ahead of World Health Day, which is celebrated on April 7 every year to raise awareness about health issues, MASSH Prolife Hospitals, Ludhiana, organized a press conference focusing on orthopedic issues among senior citizens. The discussion, led by Dr. Munish Goyal, Senior Consultant - Orthopedics, Spine & Sports Injury, highlighted the alarming rise in joint and bone-related problems among the elderly population in the city.

As part of its commitment to orthopedic health, MASSH Prolife Hospital is launching a special initiative to provide bone and joint health checkup and treatment at subsidized rates. In alignment with World Health Day (April 7) and its mission to pro-



mote overall well-being, the checkup camp will be available at the hospital from April 1 to April 15.

During the session, Dr. Goyal outlined the most prevalent orthopedic issues affecting Ludhiana's senior citizens, including knee joint pain, hip joint pain and lower back pain. He emphasized that lifestyle choices, urban dietary habits like rich processed foods that lack essential proteins and nutrients, contribute significantly to the rising cases of joint deterioration.

"Over the past year, a substantial number of

elderly individuals in Ludhiana have sought medical treatment for joint pain and arthritis, highlighting the growing burden of orthopedic conditions," said Dr. Goyal. "Notably, we are observing a decreasing average age for knee and hip replacement surgeries, now around 60-65 years."

The press conference also shed light on the impact of post-COVID complications on joint health. Out of the patients visiting the OPD daily, 50 to 60 percent of cases are related to arthritis or joint pain. According to Dr. Goyal, joint pain cases among

senior citizens have almost tripled post-pandemic, further worsening their mobility issues. Moreover, 40-50% of elderly patients delay seeking medical attention, mostly due to unawareness and lack of knowledge about the exact symptoms of these conditions, despite the fact that 90-95% of cases can be effectively treated with proper medical intervention. In terms of treatment, Dr. Goyal emphasized the importance of early intervention. "For early-stage knee problems, oral medications and exercises can be effective. However, for advanced cases with Grade 4 degeneration, knee replacement becomes necessary. Similarly, hip replacements are often required due to old injuries from a young age or fresh hip injuries and fractures," he explained.

## IYA, VKMI jointly celebrate World Health Day

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 07, 2025:

The Indian Yoga Association and Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) jointly celebrated World Health Day and inaugurated a 75-Day Yoga Programme in anticipation of International Yoga Day, observed every year on 21st June. This unique initiative also commemorates 75 years of the Republic of India, making the countdown to the yoga day even more significant.

The event was held at Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School, Chhanni Himmat, Jammu, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and members of various organisations.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of Indian Yoga Association and President of VKMI, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ashok Gupta, President of Senior Citizens Joy Society, presided over the function, while K. S. Samyal, President of Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, was the Special Invitee.

C. M. Sharma, Chairman of HLF Higher Secondary School, introduced the dignitaries and conducted the proceedings of the programme. In his address, Dr.



Jain highlighted the significance of World Health Day and elaborated on the meaning and relevance of yoga in daily life. Demonstrating simple yet effective yoga postures and exercises, he emphasized the four pillars of a balanced and fulfilling life for students: Yoga, Discipline, Right Action, and Studies. His specially composed poem dedicated to World Health Day received heartfelt applause from the audience.

Dr. Jain also announced the details of the 75-Day Yoga Awareness Campaign, which will be conducted across schools, colleges, universities, offices, and social organisations, encouraging daily practice and spreading awareness about holistic health.

Ashok Gupta, in his insightful talk, shared

health tips and narrated the official theme for World Health Day 2025: "My Health, My Right", reiterating the right of every individual to quality health services and well-being.

K. S. Samyal outlined a recommended daily yoga routine including Shithilikaran Kriyas (loosening practices), Yogasanas, Pranayama, and ending with Meditation, ideal for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Smt. Indu Sharma, Principal of the school. She thanked all dignitaries, participants, and organizing associates, particularly Mr. Sahil Gupta and Ajay Ji, for their valuable contributions in making the event a success.

## Centre can't deny democratic/ constitutional rights to J&K people: NC

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
KATRA, APRIL 7

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have played their inning fairly and bravely in the journey to restore democracy in the region. Now, it is imperative for the Central Government to honor its commitment by promptly restoring full-fledged statehood to the J&K.

This was stated by Adv Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), while addressing a day-long workers' convention at the holy town of Katra. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Raj Kumar Sharma, District President Reasi.

Making a strong appeal, the senior NC leader urged the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is currently on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, to take concrete steps towards fulfilling the Centre's commitment of restoring statehood. "The people of J&K have displayed patience, resilience, and faith in the Constitution and democracy. It is time for the Central leadership, especially the Home Minister, to recognize this and act without further hesitation," he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta



emphasized that the continued denial of statehood is not only unjustified but also a betrayal of repeated assurances given by the country's top leadership i.e., Prime Minister and Home Minister on multiple occasions. "The return to a full-fledged democratic setup with an elected government and legislative powers is essential for ensuring equitable development and safeguarding the unique identity of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, Raj Kumar Sharma, District President Reasi and Ashok Mehta Block President Katra apprised the senior functionaries of the Party about the growing discontent among people due to lack of basic amenities and developmental stagnation by the earlier government headed by the BJP in J&K.

"Development has come to a grinding halt due to the hollow policies of the previous administration. The local populace is bearing the brunt of bureaucratic indifference," they said.

Addressing the workers, the Provincial President said the present National Conference government headed by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to amplifying the voice of the common man and will continue to strive for equitable development across all regions of the Union Territory.

Seeking blessings from Mata Vaishno Devi, Rattan Lal Gupta asked the party cadre to gear up for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies polls in J&K. He emphasized that these grassroots-level elections are crucial for empowering people at

the village and municipal levels, and that the National Conference must ensure a strong presence to uphold democratic values. He urged workers to reach out to every household, strengthen booth-level committees, and spread awareness about the party's vision for inclusive development and restoration of people's rights.

Senior NC leader Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone spoke on the achievements of Omar led Government in a short span of five months. "Women have received unprecedented attention with initiatives like free travel in government buses, enhancement of Girls marriage assistance Rs 50000/= to Rs 75,000/=, free 200 power units for AAY families, 10 kg free ration per person, per month for AAY families etc. These steps reflect the NC Government's commitment to women empowerment," he added.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC, emphasized the need to remain united and vigilant against divisive forces. He urged party workers to maintain strong grassroots connect and take the party's pro-people agenda to every doorstep.

Bimla Luthra former

MLA, S. Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu YNC, Pardeep Bali, Vijay Lochan, and Rakesh Singh Raka reiterated that the NC is not against the development of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine regarding the upcoming ropeway project, but cautioned that it should not come at the cost of local livelihoods. They said that the present Omar Abdullah-led National Conference is committed to promoting development that is inclusive, people-centric, and respectful of the socio-economic fabric of the region. "Development should not be imposed at the expense of the poor. Our party stands for progress with compassion and dignity," they added.

The convention concluded with a collective resolve to safeguard the democratic fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present included: Tariq Butt Zonal Secretary Udhampur Reasi, Sher Singh District Vice President Katra, Ram Parkash Suri, Deepak Attri, Ashok Mehta, Rattan Lal, Dirdar Singh, Khem Raj Sharma, Vikramjeet Singh, Jugal Kishore, Tara Mani, Ayub Malik, Mohd Iqbal, Tufail Mohd, Ajay Kumar and other District and Block functionaries were also present.

## Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration Committee hosts awareness meet for Ambedkar-Phule Rally

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

In a spirit of unity and remembrance, the Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration Committee held a public extension meeting at Puraanagar, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, to raise awareness about the much-anticipated Ambedkar-Phule Rally scheduled for April 10, 2025. The gathering saw active participation from local citizens, with a strong presence from the Vishwakarma Sabha and community lead-



ers. Adv. Sahil Kundal, Committee Incharge, briefed the attendees about the rally's route and significance. He shared that the rally will begin from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, and proceed through Canal

Head, Jewel Chowk, Lower Gummat, and Gujjar Nagar, finally culminating at the historic Ambedkar Chowk – a symbolic site of reflection and homage.

The committee extended heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Puraanagar

and surrounding areas for their overwhelming support and urged everyone to join hands in rally preparations, encouraging youth and elders alike to participate and amplify the rally's mission.

Notable among those present were Som Raj, Bittu Bhaiya, Jang Bahadur, who lent their voices in support of the rally's message – celebrating the enduring legacies of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Jyotirao Phule, and their tireless fight for social justice and equality.

## Shiv Sena & Sant Samaj demand freedom from commercialization, government control of Hindu religious pilgrimages

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj, organiser of Shri Rajmata Mandir Group and Manish Sahni (President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit, jointly demanded a ban on commercialization of government-run Hindu religious pilgrimages across the country including Shri Amarnath, Mata Vaishnodevi Devi. In a joint press conference today at Shri Raj Mata Jhande Wale Mandir in Shahdara, Delhi, expressing strong objection to the collection of 150/250 (online, offline) registration fee for the annual

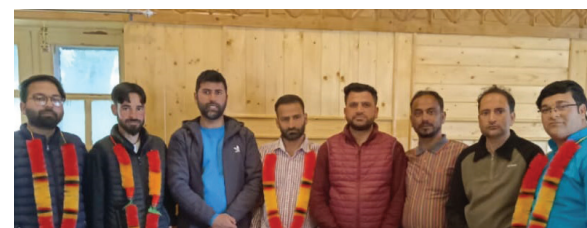


Shri Amarnath Yatra starting from July 3, they said that all the langar services including the Yatra route and Adhar Shivir are done by private organizations. Money is charged from devotees for bus, horse, pony, tent and even for keeping luggage in the locker room. What kind of facility is Shri Amarnath Shrine Board

providing to the devotees for which it is forced to take a registration fee of Rs. 150-250 from each pilgrim. Before Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory, the registration fee was only Rs. 50, while the registration of Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra, which continues 365 days a year in Jammu and Kashmir, is

completely free. Sahni has demanded from the Shrine Board to make instant registration free along with online registration starting from April 14, toll exemption to the devotees and those providing langar service during the Yatra, free bus service for the devotees staying in Jammu and to make the Holy ice Shivalingam safe for darshan during the Yatra period. On Ashtami and Navami, a grand religious ceremony was organized at Shri Raj Mata Jhande Wale Mandir. On this occasion, Ram Vohra and Deepak enthralled the people present with the Bhajans of the Mother.

## Young Journalists Association Kupwara holds its election



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 7

Young Journalists Association Kupwara (YJAK) held its yearly general body election for 2025 on Monday at Dak Bangalow Kupwara. There were two candidates in fray for presidential post including Ulfat Hussain Malik, consequently Ulfat Hussain Malik was declared winner as he bagged 15 votes of total 18 polled. Meanwhile Sagar Rafiq who was the single candidate in fray for general secretary post was declared uncontested new general secretary of young Journalists Association Kupwara. Senior Journalist Wasim Majnoon Mir has been unanimously selected as chairman of YJAK Murtaza Mushtaq as vice president, meanwhile Mubashir Gull has been selected as Chief spokesperson and Mohd Hussain Mir As spokesperson.

Speakers on this occasion expressed gratitude to the participating journalists for making the elections a grand success and resolved to strengthen the association, besides to fight for freedom of the press at all levels. On this occasion, the Kupwara, Handwara based journalists vowed to help in solving the grievances of locals and issued an appeal to the people to contact "The young Journalists Association Kupwara (YJAK)" in case of their genuine grievances. Newly elected president Ulfat Hussain Malik in his speech thanked all the members for showing faith on him. He took pledge to work for the welfare of all journalists in district. A committee of five members had been rendered the responsibility of conducting election. The members included: Wasim Majnoon Mir, Tahir Hussain Bhat, And Murtaza Mushtaq.

## G S Baaghi urges Union Govt to restore Statehood in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

AAP Leader & Social Activist Gurmeet Singh Baaghi urges the Union Government to restore Statehood in J&K, so that democratic activities would resume and Jammu & Kashmir shall get its equal share at all fronts. He urged the Home Minister to provide a time frame for the restoration of statehood to the J&K.

In a statement, Baaghi said that the Hon'ble Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah should give a time frame during his visit for the restoration of statehood to Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The people want the statehood restoration at the earliest. The Union Govt to fulfill the promise they made on the floor of the House for restoring statehood to the Jammu and Kashmir. People of Jammu and Kashmir are highly dissatisfied with BJP and that is why people of Jammu Kashmir want statehood. On the one side central government is committed to Statehood to J&K but on the other side they are not fulfilling their promises shows clearly that GOI is not sincere to the



people of J&K in granting statehood. The central government are not fulfilling its promise to provide employment to the youth of the country. No doubt big statements are issued for providing jobs to youth but till now nothing is seen on the ground and only false promises are made, thus exposing BJP lies & jumlas. People's demands are not being heard of as there normal life has been hampered and they are run from pillar to post to get redressal of their grievances. The people of J&K are suffering alot only due to wrong policies of the government. There is a feeling of disempowerment and alienation among the people following the snatching of the Statehood. There is a need to win the confidence of the people by restoring the Statehood of J&K, said G S Baaghi

## Samsung introduces SmartThings Powered 'Customized Cooling' for Bespoke AI Windfree range of Air Conditioners

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 2

The struggle of sleepless summer nights is finally over. Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, is redefining home cooling with its latest innovation - 'Customized Cooling'. This first-of-its-kind feature synchronizes Samsung Smart Air Conditioners with WWST (Works with SmartThings) certified fans and switches, delivering uninterrupted comfort while optimizing energy efficiency.

India's electricity demand is growing at 6-7% annually, driven in part by increased use of air conditioners during the summer months (IEA Report). Despite this, many households still rely on both air conditioners and fans for comfort.

In fact, Samsung's consumer experience study

reveals that most of the Indian homes have at least three fans, highlighting the significant role these devices play in daily life. Moreover 50% of Indian consumer's use both simultaneously, frequently adjusting settings throughout the night by turning the AC off when it becomes too cold or back on when the room warms up.

This constant adjustment not only disrupts sleep but also leads to higher energy consumption and discomfort. Recognizing this challenge, Samsung has introduced 'Customized Cooling', a SmartThings-powered solution in the 2025 Bespoke AI range of Air conditioners that automatically maintains a consistently comfortable temperature throughout the night - and even during the day - without the need for manual adjustments.

This seamless integration synchronizes Samsung Smart ACs with SmartThings-certified fans and switches, ensuring enhanced comfort along with reduced electricity bills.

"At Samsung, we believe true comfort goes beyond cooling - it's about intelligent, personalized experiences that adapt to the user's needs. Indian consumers often rely on a combination of ACs and fans to stay comfortable, especially at night. With Customized Cooling, we are eliminating the hassle of frequent adjustments by seamlessly operating the 2025 Bespoke AI range of ACs with SmartThings-certified fans and switches. This brings peace of mind, energy efficiency, and uninterrupted rest," said Ghufuran Alam, Vice President, Digital Appliances, Samsung India.

"Moreover, while the feature is designed to optimize sleep, it's equally useful for staying comfortable throughout the day without compromising comfort or energy savings," he further added.

The 'Customized Cooling' feature eliminates the need for manual adjustments, ensuring a balanced and restful night's sleep. It automatically adapts to surrounding environment, adjusts fan and AC settings in sync, to maintain a comfortable room environment during sleep or any time of day, while reducing power consumption. Available within SmartThings Energy Service, the 'Customized Cooling' feature ensures both comfort and sustainability. The feature is compatible with WWST-certified smart fans and smart switches, allowing users to integrate it effortlessly into their smart homes.

## Shakti Vijay Brigade organizes special health awareness event for local community in Tangdhar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APR 7

In observance of World Health Day 2025, FSC Ex 328 Field Hospital, under the aegis of 104 Brigade, organized a special health awareness event for the local community of Tangdhar.

The initiative aimed to promote awareness about common health issues and encourage preventive healthcare practices among civilians, ex-servicemen, and their dependents.

As part of the celebrations, a dedicated health lecture was conducted,



addressing prevalent medical concerns faced by the local population.

The session emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, prevention, and avail-

able treatment options. The informative and interactive lecture was well-received by the audience and highlighted the hospital's ongoing commitment to community wel-

fare. Additionally, a special Outpatient Department (OPD) was established for the day to provide attendees with medical consultations and personalized healthcare guidance.

The event witnessed participation from 140 individuals, reflecting the community's strong interest in health and wellness.

The efforts of the medical team at FSC Ex 328 Field Hospital were widely appreciated, reinforcing the vital role of healthcare outreach in remote and high-altitude areas.

## Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Chatroo

(E-mail Address :- xenroadschatroo@gmail.com )

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
E-NIT No. - 01 of 2025-26 Dated: 05-04-2025

For and on behalf of L.G of J&K (Union Territory), Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Chatroo, by e-tendering mode on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. / CPWD / MES and Railways for the following work.

| S. No | Name of Work   | Name of Division          | Cost of document (In Rs.) | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Validity period of contract | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor |
|-------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1     | Restoration of road under the jurisdiction of PWD(R&B) Division Chatroo on emergency basis (i.e) (Motorable path Only) by way of clearance of Snow/Slips likely to occur during financial year 2025-26 on:-<br>1. Shana Mangthala Link Road (L=2.00Km),<br>2. Bikna Mangthala link road (L= 2.5 Km),<br>3. Shivnagar Sarawan to Shana Mangthala via Hr. Sec. Feller (L= 1.00 Km),<br>4. Kurya Keshwan to Sirgware link road (L=0.50 Km)<br>Total Length:- 06.00 Kms.(3 <sup>rd</sup> Time) | PWD(R&B) Division Chatroo | 600.00                    | 20000.00               | 31-03-2026                  | 12-04-2025                         | "A, B, C,D"         |

1/ The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligible criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Date of publishing of Tender Notice               | 05-04-2025   |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents        | From 05-04-2025, 06:00 PM to 11-04-2025, 4:00 P.M          |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date                         | 05.04.2025, 06:00 AM                                       |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date                           | 11-04-2025, 4:00 P.M                                       |
| 5. | The bids received will be opened                  | 12-04-2025, 10:00 A.M                                      |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed |

EE/R&B/CHT/ e-NIT No:- 01-15  
Dated: 05-04-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
PWD(R&B) Division  
Chatroo

DIP/J-150/25  
Date: 7-4-25

## NCC organizes ANO Conference in Kupwara to Broaden Outreach

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APRIL 7

The 7th Battalion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) on Monday organized a one-day conference for Associated NCC Officers (ANOs) at its Battalion Headquarters in Kupwara. The event aimed to enhance the reach and effectiveness of the

battalion across the region. The conference was formally inaugurated by Commanding Officer Colonel Amit Bhardwaj, along with Second-in-Command Lieutenant Colonel S S Misquith. Over fifty ANOs from various educational institutions participated in the session.

Speaking on the occasion, CO Bhardwaj emphasized the

objective of the conference – to engage ANOs and acquaint them with various operational and outreach aspects of the NCC. "Our goal is to involve more students with NCC by strengthening our collaboration with educational institutions," he said.

He further added that currently, 42 educational institu-

tions in the Kupwara district are affiliated with the NCC, and many more are in the process of joining.

The conference included discussions on best practices, training modules, and strategies for increasing student participation in the NCC, which plays a vital role in youth development and nation-building.

# IIM Jammu's 07 & 08 Convocation: A Testament to Leadership, Learning & Academic Excellence

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 7

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted its 7th and 8th Annual Convocation on April 6th, 2025, at the "Rangmanch" Amphitheatre, in its Jagti Campus. Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange (NSE), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address. Padmashri Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, delivered the welcome address, while Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presented the Director's Report, highlighting the key achievements of the Institute.

The day's program commenced with a campus tour, followed by planting of a sapling by Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan. Group photographs were taken to capture special moments. The academic procession moved towards Rangmanch, where Dr. Milind Kamble, formally declared the convocation open. The convocation began with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, followed by a soulful rendition of Saraswati Vandana by Shri Suraj Singh Ji. The dignitaries were felicitated with bouquets and mementoes as a token of appreciation.

A total of 772 students received their degrees at the convocation. This includes 499 students from the MBA program, 114 students from MBA Hospital Administration & Healthcare Management (MBA HA&HM), 99 students from the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), 3 students from the Ph.D. program, and 46 students from the Executive MBA (EMBA) and 11 Students from the Executive MBA in Corporate Affairs and Management program.

Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National

Stock Exchange congratulated the graduating students, their families, and IIM Jammu's leadership and faculty. He highlighted the institute's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and its role in nation-building in the unique context of Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged graduates to leverage both traditional and modern knowledge to solve India's challenges, emphasizing the need for well-qualified professionals. He acknowledged the current global uncertainties but pointed to India's stability and rising global stature, which will benefit the graduates in their careers. Addressing the graduates' potential anxieties, he shared guiding principles for success: be grateful, responsible, continuously curious, hungry for knowledge, courageous, sincere, humble, ethical and kind. He also advised them to be patient yet passionate, consistently add value, remain open to new opportunities and maintain optimism. He stressed the importance of serving family, society, and the nation, urging them to be agents of change and contribute to India's progress. He advised them to enjoy the journey, persevere, adapt to changing realities and seize the immense opportunities presented by India's growth over the next 50 years. His address served as a reminder that integrity, gratitude, and continuous learning are the cornerstones of responsible leadership. He concluded by wishing them success as they transition from students to alumni and lead India towards a prosperous future.

Padmashri Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu welcomed Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan and other dignitaries to the Joint 7th and 8th Convocation of IIM Jammu. He hailed Shri Chauhan as a key architect



of India's modern financial markets, instrumental in transforming NSE into a global leader in trading and innovation. His inspiring leadership aligns with India's vision of becoming a \$5 trillion economy and serves as a model for aspiring managers at IIM Jammu. Reflecting on India's doubling from \$ 2.1 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025 - an unprecedented 105% GDP growth, he emphasized the role of strong financial systems and technology in driving Viksit Bharat—a self-reliant, resilient, and globally influential India. He appreciated the implementation of NEP 2020, aligning with IIM Jammu's multidisciplinary and innovation-driven approach. He highlighted the inauguration of IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art campus by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2024 as a milestone that fosters entrepreneurship and leadership. Applauding the institute's achievements, he mentioned the prestigious five-year BGA International Accreditation and acknowledged IIM Jammu's contribution for Jammu & Kashmir and the nation through various capacity building initiatives and national conferences. He mentioned about the Centres of Excellence in innovation, governance, and entrepreneurship, and

commended Anandam: The Center for Happiness for nurturing emotional intelligence and ethical leadership. Congratulating the graduates, he encouraged them to serve as proud ambassadors of IIM Jammu, committed to building a self-reliant and globally recognized India.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presented the Director's Report and delivered an inspiring address tracing the Institute's remarkable journey since its inception in 2016. He extended a warm welcome to Chief Guest Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan, and acknowledged Padmashri Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, BoG, board members, faculty, staff, media, and guests. He highlighted IIM Jammu's rapid growth, academic diversification, and key milestones, notably the inauguration of its permanent Jagti Campus by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2024. He celebrated the achievements of medal winners and shared the Institute's consistent placement success, with leading recruiters offering attractive compensation packages. He emphasized the Institute's robust research ecosystem, global collaborations, and recent recognition—awarded BGA Accreditation for five years. He noted IIM Jammu's 42nd position in NIRF 2024

among Management Institutes, 18th among IIMs, and 22nd in IIRF 2025. He commended the faculty and student accomplishments and highlighted the Institute's expanding footprint in Jammu and Kashmir through entrepreneurship and startup training programs. He highlighted that the Centre for Innovation and

Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu plays a key role in fostering PPPs, building capacity, advancing e-governance, and promoting data-driven decisions to boost institutional efficiency and drive sustainable economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir. Through these initiatives, CITaG aims to enhance institutional efficiency, accelerate sustainable growth, and contribute to strengthening the national and global economy. Addressing the graduating batch, he urged them to lead with integrity, compassion, and excellence, contributing to Viksit Bharat @2047. He concluded with a verse from the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, inspiring graduates to move from darkness to light.

The proceedings continued with the awarding of degrees by the Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, followed by Oath Taking Ceremony by the

Director, IIM Jammu. Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange released the Convocation Souvenir in the presence of Padmashri Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, BoG, IIM Jammu and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu

Outstanding students from all programs were awarded medals for their academic excellence. The Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal for the MBA (2022-24) batch was awarded to Mr. Satyan Singh for achieving the highest CGPA. Mr. Shahabaj Rajmohammad Shaikh received the Director, IIM Jammu Silver Medal, and Mr. Mushahid Fayaz was conferred the Chairperson MBA, IIM Jammu Bronze Medal. In the subsequent MBA (2023-25) batch, Mr. Mohd Salman was awarded with the Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal, Mr. Rishab Kumar Bharadwaj received the Director, IIM Jammu Silver Medal, and Mr. Abhilash Dwivedi was awarded the Chairperson MBA, IIM Jammu Bronze Medal. For the MBA (HA&HM) program, Mr. Prabhakaran R (2022-24 batch) and Mr. Puneet Shukla (2023-25 batch) were both presented with the Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal. In the EMBA program, Mr. Lalit Kumar received the Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal for the 2022-24 batch, and Ms. Manisha Srivastava was awarded the same distinction for the 2023-25 batch. From the Integrated Program in Management (IPM), Ms. Ojal Mijar (2021-24 batch) was conferred the Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal, Ms. Diya Gupta received the Director, IIM Jammu Silver Medal, and Ms. Mehak was awarded with the Chairperson IPM, IIM Jammu Bronze Medal. Similarly, in the IPM (2022-25) batch, Ms. Vidushi Mittal received the Chairperson BOG, IIM Jammu Gold Medal, Ms. Vanshika was

awarded the Director, IIM Jammu Silver Medal, and Ms. Ananya Seth secured the Chairperson IPM, IIM Jammu Bronze Medal. These accolades recognize the hard work and academic excellence of the students at IIM Jammu. The ceremony concluded with the Chairman, BoG, IIM Jammu, declaring the Convocation closed. This was followed by the National Anthem, the return of the Convocation procession, and a formal dinner.

Present on the occasion were Shri Lalit Kumar Naik, Member, BOG, IIM Jammu; Dr. Suresh T Salunke, Member, BOG, IIM Jammu, Dr. VijaySinh S Gambhire, Member, BOG, IIM Jammu, Smt. Vandana Bhatnagar, Member, BOG, IIM Jammu, Shri Indraneel Chitale, Member, BOG, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Chairperson, MBA, IIM Jammu, Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Chairperson, MBA HA & HM, IIM Jammu Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, IPM, IIM Jammu, Dr. Mamta Tripathi, Chairperson, EMBA, IIM Jammu along with other dignitaries, faculty, officers and staff of IIM Jammu. The host for the evening was Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu. IIM Jammu was awarded the prestigious Business Graduates Association (BGA) Accreditation for five years on March 28th, 2025, setting new benchmarks in global management education and strengthening its position among top business schools worldwide. The Institute holds the 22nd position in the IIRF Rankings 2025 and has established 21 international partnerships. The Institute's alumni network is rapidly expanding, currently comprising 1035 members. Notably, IIM Jammu has played a significant role in fostering entrepreneurship in the region, having trained over 500 entrepreneurs and incubated 18 startups in Jammu and 20 startups in

Srinagar since 2022.

IIM Jammu achieved remarkable placement outcomes for the 7th MBA batch (2022-24), with all 244 students placed across key domains such as BFSI, Consulting, Strategy, Marketing, Operations, HR, IT, and Analytics. The process saw participation from 154 companies, including 56 new recruiters. Top recruiters included Accenture, Aditya Birla Capital, Axis Bank, BNY Mellon, Cognizant, Diageo, HCL Tech, ICICI, Infosys, Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Thomson Reuters, Vedanta, and Wipro. The 8th MBA batch (2023-25), comprising 253 students, is witnessing strong placement traction, with 20 leading new recruiters such as American Express, BNP Paribas, Frost & Sullivan, Gartner, Grant Thornton, IBM, Nestle, Jasper Collins, KIA India, Maruti Suzuki, SBI Capital Markets, and Xiaomi. Additionally, the 9th MBA batch (2024-26) secured 100% internship placements for all 290 students, reaffirming the institute's growing reputation and the trust by the corporate sector. The placement success is a testament to IIM Jammu's growing reputation as one of the fastest-growing B-schools in India

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, a Dual Degree Programme with IIT Jammu (B.Tech +MBA), Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), Ph.D. Programme, and Executive MBA. IIM Jammu continues its journey of excellence, celebrating the success of its graduates and reaffirming its commitment to shaping visionary leaders who drive global impact and societal transformation

## Indian Army organizes Ram Navami celebration with Local Community at Mendhar, Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 07 APR 2025

The Indian Army stationed in Mendhar organized a special Ram Navami celebration, bringing together troops and members of the local community in a spirit of unity and devotion. The event featured traditional rituals, devotional bhajans, and cultural performances, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the region and the significance of Ram Navami, which marks the birth of Lord Ram, a symbol of righteousness and valor. The Indian Army has always played a pivotal role in promoting communal harmony and national integration, especially in sensitive regions. This celebration

served not only as a religious observance but also as a platform to strengthen civil-military ties and promote mutual trust and understanding between the armed forces and the civilian population. Local residents appreciated the Indian Army's initiative in organizing the event and involving the community, describing it as a gesture of goodwill and inclusivity. Senior officers of the Rashtriya Rifles reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and fostering a strong bond with the people of Mendhar. Such events reaffirm the Indian Army's dedication not only to national security but also to nation-building through cultural and social engagement.

## DC Doda inaugurates Lakme Salon in Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APRIL 07.

In a significant addition to Doda's beauty and wellness landscape, the Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh Harvinder Singh (IAS), today inaugurated the newly established Lakme Salon at Crystal Plaza, Stadium Road Doda. The event marked the formal launch of the premium beauty destination, bringing the trusted name of Lakme to the heart of the town.

Owned by Mr. Shuja Suharwardy, the salon aims to provide top-tier beauty services with a blend of luxury, professionalism, and care. The inauguration ceremony witnessed a warm welcome extended to DC Harvinder Singh, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and appreciated the initiative for bringing branded, high-quality grooming services closer to the local community.

The highlight of the launch was the introduction of Lakme Salon's latest bridal collection – "Ethereal Bloom". This exclusive bridal makeup range is a tribute to elegance, self-expression, and timeless beauty. Whether a bride envisions a classic, graceful look or a bold, confident style, Ethereal Bloom promises to cater to every unique bridal dream with finesse.

The event drew the presence of respected members of civil society, business leaders, and enthusiastic local residents. The gathering lauded the launch of a modern, well-equipped salon that is set to elevate the beauty experience in Doda.

With expert professionals, personalized services, and the signature touch of Lakme, the new salon is poised to become a preferred destination for beauty and bridal needs in the region.

## World Health Day celebrated at Army Goodwill School Hajinar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, APR 7

Today Army Goodwill School Hajinar celebrated World Health Day with great enthusiasm and active participation from students and staff. The event was aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of health and well-being among young minds.

The celebration featured a variety of engaging programs including student speeches highlighting the significance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and a poster-making competition where students creatively

expressed health-related themes.

The event saw participation from 100 students, showcasing their talent and awareness.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the Vice Principal, Mr. Javid Ahmed Mir, who appreciated the students' efforts and emphasized the importance of observing such days to promote health consciousness in the community.

The program was a great success, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic education and community well-being.

## Kavinder condemns ruling MLAs for disrupting Assembly over Waqf Bill, asks to focus on public welfare

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 07

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has strongly criticized the disruptive behavior of ruling party MLAs during the ongoing Assembly session, labeling their protest over the recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Bill as a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and disturb communal harmony.

Expressing his displeasure, Kavinder Gupta stated that the Waqf Bill, which has been duly passed in both Houses of Parliament, aims to safeguard Waqf properties and ensure their proper utilization for the welfare of poor Muslims, especially women and marginalized communities. "There is no threat whatsoever to any religious site. The Bill is intended to stop the misuse and illegal encroachment of Waqf assets, which have long been subjected to corruption and mismanagement," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader remarked, "Their attempt to create a ruckus in the Assembly is nothing but a desperate political

gimmick to sow confusion and create misunderstanding among the masses. The Waqf Bill is in no way anti-Muslim; rather, it is a pro-Muslim reform that will ensure transparency and benefit the community significantly."

He further emphasized that the Central Government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to protecting the interests of all communities and has shown unwavering resolve in implementing reforms that uplift underprivileged sections of society without discrimination.

The senior BJP leader asked the ruling government to prioritize addressing the pressing issues faced by the general public, such as infrastructure development, employment generation, and healthcare improvements, rather than engaging in actions that divert attention from essential governance.

He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against false propaganda and to support the Central government's efforts to ensure justice, transparency, and equitable development for all.

## Kishtwar unites against drug menace: Mega IEC Campaign sets off massive public engagement across 13 Blocks

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 07

To combat the menace of drug abuse, a Mega Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Awareness Campaign was today successfully conducted across all 13 blocks of District Kishtwar.

The campaign, held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan, witnessed an overwhelming response from the public.

The awareness drive took place in 13 panchayats across the 13 blocks of the district, with each block hosting informative sessions led by resource persons from eight key departments, including Health, Police, Education, Rural



Development Department (RDD), besides Ex-PRIs.

The experts were meticulously nominated by the administration to educate and empower the community about the dire consequences of drug abuse.

At the District Headquarters, the event was organized at B.Town 1 Panchayat, MS Zewar, where a large gathering of officials, departmental representatives, and local residents

engaged actively.

The events at all block levels also featured addresses by key speakers (resource persons) from Social Welfare, Health, Education, RDD, Police, and others.

The resource persons shared critical insights on the harmful effects of drug addiction, discussing not only the physical and mental health implications but also the social and economic consequences.

The Campaigns were executed with meticulous planning and coordination under the guidance of District Nodal Officer IEC (DSWO) Zubair Ahmed ensuring comprehensive outreach.

The events will continue every Monday in all 136 panchayats and 94 educational institutions across the 13 blocks of District Kishtwar.

## DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspections to oversee Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Activities in Schools

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 07

In a continued effort to intensify the fight against drug abuse, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted surprise inspections at Government Higher Secondary School Dodasan Bala and Government Higher Secondary School Saaj to oversee the ongoing activities under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with staff and students, emphasizing the critical need to create widespread awareness among youth regarding the ill effects of drug abuse. He urged educational institutions to play a proactive role in sensitizing students



and involving them as ambassadors of change in the community.

"Students are the backbone of our future, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they grow in a safe and drug-free environment," he said while encouraging teachers to engage students through rallies, debates, skits, and awareness sessions.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Development Rajouri, Vijay Kumar Verma visited Government High School Gurdhan Bala and took stock of the awareness activities being

conducted under the campaign.

Similarly, Additional Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Magistrates visited various educational institutions and public locations across the district to monitor the progress and ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The district administration has adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle the issue of drug abuse, with special focus on awareness generation, community involvement, and educational outreach.

3rd  
Orientation/  
Training prog.  
for Haj pilgrims  
of Shopian on  
April 12 at Tak  
Masjid

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 07

J&K Haj Committee Srinagar has scheduled the 3rd orientation/training programme for the selected Haj pilgrims of district Shopian for Haj-2025 on 12 April, 2025.

Accordingly, all the selected pilgrims of district Shopian are informed to attend the 3rd orientation/training programme at Tak Masjid, Shopian, on 12 April, 2025 from 10:00 AM onwards.

## DLSA Bandipora observes 'World Health Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 07

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised a Legal Awareness programme to observe 'World Health Day' under the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.'

The programme held at Govt NM Boys Higher Secondary School, Bandipora was inaugurated by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Bandipora accompanied by Dr. Masrat Iqbal, Medical Superintendent Bandipora; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nisar Ahmad; District Health Officer, Dr. Tahira Nazir; District and other Medical Officers.

The programme aimed to create awareness among the participants about people's general health and wellbeing around the

world.

Chairman DLSA Bandipora in his speech highlighted that this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures,' a powerful reminder that the health of our mothers and newborns is the foundation upon which our communities and our world are built.

Choudhary said that significant strides have been made in maternal and newborn health, but there is still much work to be done. Need of the hour is to invest in our healthcare infrastructure, train our healthcare professionals, and empower our communities to make informed choices about their health,



he added.

The Chairman also gave awareness about Legal Aid Services.

Earlier, in his intro-

ductory address Medical Superintendent Bandipora highlighted that the day is seen as an opportunity to drive worldwide attention

to a subject of major importance for global health each year and sensitize young minds of the importance of their physical and mental health.

Aamir Shafi (Penal Lawyer) District Legal Services Authority Bandipora emphasized maternal and newborn health, urging participants to prioritize women's long-term well-being and end preventable deaths and Legal Aspects.

The programme was attended by Medical Officers, officials, staff members, Para Medical staff, staff members of DLSA Bandipora, students, Para Legal Volunteers (Adhikar Mitras) and other officials.

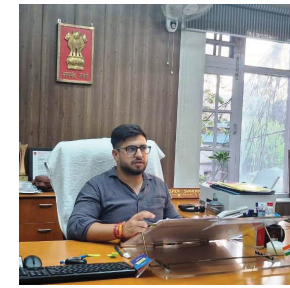
## Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

## DC Rajouri ropes in Social Media influencers to champion public awareness campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 07

In a significant step to harness the power of digital platforms for public outreach, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today held an interactive meeting with prominent social media influencers of the district.

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role that digital influencers can play in shaping public opinion and spreading awareness, especially among the youth. He emphasized the need to actively disseminate key messages under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, which commenced today across



the district as part of a broader initiative to curb drug abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The DC urged the influencers to also focus on promoting different government schemes, tourism-related content, mental health awareness—particularly related to depression—as well as messages related to road safety and youth empow-

erment through Mission Youth.

"Social media is a powerful tool and your contribution can significantly enhance the visibility and impact of these campaigns," he told the influencers.

To streamline efforts and ensure coordinated action, the District Information Officer (DIO) was instructed to work closely with the influencers and provide them with necessary content, updates, and support for wider dissemination of official information. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to use digital influence as a means of bringing about positive social change in Rajouri.

## Bandipora admin launches grassroots IEC campaign to curb Drug Abuse

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 07

As part of the UT level IEC campaign against Drug Abuse, the District Administration Bandipora today launched a comprehensive panchayat level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign across the district.

The campaign, organised in every block of district, aimed to create mass awareness and encourage public participation in preventing substance abuse and supporting affected individuals. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of civil society members and local youth.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri presided over the event at Block office Aloosa.

On the occasion, resource persons from Health, Social Welfare, Education, Police and other concerned departments deliberated on the causes, consequences, and preventive measures related to drug abuse, while also highlighting the role of public participation in curbing the growing threat.



Speaking on the occasion, DC said that drug abuse is a serious social issue that requires a united response from all sections of society.

He said that the district administration is committed to the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals affected by substance abuse, and several initiatives have been taken to support victims of drug abuse.

He further stressed the need to engage youth, educational institutions at grassroots level in the fight against drugs, adding that awareness and timely intervention can save lives and build

a healthier society.

He said the campaign, being conducted across all panchayats of the district, aims to educate and sensitize the public, and mobilize stakeholders to create a drug-free environment in Bandipora. Qadri laid special focus on how youth can play a proactive role in acting as ambassadors of change in society.

Similar awareness programmes and IEC activities were simultaneously conducted in every block of district at panchayat level, attended by senior officers from District Administration to ensure wider outreach and grassroots involvement.

## Javed Rana reviews working of forest department

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 07

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review key issues and development plans of the forest department.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other senior officers.

While addressing the meeting, Javed Rana emphasized the importance of maintaining accountability and transparency in administrative matters to ensure effective service delivery. He instructed the officers to ensure timely resolution of employee related matters to maintain a positive work environment and motivation.

Javed Rana also directed for development of an online portal to facilitate all transactions related to timber stock and supply, aiming streamlining of the process while reducing potential irregularities. He said that this will ease out the procurement process on notified rates and will provide timely updates on the stock and supply position.

"With development of an online portal, we will be able to constantly monitor and facilitate transparent transactions to create win-win situation for the government and people as well," he said. The Minister also reviewed availability of timber across all regions of J&K. He reiterated government's commitment towards ensuring equitable distribution of timber across all regions and directed the officers to address the needs of

the public effectively.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were also held on environmental pollution.

The Minister sought actionable solutions from the concerned officers to curb this problem. He also laid emphasis on afforestation and reviewed the progress on development of high quality planting material through advanced research.

Rana said that saplings of important species should be raised every year for supply to the forest department and other user agencies for coverage of forest area.

He also reviewed the criteria set for establishment of new stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir. He impressed upon the officers that stone crushers should be established after following all due norms and guidelines.

## SANKALP HEW MS Budgam organises Career Counseling programmes at Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, APRIL 07

SANKALP HEW Mission Shakti (MS) Budgam organised Career Counseling programmes at Govt Degree College (GDC) Budgam, Charar-e-Sharif and Beerwah.

The programme was organised as part of a planner and operational manual of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for the female students across various educational institutions in the Budgam district.

In this connection, Professional Career Counselor and Career Counseling Officer deputed by University of Kashmir and District Employment and Career Counseling Office Budgam respectively for carrying out the said sessions across various educational institutions.

The programme was organized to make students understand intricacies involved in making current and future career decisions and to better understand the vari-

ous career opportunities available.

Highlighting the importance of Career Counseling was aimed to help in the selection of the appropriate career and aid in the development of confidence and skills. Career Counseling enables students to find their purpose, explore rewarding opportunities and accomplish their professional objectives.

Through these career counseling sessions, the students were assisted in decision making by providing information about the chosen career path, other available career options, their pros and cons, job prospects and also helped in locating resources for obtaining important career-related information.

At the end of the programme, Career Booklets were distributed among students at each Educational Institution.

The programme was attended by faculty members of GDCs, staff of SHEW Budgam at each institution.