

**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 abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit, urine or stool

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## BRIEFLY

**Over 25,000 drug abusers registered in J&K since 2022: Govt**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

At least 25,400 drug abusers have been registered in OPD and 1,595 in IPD across Jammu and Kashmir since 2022, the government said.

Responding to a question raised by several MLAs including Tanvir Sadiq, Basheer Ahmad Veeri, Narinder Singh, Shabir Ahmad

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**Free bus service for women sees over 3.5 lakh passengers in a week**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

The newly launched free bus service for women has witnessed a massive surge in ridership in Jammu and Kashmir with over 3.5 lakh women availing the facility within just a week of its launch on April 01.

The initiative, which aims to enhance women's mobility and ease of access to public transport, has received widespread appreciation. The female passengers from

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**No proposal to waive off KCC loans up to Rs 3 lakh for farmers: J&K Govt**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday clarified that there is currently no proposal under consideration to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans up to Rs 3 lakh availed by farmers.

"There is no proposal in the government to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans," the government as per the news agency said.

The Minister Incharge revealed this in response to a query by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, who had asked whether the government intends

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**Over 4 lakh kanals state land under illegal occupation in J&K: Govt**  
JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that a staggering 4,28,204 Kanals and 13 Marlas state lands are under illegal occupation across the Union Territory.

Replying to a query by MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah, the minister incharge, as per the news agency said that they have taken concrete measures to evict illegal occupants, with all entries in the name of such occupants being expunged.

"Special eviction drives are being continuously undertaken to reclaim encroached land. A total of 3,555 cases have been approved for land use change in Jammu and Kashmir. These permissions were granted for a variety

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## >> SECURITY REVIEW MEETING AT RAJ BHAWAN

# Intensify anti-terror offensives in J&K: Amit Shah directs security agencies

**LG Sinha, Army Chief, heads of CAPFs, senior officers attend high level security meet**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

Reiterating that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to build a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday directed the security agencies to further intensify anti-terror offensives in the Union Territory.

After chairing a high level security review meeting at Raj Bhawan here, Shah, according to the news agency, wrote on X: "Chaired a security review meeting for J&K along with Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji and senior officials. Agencies crippled terror in J&K through the Modi Govt's multi-pronged approach to security. Instructed to further intensify anti-terror offensives by advanced vigilance and seamless mutual coordination to achieve the goal of uprooting terror for good."

"The Modi government is committed to building a secure and prosperous J&K," he added.

As per the details available with KNO the security review chaired by the Union Home Minister was



attended by LG Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Army Chief, GOC Northern Command, Deputy Chief of Army, GOCs of 15, 16 and 9 Corps, Director IB, Chief Secretary, J&K Director General of Police; Director Generals of Indo Tibetan Border Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Railway Protection Force, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and National Investigation Agency.

Others who were present in the meeting included Principal Secretary Home J&K, Additional Secretary RAW, Special Director IB, Joint Sec-

retary Home Affairs J&K, Ladakh, Principal Secretary to LG Sinha and Chief Executive Officer Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, Joint Secretary RAW, Joint Director IB, Additional Director General CID, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir & Director Security of Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Union Home Minister while addressing the meeting said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, the Government of India is committed

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## >> Development Review Meeting In Srinagar

# Under PM Modi's leadership GoI committed to establish new dimensions of development in J&K: HM Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to establish new dimensions of development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a review meeting on development projects in the Union Territory at Raj Bhawan here, Shah, according to the news agency, said, "The Centre wants to ensure that people of J&K prosper and become a part of the country's success story."

The development meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary, Govind Mohan, J&K Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Commissioner Secretaries of School Higher Education and, Jal Shakti Departments, CM's Principal Secretary.

Others who were present included Principal Secretaries of Power, Agriculture, Culture, Home and Finance. Commissioner Secretaries of Social Welfare, Housing & Urban Development, Industries, GAD, Forest, IT & Science, Tourism, Youth Service and Sports,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

# Three more J&K groups exit Hurriyat, total 11 left so far

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said three more organisations in Jammu and Kashmir have formally parted ways with the separatist conglomerate Hurriyat Conference.

As reported by the news agency, the development took place during Shah's ongoing three-day visit to the

region.

According to the Home Minister, the Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League and the Kashmir Freedom Front are the latest to announce their separation from the Hurriyat. With this, the total number of groups distancing themselves from the separatist platform has reached eleven.

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# Kashmir- based opposition submits no- confidence against Speaker for rejecting discussion on Waqf bill

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party and Peoples Conference have submitted a no- confidence motion against Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather for rejecting discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill-2025, saying his decision has evoked widespread outrage.

In a notice submitted by PC president Sajad Gani Lone and PDP MLAs Waheed-ur- Rehman Para, Mir Muhammad Fayaz and Rafiq Ahmed Naik, the opposition has sought removal of the Speaker.

"This decision stems from widespread outrage within the House over the Speaker's actions, including the rejection of discussions on an adjournment motion and the

refusal to entertain a resolution brought forward by opposition parties," reads the notice given by Lone and other opposition MLAs.

"Such conduct undermines the democratic principles and procedures governing this esteemed institution, prompting this resolution to address the matter," it further reads.

Meanwhile, the ruling National Conference today said that it wouldn't support the no-confidence motion against Rather.

Speaking to reporters, NC MLA Salman Sagar, as per news agency said that they would not support the no- confidence motion against the Speaker. "No, not at all," when asked if the party would back the no-confidence motion against the Speaker. KNO

# Disruptions continue in Assembly for 2nd consecutive day

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 8 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed continued disruptions for the second consecutive day on Tuesday over the contentious Waqf (Amendment) bill-2025. The Speaker adjourned the House twice for brief intervals before eventually adjourning it for the day.

As soon as the House assembled this morning, as per news agency, National Conference MLAs stood up, demanding that their adjournment motion be allowed to discuss implications of the Waqf law.

Legislators of Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Conference and Sheikh Khursheed were also on their feet demanding that a resolution be passed against the law.



As PDP's Waheed-ur- Rehman Para waved a copy of the resolution brought by him, NC's Majid Larmi moved towards him and accused him (Para) of being RSS agent, leading to a verbal duel between the duos.

With NC legislators leveling allegations PDP and PC, Sajad

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

# SC, ST Judges 53 in J&K, marks 32% rise since 2020, reveals data

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

The representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu and Kashmir's judiciary remains disproportionately low, despite a gradual increase over the past five years.

According to data from the Union Law Ministry, the number of SC/ST Judicial Officers in the Union Territory's district and subordinate courts rose from 40 in 2020 to 53 by April 2025—the highest recorded in this period.

As of December 31, 2020, Jammu and Kashmir had a total of 40 Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) judicial officers in its district and subordinate judiciary.

This included 9 SC and 6 ST

Judges at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 10 SC and 4 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 5 SC and 6 ST Judges serving as District Judges. These numbers reflected limited but notable representation of SCs and STs within the Union Territory's judicial framework during that period.

As of December 31, 2021, the number remained at 40 SC/ST judicial officers. Among them were 7 SC and 9 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 5 SC and 6 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 8 SC and 5 ST Judges at the District Judge level.

The figures showed a slight shift in distribution while maintaining a modest presence of SC/ST

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# Temp plummets in Kashmir, upper reaches receive fresh snowfall, rains lash plains

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 08 (KNO)

A day after recording the hottest day, Kashmir on Tuesday witnessed a dip in the maximum temperatures as several higher reaches experienced fresh snowfall while the rains lashed the plains.

According to the news agency, several upper reaches including Sinthan Top received fresh snowfall today while the rains lashed Kashmir till this evening, bringing down the mercury by 4 degree Celsius in Srinagar and by some degrees in other parts compared to yesterday.

Pertinently, Srinagar on Monday recorded the season's hottest day today at 28.2 degree Celsius, which was 9.4 degree Celsius above than the normal temperature.



However, the temperature plummeted by four degree Celsius today and settled at 24.4 degree Celsius.

The weather remained cloudy mostly while the rains lashed Kashmir parts from this afternoon.

It is worth mentioning here that the local Meteorological department (MeT) has issued a yellow alert for tomorrow, predicting isolated thunderstorm, hailstorm, lightning

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Udhampur Admin acts tough against encroachers in Ward No. 21

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 08

In a decisive move to reclaim encroached state land, the District Administration Udhampur today conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Ward No. 21 of Udhampur town.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai.

Earlier, the Additional Deputy Commissioner had constituted a revenue team to visit the site and check the revenue records. The team examined encroachment and granted ample time to 18 identified encroachers to voluntarily remove boundary walls illegally constructed on state land.

Despite repeated notices and a reasonable time frame, the encroachers



failed to comply and resorted to delaying tactics.

Taking swift action against the defaulters, the District Administration demolished the unauthorized structures as part of the ongoing drive. The drive was led by EO MC Rajinder Kr Digra, Tehsildar Jai Singh and police

team led by SHO Raghuvir Singh along with Khilafwazi Inspector Rohit Kumar, Rajesh Saini and Revenue team Udhampur.

The District Administration is evicting encroachment in mission mode to clear all state land of illegal encroachments and uphold the rule of law.

## DC Rajouri orders inquiry into AAYA appointments in Zone Thanamandi

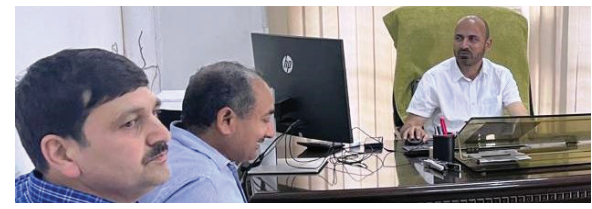
J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, has taken serious note of complaints received regarding alleged discrepancies in the appointment of AAYAs in Zone Thanamandi. Several deputations approached the DC and submitted formal grievances, prompting immediate administrative action. Acting on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Rajouri constituted a committee to conduct a preliminary inquiry. The inquiry revealed significant procedural lapses and violations of prescribed norms, thereby undermining the fairness

of the recruitment process.

In light of these findings, the CEO Rajouri has cancelled the appointments made under the previous process and directed fresh advertisement of the posts to ensure a fair, transparent, and merit-based selection. Additionally, an enquiry has been initiated against the concerned Zonal Education Officer (ZEO). DC reiterated that transparency and accountability are non-negotiable in all government recruitments, especially those related to early childhood care. He also issued strict instructions to the concerned authorities to exercise due diligence and avoid such irregularities in the future.

## Udhampur: Kashmiri Migrant Political leaders briefed about Special Summary Revision



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 08

In pursuance to the Election Commission of India Communication regarding the Special Summary Revision of 27- Budgam, a meeting of all the political parties was today convened in the office of Assistant Commissioner Migrants (AERO-M) Udhampur.

Political representatives from different political parties attended the meeting. It was informed that the special summary revision in respect of AC 27- Budgam is to be conducted with April 1, 2025

as the qualifying date.

"Any claim or objection with regard to addition, deletion, correction and transposition can either be presented in the office of AERO Migrants/ACP Office, Udhampur or Zonal Relief Office, Udhampur, Booth Level Officer (Contact No 9419270203) or sent online to ERO 27- Budgam Assembly Constituency/ by post to so as to reach not later than April 24th 2025" they were informed. It was further informed that the copy of the Electoral Roll shall be available at ZO Migrants Udhampur and with the concerned BLO.

## Orientation/ Training programme for Haj pilgrims of Anantnag on April 10 at GDC Women

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, APRIL 08

The training for selected Haj pilgrims of Anantnag regarding Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics for Haj-1446(H) 2025, under third phase is scheduled to be on 10th April 2025 from 10:30 AM at Auditorium Hall of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Women Anantnag. It is mandatory for all the selected Haj pilgrims to attend this important session, where detailed guidance on the various aspects of performing Haj including the spiritual and logistical arrangements, will be provided.

## Delegation of Contractors Association calls on DC Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 08

A delegation of Contractors Association Kishtwar today met with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

During the meeting, the delegation, led by Association President Mohammad Imran Qazi, presented a comprehensive list of issues and demands.

The demanded Reservation of Works in local projects, Issuance of Low-Value Tenders, Relaxation in Turnover Criteria and Other issues impacting the Small Contractors Association.

The Deputy Commissioner listened attentively to the concerns raised and assured the Association members to look into their genuine issues.

## GDC Frisal celebrates Birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 08

Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal, Kulgam, organized a preamble recitation and pledge day to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar today on 8th April 2025.

The event emphasized the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, and aimed to instill his ideals of equality, justice, and fraternity among students and faculty.

The program commenced with a brief introduction on the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, followed by the collective recitation of the preamble of Indian Constitution. Principal of the college,

Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Shah delivered an insightful address highlighting the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in contemporary India and emphasized the need for youth to actively participate in nation-building by upholding constitutional and moral values.

The event concluded with a group discussion among students and faculty, which further enriched the understanding of Ambedkar's thought and its application in modern democratic society.

The observance left a meaningful impression on the participants, motivating them to carry forward the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in their personal and professional lives.

## Girls' sports competitions organised in Doda's Ghat, Bhagwah Zones to promote 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Mission



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, APRIL 08

In a significant initiative to promote Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Mission, the Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports Office, organised girls' sports competitions in Zone Ghat and Zone Bhagwah, today.

The event was conducted under the directions of the District Development Commissioner with the objective to empower the girl child through active participation in sports and raising awareness about the importance of girls' education and well-being.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 200 girls representing different educational institutions and panchayats from the two zones. In Zone Ghat, a Kabaddi competition was organised, while at Zone Bhagwah witnessed thrilling Volleyball compe-

titions. The atmosphere was vibrant and filled with enthusiasm, as the young girls showcased their strength, skills and team spirit on the ground.

The competitions aimed not only to provide a platform to the girls to display their sporting talents but also to convey a strong message about gender equality and the importance of supporting the girl child in every aspect of life. Through such programs, the district administration seeks to foster self-confidence, leadership, and a healthy competitive spirit among young girls.

Officials from both departments were present at the venues to motivate and encourage the participants. The initiative was highly appreciated by the community, and it reinforced the commitment of the district towards the holistic development and empowerment of girls in rural and remote areas of Doda district.

## GDC Vijaypur organises Special Lecture on "B. R. Ambedkar: The Architect of Indian Constitution"

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, APRIL 08

In continuation to the series of activities being organized to commemorate the B. R. Ambedkar Jyanti, Department of English, in collaboration with NSS unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur organized a special lecture on the theme "B. R. Ambedkar: The Architect of Indian Constitution".

The program was organized under the able guidance and supervision of the esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Ashu Vashist. NSS volunteers attended the lecture with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The lecture began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer Department of Education). Dr. Indu Koul (Lecturer Department of English) delivered the lecture to the students. In her address, Ms. Koul high-

lighted the contributions of Ambedkar in framing and designing the Indian Constitution. Ambedkar drafted the Indian Constitution, which gave equal rights to people irrespective of caste, race, religion and culture. He also worked for education and basic welfare of Dalits. He also raised his voice for public drinking water and entry of Dalits in Hindu temples.

The event was carried out with full support of the senior faculty members Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce), Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HOD Sociology), Dr. Arti Sharma (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Environmental Sciences). It was coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography). It was co-coordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer Education) and Dr. Indu Koul (Lecturer English).

## Orientation programme for Hajj Pilgrims of Baramulla on April 12 at Masjid Ameer Shah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 08

The selected Hajj Pilgrims of district Baramulla are informed that the Orientation cum Training Program is scheduled to be held on 12th of April 2025 from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM at Masjid Ameer Shah (Baitul Mukarram) Baramulla. All the selected Haj Pilgrims of the District Baramulla are as such informed to ensure their presence in the said Orientation Training Program at the aforementioned venue on the scheduled date and time.

## Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

Chief Engineer, (Distribution), JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Burnal, Rakh Muthi, Devipur, Ballian Da Bagh, Pallwan, PHE lines, BSF, Jourian, MES, Troti, Bakore and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 09 and 11 from 6 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Smailpur, Rahya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Central University and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 09 from 9 am to 12 noon.

## Javed Rana hears public grievances at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

Scores of delegations from Jammu and other areas today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat, Jammu to apprise him of their grievances and issues.

The delegations raised collective and individual issues and sought their early redressal.

While giving patient hearing to grievances brought into his notice by various delegations and individuals, the Minister assured the visiting deputations that all their genuine issues would be examined for early redress.

Minister said that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to delivering effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are resolved on priority basis.

## DC Budgam reviews status of works approved under District Mineral Fund (PMKKKY)

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of District Mineral Fund (DMF) to review the status of works approved under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) in the district.

DC reviewed the status of works approved under DMF in the areas with high priority and other priority sectors.

The series of developmental works amounting to Rs.327.71 lakh covers vital sectors including Health, Education, Power Development and Jal Shakti, aiming to strengthen public infrastructure and improve service delivery across the district.

Key works approved under the Health sector include the provision of hotline connectivity at CHC Kremshore, CHC Chattergam, PHC Soibugh, PHC Ompora, PHC Khag, and CHC Pakherpora. In addition, procurement of critical medical equipment such as digital X-ray cassettes, biochemistry analysers, deep freezers, plasma expressers, autoclaves, and microscopes for District Hospital Budgam was approved.



Under the Jal Shakti Department, the procurement of water tankers of 9000-litre and 6000-litre capacities will address water supply needs in the district.

In the Education sector, works include the construction of a toilet facility at Mixed Primary School Gopalpora and provision of electricity at Government schools in Khan Mohalla Kuzwera and Dounkal Bagh Sail.

The Power Development Department will establish a buffer stock of 15 (100 KVA) transformers to strengthen power infrastructure and ensure timely replacements during exigencies.

The DC, while reviewing the status of approved works, emphasized that all the projects have been identified based on priority public needs and sec-

toral gaps. He directed the concerned departments to ensure immediate initiation of tendering and procurement processes, with strict adherence to timelines.

He stressed that there must be no delays at any stage of execution and that timely completion of these works is critical to ensuring outcomes on the ground on time.

The DC further instructed regular monitoring and submission of progress reports to his office for review.

The meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic Circle, Budgam, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, KPDC, REW, MS Budgam and other concerned officials of the committee.

## Block Mankote of Poonch Shines in National Rankings

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 08

Block Mankote of District Poonch, under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing 1st position in Jammu & Kashmir and 99th at the National Level in the Third Quarter Rankings (October-December 2024) under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). The rankings are based on the performance and progress of blocks in various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including: Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion. This initiative has



fostered a culture of innovation, accountability, and community participation, contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of underdeveloped areas.

The Aspirational Block Programme, launched by NITI Aayog, aims to enhance the socio-economic indicators of the most underdeveloped blocks in India, making this achievement a significant milestone for Block Mankote

## DDC reviews progress of Tourism Development projects in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 08

To strategies development of the tourism sector in Poonch, District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal convened a meeting to review the ongoing activities and progress achieved in tapping the district's potential. The meeting underscored the achievements and outlined future plans aimed at bolstering tourism in the region.

The meeting was informed that the Poonch Development Authority is currently overseeing 37 projects across the subdivisions of Poonch, Mendhar, and Surankote. Of these, 32 projects have already been completed, while work is in progress on the remaining initiatives. Additionally, within the Tourism Department, three out of five designated projects have been successfully completed.

The Deputy Commissioner evaluated various developmental initiatives, including the establishment of Eco Parks, Tourism Parks, and Children Parks, as well as beautification efforts and other vital projects in the tourism sector. He emphasized



the necessity of developing robust tourism infrastructure to attract more visitors and enhance the local economy. He urged the concerned officers to prioritize infrastructure development in light of the growing tourism sector.

In a directive aimed at improving accessibility for pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the XEN PWD (R&B) to project a road from the main road to Ramkund Temple. He also tasked the Tourism Officer with planning and constructing a viewpoint shed at the Ram Kund Temple to enhance the visitor experience.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including XEN PWD (R&B) for Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar, AD Tourism, Accounts Officer Poonch Development Authority and other concerned officials.

## 21 Wheat Procurement Centres being set up in Jammu Division for RMS 2025-26

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

In view of the approaching harvesting season, a meeting was held today at the Directorate of Agriculture with Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Arvinder Singh Reen in the chair. The meeting aimed to thoroughly review and finalize the arrangements for the procurement of wheat produce for the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2025-26.



The meeting held detailed discussions on the strategic selection and finalization of procurement centre sites, taking into account the feasibility and accessibility for farmers. It was announced that a total of 21 Wheat Procurement Centres (Mandis) will be established across Jammu Division, including 11 in Jammu district, 9 in Kathua, and 1 in Samba. Emphasis was placed on providing necessary infrastructure, including space, gunny bags, logistical support, and other essential resources, to effectively set up the procurement mandis.

Key agenda points discussed included Upload- ing of specifications and appointment of MLCs and DNOs, Engagement of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the procurement process, Identification and readiness of procurement centres, Current crop conditions and expected wheat arrival timelines, Payment streamlining and arrangements for gunny bags. The Director urged that the cleaning charges be fixed by the Deputy Commissioners and directed that the Agriculture Department will support the availability of tarpaulin sheets for procurement operations. He further encouraged widespread dissemination of information among farmers to ensure maximum participation in the procurement process.

The FCI officers assured that they would be ready to receive wheat stocks until May 31, 2025, with the provision of extending the deadline if needed. The meeting was attended by key officials including Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension/SLUB), Parveen Kumar Gautam, Divisional Manager FCI, Santosh Kumar, AGM (Proc.) FCI, Mukesh Verma, Manager (Proc.) ECI, Dharmesh Vaid, Liaison Officer Marketing/SMS RL, along with Chief Agriculture Officers and FPOs from Jammu Division, who participated virtually.

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## GDC Marh commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

NSS unit Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with IQAC, commemorated 'Ambedkar Jayanti' in the college by organizing a guest lecture.

The guest speaker of the event was Dr. K.C. Bhagat, former Professor and Senior Scientist SKUAST, Social worker, who highlighted contribution of Dr Ambedkar towards the Indian Nation, besides throwing light on imminent need for promoting sustainable agriculture practices by adopting natural farming.

About 55 students attended the lecture and furnished an affirmative feedback that vermi-composting offers significant entrepreneurial potential, along with sustainable waste management with



production of high valued organic compost.

Dr. K.C. Bhagat congratulated the students and said "Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was a pioneer of social change and a versatile personality, made exceptional contributions to our country and society as a jurist, educationist, economist, social-reformer and political leader."

"Even today, his strong belief in the constitutional system is the foundation of our democracy and good

governance" he said and appraised the students the problems India faced after Independence such as poverty and shortage of food. He highlighted that although the Green revolution significantly boosted production and played a crucial role in combating hunger and malnutrition, but it also led to negative consequences such as soil pollution and a risk to flora and fauna which advocates the incorporation of organic farming.

In his power point presentation he explained the whole process and species of earthworms used in vermi-composting.

The event was organized under the supervision of Prof. Anita Kumari. She briefed the students about the contribution of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in present Indian democracy.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Madhvi Parasher, (HOD Botany). The event was graced by the Dr. Imtiaz Shahid, Dr. Ram Dayal, Dr. Rahul Sharma, Prof. Anjana Chib, Prof. Asha Kumari, Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Ravi Kumar, Dr. Shakun Sharma, Dr. Priya Sharma, Dr. Surbhi Gupta, and Dr. Gulzar, Dr. Nadeem, Dr. Gurleen, Dr. Samvedna, Dr. Younis. Mohit Kalotra and Rachhpal Lal provided technical support for the event.

## Dr Jitendra inaugurates Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric, Climate Research Centre at Mandlote, Chenani

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 08:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today inaugurated the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre and flagged off the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project titled ICE-Crunch at Village Mandlote, Chenani in Udhampur district.

The Indo-Swiss project, in collaboration with ETH Zurich, Switzerland, focuses on study of ice-nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the north-western Himalayas.

The event was attended by Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand, Member Legislative Assembly Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Secretary, Ministry for Earth Sciences GoI, Dr. M. Ravichandran, Vice Chancellor of Central University Jammu, Professor Sanjeev Jain, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Centre Incharge, Dr. Shweta Yadav, Registrar of Central University Jammu, Professor Yashwant Singh and other senior officers besides PRI members and locals.

While addressing a massive gathering, the Union Minister congratulated the people and expressed pride in establishment of the climate research centre in Chenani. He stated that the centre would focus on advanced research related to climate patterns including rainfall and cloudburst predictions, which are crucial for the Himalayan region. Highlighting India's scientific advancements, Dr. Singh said that prior to 2014, India was seen as a fragile economy, but today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged among the top five global economies. To realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, he emphasized the



importance of value addition from previously unexplored areas, particularly hilly regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

He added that India is leading global initiatives on climate concerns and has made remarkable improvements in weather forecasting, attributing this progress to the reforms brought under the Modi Government. Dr. Singh highlighted that in the early days of Modi 3.0, the government has already taken over 100 crucial decisions across diverse sectors, including preventive healthcare, space research and medical advancements.

Referring to Udhampur's development, the Union Minister said that the district has emerged as a model in the country. In the past five years, Udhampur has consistently ranked among the top three in PMGSY road construction. He also mentioned key achievements like the Devika Rejuvenation Project, extension of the Purple Revolution to

Latti and adjoining areas, GI tagging of Udhampur Kalari, establishment of an industrial estate and stoppage of the Vande Bharat Express at Udhampur.

Dr. Singh reiterated the government's commitment towards improving the citizens' quality of life through better service delivery and infrastructure. He emphasized that effective governance must focus on minimizing the public inconvenience.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma thanked the Union Minister for gifting such a landmark project to the region. He lauded the Central University and its team for their collaboration in the Indo-Swiss initiative, stating that this project would not only benefit India but also serve the global scientific communities. He recalled the devastating impacts of landslides and cloudbursts in the past and described the research centre as a significant step towards mitigating such disasters through scientific preparedness.

MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, also extended his gratitude to the Modi Government and Dr. Jitendra Singh for sanctioning multiple vital projects in the region. He raised several public issues and urged for their early redressal.

### >> Nagrota bypolls

## DEO Jammu briefs Political representatives about Special Summary Revision

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

District Election Officer (DEO) Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting with representatives of recognised political parties to inform them about the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2025 for the 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency, in view of the upcoming by-elections.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the political parties, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) 77-Nagrota, Vinay Kumar and Deputy DEO Jammu, Rameshwar Kumar.

During the meeting, the DEO informed the participants about the detailed guidelines and schedule of the Special Summary Revision. It was stated that the qualifying date for the current revision exercise is fixed as April 1, 2025. Eligible electors as on this

date can submit claims and objections using the prescribed forms—Form 6, for inclusion of names in the electoral roll (new voter registration); Form 7, for objections to inclusion or deletion of names and Form 8, for correction of particulars or transposition within the constituency.

"All claims and objections must be submitted on or before April 24, 2025. These can be filed with the concerned Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) of Nagrota, Dansal and Bhalwal, or directly at the ERO office located in DC Office Jammu. Submissions can also be made online through the official ECI or CEO J&K websites, or sent by post to the ERO, AC 77-Nagrota," he added.

The DEO further informed that the number of polling stations in the constituency has been rationalised and increased

from 145 to 150, with the creation of the five new polling stations for enhanced voter convenience. These are PS 41 - Nehar Par Malpur, at Government Middle School Malpur; PS 43 - Chandian Malpur, at Government Middle School Chandian Malpur; PS 114 - Upper Badsoo, at Government Mobile Middle School Badsoo; PS 118 - Sley Kah Potha, at Panchayat Ghar Kanyala Kahpotha; PS 141 - Dhan Sahanu, at Government Middle School Sahanu.

The number of electors as per the draft roll published on April 8, 2025, stands at 96,305. Copies of the draft electoral roll have been made available to the recognised political parties for their reference and facilitation of the revision process. The DEO highlighted that personal notices will be served to individuals whose names are proposed for deletion, except in cases of

death. Additionally, the DEO informed that citizens who attain the age of 18 years on the next qualifying dates, i.e., July 1 or October 1, 2025, are eligible to submit Form-6 in advance. Such applications will be processed as per the respective qualifying dates.

The participants were also made aware of the appellate mechanism in place. An appeal against any decision of the ERO can be made to the District Magistrate under Section 24(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. A second appeal, if required, can be filed before the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) under Section 24(b), following the procedure laid down in Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

For further queries or assistance, citizens may contact the Office of the Electoral Registration Officer, AC 77-Nagrota, DC Office Jammu.

## MD JJM asks Jal Shakti divisions for expenditure reconciliation by April 10



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 08

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) divisions of Kashmir province in Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of respective circles, Executive Engineers of Civil and Mechanical divisions and officers of Mission Directorate.

The MD enquired about the pace of execution of

projects in the Kashmir region. He was informed that with the arrival of outside labourers, execution of works specific to outside work force have gathered momentum while as the routine works like pipe laying and general civil works are being executed at steady pace. He directed the divisional officers to monitor these works expeditiously so that the quality of work is maintained as per set standards.

The MD directed the officers to reconcile the expenditure on Integrated

Management Information System (IMIS) and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) by 10th April 2025 as directed by the Ministry Of Jal Shakti, Government of India. He also enjoined upon the officers to clear the disparities in fund utilisation between the two portals within one week.

The meeting also discussed uploading of data on PM Gati Shakti for which refresher training will be imparted at Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir office tomorrow in batches.

## Reasi admin gears up for 3-day Baisakhi Festival at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, APRIL 08:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar convened a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the preparations for the 3-day Baisakhi Festival at the Holy Shrine of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur starting from April 11, 2025.

In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on several arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival, which draws thousands of devotees every year.

ADC Rakesh Kumar directed the concerned authorities to deploy adequate police personnel and implement appropriate



security checks to ensure the safety and security of all visitors during the Festival.

He stressed the need for a reliable and uninterrupted supply of water and electricity during the festival days and directed the concerned departments to take adequate measures. He sought special attention on the maintenance of roads, particularly the road from Simbal Choa leading to the shrine and directed

for necessary repairs well before the festival. He also instructed the traffic police to make detailed traffic arrangements including provision of parking space to ensure smooth and safe movement of vehicles.

The Municipal authori-

ties of Reasi and Katra were asked to make necessary sanitation arrangements in and around the shrine and keep the provision of mobile toilets at the strategic points for convenience of the devotees.

The Health Depart-

ment was asked to ensure the availability of medical staff, first aid kits, and ambulances at the festival site. The meeting decided to station a medical team at the shrine to deal with any medical emergencies promptly.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY   |                          |   |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| E-Auction Notice   |                          |   |
| The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division: |                          |   |
| Catalogue No.  | Auction Start            | Name of work  |
| EAZR-SCANNER-17  | 22.04.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. | Allotment of Contract for the work of provision of Parcel Scanner Machine for scanning of all outgoing parcels at Firozpur, Jalandhar City, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar Cantt, Amritsar & Pathankot Railway Station. |
| EAZR-SLR25-51  | 22.04.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. | Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14612/F1, 12470/F1, 12752/F1, 22552/F1, 12498/F1, 12238/F2, 12238/R1, 12266/F1, 19028/F1 & 22430/F1.                                |
| EAZR-SLR25-52  | 23.04.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. | Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12014/F1, 22446/F1, 14036/R1, 14680/F1, 12030/F1, 22462/F1, 16788/F1, 19804/F1, 14036/F2 & 14036/F1.                                |
| EAZR-SLR25-53  | 24.04.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. | Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 22424/F1, 14630/F1, 14730/F1, 14505/F1, 19614/F1, 14618/F1, 14730/R1, 14616/F1, 14730/F2 & 20424/F1.                                |
| For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> No. 179-C/E-auction/FZR/25 Date: 07.04.2025  |                          |   |
| <b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>  |                          |   |

# Prime Minister Modi interacts with MUDRA Yojana beneficiaries

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APR 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with MUDRA Yojana beneficiaries on the occasion of completion of 10 years of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi today. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing the cultural significance of welcoming guests and the sanctity their presence brings to a home. He invited participants to share their experiences. Shri Modi, interacting with a beneficiary who has turned a pet supplies, medicines, and services entrepreneur, highlighted the importance of expressing gratitude to those who believed in one's potential during challenging times. He asked the beneficiary to invite the bank officials who had approved loans and showcase the progress made due to the loan. Shri Modi emphasized that such actions would not only acknowledge their trust but also inspire confidence in their decision to support individuals who dared to dream big. He further noted that demonstrating the outcomes of their support would undoubtedly

make them feel proud of their contribution to fostering growth and success.

Speaking to Shri Gopi Krishna, an entrepreneur from Kerala, the Prime Minister highlighted the transformative impact of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana which enabled him to transition into a successful entrepreneur, focusing on renewable energy solutions for households and offices while creating job opportunities. The Prime Minister noted the beneficiary's journey, after deciding to resign from his company in Dubai upon learning about the Mudra Loan. He noted that the solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar initiative were completed within two days. He also heard about the reactions of beneficiaries of the PM Surya Ghar initiative, noting that households in Kerala now enjoy free electricity despite challenges such as heavy rainfall and dense tree cover. Shri Krishna remarked that electricity bills, previously around Rs 3,000, have now reduced to Rs 240-Rs 250, while his monthly earnings have reached Rs 2.5 lakh and above.

The Prime Minister further interacted with a

female entrepreneur and the founder of House of Puchka from Raipur, Chattishgarh, who shared her inspiring journey from cooking at home to establishing a successful café business. She said that research into profit margins and food cost management played a crucial role in this entrepreneurial success. She further added that there is fear in the minds of the youth, stating that many prefer settling into jobs rather than taking risks. The Prime Minister in response, highlighted the importance of risk-taking capacity and shared that the founder of House of Puchka, at the age of 23, leveraged her ability to take risks and her time effectively to build her business. The beneficiary remarked on the discussions among friends from Raipur, the corporate world, and students, noting their curiosity and questions about entrepreneurship. She further highlighted the lack of awareness among youth regarding government schemes that provide funding without requiring collateral. She expressed gratitude that schemes like Mudra Loan and PMPGP Loan offer sig-

nificant opportunities for those with potential and encouraged the youth to research these schemes and take bold steps, stating that the sky has no limits for those willing to grow and succeed. Another beneficiary, Shri Mudassir Naqshbandi, the owner of Bake My Cake in Baramulla, Kashmir, shared his journey of transitioning from being a job seeker to a job creator, adding that he has provided stable employment to 42 individuals from remote areas of Baramulla. The Prime Minister enquired about his earnings before receiving MUDRA loan, to which Mudassir replied that his earnings were in thousands, but his entrepreneurial journey has now elevated him to earning in lakhs and crores. The Prime Minister acknowledged the widespread use of UPI in Mudassir's business operations. He noted Mudassir's observation that 90% of transactions are conducted through UPI, leaving only 10% of cash in hand.

The Prime Minister then heard the inspiring journey of Shri Suresh, who transitioned from a job in Vapi to becoming a successful entrepreneur in Silvassa.

Suresh said that in 2022, he realized that a job alone would not suffice and decided to start his own business. He added that with my success, some friends are now considering applying for Mudra Loans to start their own ventures. The Prime Minister emphasized the ripple effect of such success stories in motivating others to take bold steps toward entrepreneurship.

A woman entrepreneur from Raebareilly, expressed her gratitude for the support extended to MSMEs under his leadership. She remarked on the ease of obtaining licenses and funding, which were previously challenging, and pledged to contribute to building a developed India. The Prime Minister acknowledged her emotional testimony and noted her success in running a bakery business with a monthly turnover of Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh, providing employment to seven to eight individuals.

Shri Lavkush Mehra from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, started his pharmaceutical business in 2021 with an initial loan of Rs 5 lakh. Despite initial apprehensions, he expanded his loan to Rs 9.5 lakh and achieved a turnover of over Rs 50

lakh, up from Rs 12 lakh in the first year. The Prime Minister emphasized that the Mudra Yojana is not limited to any specific group but aims to empower the youth to stand on their own feet. He remarked on Lavkush's recent achievements, including purchasing a house worth Rs 34 lakh and earning over Rs 1.5 lakh per month, a significant leap from his previous job earning Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000. The Prime Minister congratulated him and acknowledged the role of hard work in achieving success. He also urged the beneficiaries to further spread the word to people about the MUDRA loan and its benefits.

The Prime Minister then heard the inspiring journey of a young entrepreneur from Bhavnagar, Gujarat, who founded Aditya Lab at the age of 21. The entrepreneur, a final-year Mechatronics student, successfully utilized a Rs 2 lakh Mudra Loan under the Kishor category to start a business in 3D printing, reverse engineering, rapid prototyping, and robotics. The Prime Minister noted the entrepreneur's dedication, balancing college on weekdays and business

operations on weekends, earning Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 monthly while working remotely with support from family.

A woman entrepreneur from Manali shared her story of working in a vegetable market to running a successful business. She said that she started with a Rs 2.5 lakh Mudra Loan in 2015-16, which she repaid within two and a half years. With subsequent loans of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 15 lakh, she expanded her business from a vegetable shop to a ration shop, achieving an annual income of Rs 10 to Rs 15 lakh. The Prime Minister commended their determination and the positive impact of the Mudra Yojana in empowering entrepreneurs across the country.

The Prime Minister further heard the inspiring journey of a woman entrepreneur from Andhra Pradesh, who transitioned from being a housewife to running a successful business in jute bags. She remarked that after receiving training at the Rural Self Employment Training Institute in 2019, she secured a Rs 2 lakh Mudra Loan from Canara Bank without any collateral.

Due to her excellent loan repayment history, she was sanctioned an additional Rs 9.5 lakhs in 2022, showcasing the scheme's scalability and support for growth. The Prime Minister noted her determination and the bank's trust in her potential and acknowledged her dual role as a jute faculty member and entrepreneur, commending her efforts in empowering rural women through employment and skill development. The Prime Minister remarked on the transformative impact of the Mudra Yojana in fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Smt Poonam Kumari from Bihar, who overcame extreme financial hardships to become a successful entrepreneur with the support of the Mudra Yojana shared her story. She, being a member of a farmer family, said that her decision to start a business was after discussing the idea with her husband. She received an Rs 8 lakh loan under the Mudra Yojana without the need for extensive documentation. With this support, she started her business in 2024, focusing on seeds, with her husband managing the marketing aspects.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Intensify anti-terror...

to establishing lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir and completely eradicating terrorism."

He lauded the efforts of security agencies for significant reduction in terror-related incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organisations.

Shah, as per KNO, reiterated the zero tolerance policy against terrorism under the leadership of PM Modi. "Due to sustained and coordinated efforts of the Modi Government, the entire terror eco-system nurtured by elements inimical to our country in Jammu and Kashmir has been crippled."

He directed all security agencies to continue efforts with a coordinated approach to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also directed that the implementation of Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan must be ensured in mission mode. The Home Minister said, "All agencies should continue to work in a coordinated manner so that the gains made after the abrogation of Article 370 in the Union Territory can be sustained and the goal of 'terror free J&K' can be achieved at the earliest. The government led by PM Modi is providing all resources necessary to achieve this goal."

The Union Home Minister also reviewed the preparations for forthcoming annual Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to commence on July 3. He directed concerned agencies to take all necessary action for conducting pilgrimage peacefully. KNO

### Under PM Modi's...

Food & Supply were also present.

Secretary Planning, Health & Medical Education, PWD, Labour & Skill Development, Rural Development Department and Director General Economic & Statics also attended the meeting.

The Union Home Minister directed the officials to take all necessary steps to further accelerate the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir so that the full potential of the Union Territory can be utilized. "The all-inclusive development in every aspect of public welfare underlines the Modi government's commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir through positive reforms," Shah said, as per KNO.

The Union Home Minister said that the government led by PM Modi is working with an unwavering resolve towards building a developed Jammu and Kashmir. "The tireless efforts of Prime Minister Modi are ushering in a new era of prosperity for every citizen through development and welfare initiatives," he added.

Shah said that Jammu and Kashmir is accelerating on the path of growth in every sector. "Untiring efforts of the Modi Government to accelerate the pace of development in J&K have resulted in comprehensive changes in all sectors in the Union Territory," he said.

During the review meeting, the achievements of the Union Territory in the fields of power, connectivity, industry, tourism, agriculture etc. were presented to the Union Home Minister, said an official.

Apart from this, the financial assistance given to Jammu and Kashmir so far by the Union Home Ministry and the financial assistance allocated to the Union Territory under various heads in the financial year 2024-25 was also mentioned in the presentation, he added. KNO

### Three more J&K...

Shah said the move represents a growing shift in the region's political landscape. "Three more organisations, namely Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front, disassociate themselves from the Hurriyat. It is a prominent demonstration of the people's trust in the Constitution of India within the valley," Shah wrote on social media platform X.

In his statement, the Home Minister linked the development to the broader national framework, saying

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach toward Jammu and Kashmir was gaining traction.

He added that these steps strengthen the path toward integration.

This announcement follows a similar development last month when several other constituents of the Hurriyat Conference declared their dissociation from the alliance. These included the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement led by Shahid Saleem, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement led by advocate Shafi Reshi and the Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement headed by Mohd Sharief Sartaj.

On March 25, Shah commented that these decisions were the outcome of government policies that have focused on national integration in the region.

Within days, two more organisations including Jammu and Kashmir Tahreeqi Isteqlal, led by Ghulam Nabi Sofi, and Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek-I-Istiqamat, led by Ghulam Nabi War also separated from Hurriyat. KNO

### Disruptions continue...

Lone taunted them. "Tulip, Tulip, Rijju, Rijju, "Lone was repeatedly chanting in an apparent reference to photographs of Omar Abdullah with Union Minister Kiren Rijju at the Tulip Garden in Srinagar.

Amid commotion in the House, Para attempted to storm into the well of the House to push for passage of the resolution.

"You should first pass a resolution against the Waqf Bill. This is an important issue. It is the question of our religion," he said, accusing NC legislators of siding with BJP.

The Speaker directed the Marshals to remove him from the Assembly.

As Para was being escorted out by the Marshals, Sajad Lone attempted to intervene, trying to free him from their grasp.

There was no end to chaos after Para was removed from the House as NC legislators continued with their demand for discussions.

Amid protests, the Speaker said that J&K Legislative Assembly cannot overturn the decisions made by the Parliament

"You cannot undo what Parliament has done," he declared, stressing that there is no question of discussion over the House.

He also adjourned the House for 30 minutes.

As the House reconvened after adjournment, NC MLAs persisted with demand for discussion on the House.

Citing sub-Rule 9 of Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the Speaker said that the motion cannot be entertained as it is not concern of the government.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, however, said it is the concern of the government.

"If it (Waqf Bill) is the concern of members of the House, it is the concern of the government too. We cannot say it is not the concern of the government," he said.

NC minister Javid Ahmad Dar also countered the Speaker, saying the matter is of concern for the government.

Amid continuous disruptions by NC MLAs, the Speaker adjourned the House till 1: 00 PM.

As the House reassembled, NC MLA Mubarak Gul urged the Speaker to allow discussion on the issue.

As Gul continued with the demand, the BJP legislators shouted slogans "Dramabazi Bandh Karo" and "Gundahgardi Nahi Chalegi", triggering chaos in the House.

The Speaker adjourned the House for the day. KNO

### SC, ST Judges 53...

officers. As of December 31, 2022, Jammu and Kashmir had 39 SC/ST judicial officers across its district and subordinate courts. This included 9 SC and 8 ST Judges

at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 6 SC and 6 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 7 SC and 3 ST Judges serving as District Judges. The numbers reflected minor changes compared to previous years.

By December 31, 2023, the working strength of SC/ST judicial officers slightly decreased to 38. This included 9 SC and 7 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 6 SC and 6 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 5 SC and 3 ST Judges at the District Judge level. The overall representation saw a small dip but remained relatively stable.

As of December 31, 2024, the representation of SC/ST judicial officers in Jammu and Kashmir rose significantly to 54—the highest in the five-year span. The composition included 13 SC and 11 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 6 SC and 7 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 9 SC and 8 ST Judges serving as District Judges.

By April 2025, the total strength slightly decreased to 53 SC/ST judicial officers. This figure comprised 13 SC and 11 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Junior Division) level, 6 SC and 7 ST Judges at the Civil Judge (Senior Division) level, and 9 SC and 7 ST Judges at the District Judge level. Despite the marginal dip, the representation remained strong and consistent. KNO

### Temp plummets...

and gusty winds 30-40 KMPH in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of intermittent spells of light rain and snow (higher reaches) for the next two days at many places of Kashmir division & scattered places of Jammu division with possibility of thunderstorm and gusty winds (30-40 KMPH) at few places.

He also predicted light rain and snow (higher reaches) at scattered places towards morning & improvement thereafter on April 11, adding 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.

Meanwhile, the travellers, tourists and transporters have been advised to follow administration and traffic advisory while the farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations for the next two days. KNO

### Over 25,000...

Kullay and Javid Ahmad Mirchal, the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department Minister, as reported by the news agency, said 9,775 drug abusers were registered in OPD in the year 2022, followed by 8,700 in 2023 and 6,925 in 2024. Similarly, 306 drug abusers were registered in IPD in 2022, 586 in 2023, and 703 in 2024.

Itoo said the Health and Medical Education Department is aware of the gravity of the drug menace and recognises it as a highly sensitive issue requiring collective efforts for its eradication.

She said the enforcement of stringent laws to curb this menace is the prerogative of law enforcement agencies like the Police and the CID Organization, which fall under the exclusive control of the Home Department.

The minister highlighted the steps taken by the H&ME Department, which include the implementation of the comprehensive Drug De-Addiction Policy (2019), issued via Government Order No. 41-HME of 2019 dated 11.01.2019. The policy outlines detailed measures to address the problem and defines the roles of all stakeholders and government departments.

Currently, there are 20 De-Addiction Centres across all districts of the UT of J&K—11 in the Kashmir Division and 9 in Jammu Division—providing wide coverage and easier access to treatment. OPD services are available in all these centres, and IPD facilities have been established in all nine Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of the UT. All aspects of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR 2018-23) are being

implemented in J&K, she added.

Itoo said the Social Welfare Department has adopted an aggressive approach to eradicate the drug menace and ensure the rehabilitation of victims. "Three drug de-addiction centres, recognised by the government, are currently functional in Rajouri, Kulgam, and Bandipora districts, and are being run by NGOs in government institutions/buildings," she said.

The minister added that three ODICs (Outreach and Drop-in Centres) are functional—one each in Jammu, Srinagar, and Kupwara—and two CPLIs (Community Peer-Led Interventions) are operational in Jammu and Srinagar. She said proposals for the establishment of three more drug de-addiction centres in Udhampur, Reasi, and Ramban, to be run through District Red Cross Societies, have been submitted to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for approval and sanction.

However, Itoo added that there is no exclusive drug addiction or rehabilitation centre established specifically for women. "Nevertheless, treatment and necessary support for rehabilitation is being provided to drug addicts, including both men and women," she said. KNO

### Free bus service...

both urban and rural areas are using the service to travel to schools, colleges, offices and marketplaces.

As per the details obtained by the news agency, bus stops now witness large turnouts, especially during peak hours—8 to 10 AM, midday, and 4 to 6 PM.

According to Smart City data, accessed by a KNO Correspondent, the daily ridership on electric buses has doubled since the scheme began. "Where earlier we saw around 20,000 to 21,000 people using the service, the number has now risen to more than 40,000," said an official.

Presently, more than 95 plus air-conditioned electric buses operate on more than 30 plus routes, carrying nearly 50,000 women passengers every day.

Passengers have lauded the move, especially during the hot summer days. "More than half of my salary was spent on daily travel. Now, I save that money and can spend it on essentials," said a working woman from the outskirts of the city.

Officials also acknowledged the initiative and added they had a substantial social impact, especially in empowering women and reducing their dependency on private or unsafe transport options. "To ensure the scheme remains viable in the long term, authorities are considering various funding mechanisms and government subsidies." KNO

### No proposal to...

to provide loan relief to farmers burdened under KCC borrowing.

It is pertinent to mention that the stakeholders have been urging the administration to consider a one-sided loan waiver, as a relief measure to mitigate the crises.

Notably, KCC scheme, launched by the government of India to provide timely access to credit for farmers has seen wide adoption in Jammu and Kashmir, however, many reportedly 'struggled' to repay. KNO

### Over 4 lakh kanals...

of purposes including commercial, industrial, and residential developments," he said.

He also said that land measuring 40,151 Kanals and 17.5 Marlas has been transferred to the Industries and Commerce Department across Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister said that 94 Kanals have been transferred in Gulmarg only, with 50 Kanals in Hardubani village and 44 Kanals in Lalpora village. KNO

## DC Bandipora chairs Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting, stresses on 100% enrollment

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting at mini secretariat, here.

The meeting discussed threadbare various agenda points including Aadhaar Saturation across different age groups, operational Aadhaar Centers, Biometric updates, Birth Registration based Aadhaar Enrollment and other issues.

The Project Manager, UIDAI presented a detailed briefing on the Aadhaar saturation status in the district besides highlighted various issues and measures required to saturate left out population.

It was informed that 64 Aadhaar Enrollment Centers are currently operational in the district.



DC directed the concerned departments to ensure that all non-functional Aadhaar centers are made functional without delay.

Qadri urged the Education Department, ICDS, and Health Department to take the lead in Aadhaar enrollment to achieve 100 percent saturation.

He emphasized the need for conducting awareness camps on Aadhaar enrollment and organizing training sessions for Aadhaar operators to enhance the efficiency of enrollment services.

Among others, the meeting was attended by DPO Poshan Project Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; ADC, Zaffar Husson Shawl; CMO, LDM, State Project Manager UIDAI, Representatives of India Post, India Post Payment Bank, and other concerned.

## Poshan Pakhwada-2025 activities inaugurated in Reasi



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, APRIL 08

The Poshan Pakhwada-2025 activities were formally inaugurated here today at a collaborative event organized by the Department of Women and Child Development. The event witnessed the participation of key officials and field functionaries dedicated to improving nutritional outcomes in the district.

Suninderjeet Kour (CDPO Reasi), Dr. Lekha Bhasin (CDPO Pouni), and Shahid Mughal (CDPO Arnas and Mahore) jointly inaugurated the campaign in the presence of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), and Supervisors. The event marked the beginning of a fortnight-long campaign aimed at raising awareness about nutrition, health, and well-being among women, children, and adolescent girls.

As part of the launch, the participants also attended the live inaugural webcast of Poshan Pakhwada 2025, organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (W&CD), Government of India. The webcast emphasized the critical role of local-level interventions in addressing malnutrition and promoting healthy dietary practices.

The officials encouraged all stakeholders to actively engage with the community throughout the outreach and IEC (Information, Education, Communication) activities. The campaign will include home visits, growth monitoring drives, Poshan rallies, recipe demonstrations, and community-based events to reinforce the importance of balanced nutrition and maternal-child health.

Poshan Pakhwada 2025 reflects the government's continued commitment to the objectives of the POSHAN Abhiyaan – ensuring holistic nourishment for every child and woman in the country.



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, APRIL 08

The Department of Rural Development today marked a significant milestone in rural housing development through a comprehensive workshop and awareness camp on the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The transformative initiative brought together rural residents, officials, and stakeholders to accelerate the mission of "Housing for All" across the district.

The strategically organized event was inaugurated by Director RDD Mohammad Mumtaz Ali along with District Development Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma. The event unveiled pathways for hundreds of rural families to realize their dream of owning a pucca house through the government's flagship housing scheme.

"This workshop represents our unwavering commitment to transform rural living conditions and ensure no eligible family remains without dignified housing in Samba district," said the District Development Commissioner.

Participants received expert guidance on navigating eligibility criteria, application procedures and utilizing digital platforms like the Awaas+ app –empowering them with knowledge to access benefits efficiently. The interactive sessions featured success stories from previous beneficiaries, demonstrating the life-changing impact of the scheme.

The Department has established dedicated support channels for ongoing assistance. Rural residents of Samba district seeking information about PMAY-G benefits can contact the Department of Rural Development, District Samba, or visit [www.pmayg.gov.in](http://www.pmayg.gov.in).

Other attendees included ADDC Champa Thakur; ACD Mehmood Riaz; ACP Narsingh Dayal Verma, along with Block Development Officers and Rural Engineering Wing officials.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is the Government of India's flagship program aimed at providing affordable housing contributing significantly to rural development and quality of life improvement.

## Social Welfare Department Reasi organises Divyang Registration Camp at Mahore



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, APRIL 08

Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with ALIMCO, a central agency, on Tuesday organized an assessment camp for Divyangs and Senior Citizens at Palash Boys Home- Mahore. The aim of the camp was to assess and register all the targeted Divyangs with 40% or more benchmark disability and Senior Citizens with age of 60 years and above under ADIP and RVY schemes, respectively. The registered beneficiaries would be provided free of cost equipment and appliances which includes hearing aids, wheelchairs, tricycles, artificial limbs, walking sticks, motorised tricycles etc. by ALIMCO.

Speaking about the

camp, District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma said that the scheme is for disabled citizens of BPL category. He informed that by taking Aadhaar card, ration card, UDID Card and photographs from the divyangs, the eligible beneficiaries are being registered on the concerned portal. He further informed that these camps, started on 05th April, shall continue till 11th April across various locations of the district to register maximum number of eligible citizens for the government scheme to make an inclusive society. As many as 250 disabled and senior citizens were registered in this assessment camp held in the far flung area of Tehsil Mahore of district Reasi.

## GDC Ramgarh hosts documentary screening on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBHA, APRIL 08

The NSS Unit "Prabha" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh organized a documentary screening to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a beacon of knowledge and social justice.

The event was conducted under the esteemed guidance of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who encouraged the volunteers to follow the path of knowledge, equality,

and justice as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar. The activity was coordinated by Prof. Brahm Dutt, NSS Programme Officer, who highlighted the importance of educating students about Dr. Ambedkar's life, struggles, and contributions to the nation.

The screening aimed to instill in students the values of social equality, justice, and constitutional rights, and saw active participation from NSS volunteers. All faculty members of the college attended the event.

## ADC Handwara inspects functioning of District Hospital



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, APRIL 08

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today paid a surprise visit to District Hospital Handwara to inspect its functioning.

During the visit, the ADC inspected various sections of the Hospital including OPD, Emergency, Gynea and other wards, and checked the duty roster of the doctors

and hospital staff. The ADC interacted with the patients and enquired about the healthcare and treatment facilities provided in the hospital.

He also interacted with the doctors and medical staff, and impressed upon them to work with more dedication and ensure that all the patients especially coming from far flung areas are provided better healthcare facilities.

## DM orders mandatory CCTV Camera installation at Business establishments in Doda District

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 08

District Magistrate Harvinder Singh today ordered mandatory installation of CCTV cameras of all shops, coaching centers, showrooms, petrol pumps, shopping malls, eating points, hotels, etc.

"In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by virtue of section 163 BNSS, I District Magistrate Doda Harvinder Singh do hereby make this written order for strict compliance by the owners of all shops, coaching centers, showrooms, petrol pumps, shopping malls eating points, hotels etc. of District Doda, who shall within a period of two weeks (14 days) from the date of issuance of this order shall, Install CCTV camera(s) in their shops, coaching centers, showrooms, petrol pumps, shopping malls, eating points, hotels etc. The cameras should be installed/located in such a way that it should cover the approach areas at the entry and exit points of establishments/market association of shops and entry and exit points of parking lots of the establishment/market association of shops up to a distance of 40 meters" the order stated.

The Order further directs to "Ensure that the CCTV system installed is in working condition 24 x 7, even when the establishment is closed. The CCTV system should be of good quality with minimum resolution of 1920 X 1080, Minimum Illumination of 0.01 Lux, Focal length 3.6 mm, built in IR and retention period of 30 days, with feature to playback as well as download the recording. Provide the CCTV footage to the police and other law enforcing agencies whenever demanded."

The owners have been further asked to "Inform the Station House Officer of their nearest Police Station in case any suspicious movement or activity is observed in the CCTV system."

"The Senior Superintendent of Police Doda shall ensure the strict implementation of this order in letter and spirit and any contravention of this order shall attract legal consequences as are contemplated under relevant sections of law" the order reads further.

## DLRAC approves 16 rent cases at Udhampur

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 08

The District Level Rent Assessment Committee meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan, concerned officers besides other stakeholders attended the meeting. Detailed discussions were held on various aspects regarding fixation of rent of private buildings hired for housing government offices. During the meeting, 16 rent cases pertaining to different government departments were approved by the Committee.

## DC reviews Solar electrification, Power Infrastructure development in District Doda

DODA, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh chaired an important meeting today at the DC Office Complex to review the development of power infrastructure under RDSS and solar electrification in the district.

The meeting focused on key schemes like RDSS and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana with special emphasis on rural areas.

Directions were issued for accelerating the installation of solar systems especially in un-electrified regions. The DC appointed Executive Engineer PDD Doda as the nodal officer for solar mobilisation in tribal areas and for the installation of solar electrification in government buildings. All requirements for the successful implementation of solar systems have been targeted and are under active review.

During the meeting the progress of RDSS was



also reviewed. Directions were issued to prioritize the urban feeders in Doda Town and Bhandarwah, while ensuring that rural feeders in higher reaches are covered based on climatic conditions.

The meeting also discussed the electrification of leftover areas in the District and directions were issued to concerned officials to complete the task before the upcoming winter.

Further the DC reviewed the installation

and replacement of damaged electric poles and wires. He emphasized the need to speed up the installation of smart meters and electric poles under the RDSS initiative especially in the Thathri and Bhellessa areas where the installation rate is currently low.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Executive Engineer JPDCL, AEEs and other officials from the department and private vendors.

## DC Kulgam reviews implementation of HADP credit-linked schemes

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives of banking institutions here today to review the implementation of credit-linked schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

The meeting focused on assessing the performance matrix, sanctioning and disbursement status of cases under HADP in the district.

The DC directed all concerned departments and banks to ensure maximum outreach, covering every farmer and farming family in the district under these schemes.

He set the target of 1500 registrations in different schemes with credit linkage and disbursement before the end of this



month. Khan emphasized the need for block-level credit outreach camps to raise awareness among farmers about beneficiary-oriented schemes.

He reiterated that achieving the desired targets in the agricultural sector requires the proactive involvement of banks in providing hassle-free credit facilities to farmers.

He further underscored the necessity of strong coordination between banks and government departments to ensure credit linkage and seamless implementation of schemes benefiting the farming community.

The meeting was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD, CPO and other officers.

## EDITORIAL

## Waning of Separatism?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir marks not just a political itinerary, but a symbolic shift in the region's evolving narrative. Once a stronghold of separatist sentiments, Kashmir is witnessing a quiet but profound transformation, with former separatist leaders publicly distancing themselves from the Hurriyat Conference and aligning with India's constitutional framework. The latest and notable defection is that of Bashir Ahmad Andrabi, leader of the Kashmir Freedom Front (KFF), who unequivocally severed ties with the Hurriyat Conference. In a written statement, Andrabi criticized the Hurriyat for failing to represent the true aspirations of the people and warned of legal consequences for any attempts to re-link him or his organization with the separatist bloc. His exit is not isolated—it follows in the footsteps of other former separatist figures like Ghulam Nabi War of Tehreek-i-Istiqamat, as well as organizations such as the Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Political Movement (JKDPM) and the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM). These defections signify more than personal or organizational realignments—they underscore a growing disillusionment with the Hurriyat's agenda, which once dominated Kashmir's political discourse. At its peak, the Hurriyat Conference—an umbrella of 26 social, political, and religious groups—commanded widespread influence, orchestrating protests, shutdowns, and voicing secessionist rhetoric. However, the ground reality today is markedly different. The post-2019 abrogation of Article 370, coupled with intensified grassroots engagement and improved security conditions, has steadily eroded the space for separatist politics. Minister Shah was quick to commend these developments, terming them as a reflection of "growing national cohesion." Indeed, the move away from separatist ideologies toward the Indian constitutional mainstream suggests a strengthening of democratic institutions in the region. It also mirrors a broader societal shift—one where the pursuit of peace, development, and integration is beginning to resonate louder than slogans of resistance and alienation. Still, these changes should not be taken for granted. The government's responsibility now lies in ensuring that this political shift is matched with sustained socio-economic development, political inclusivity, and respect for civil liberties. Peace in Jammu and Kashmir will not be secured merely through the decline of separatist forces, but through the rise of hope, opportunity, and justice for every resident of the Valley. The slow dissolution of the Hurriyat's influence, once thought unshakeable, is a moment of reckoning. It represents not just the failure of a separatist ideology, but the resilience of democratic values when met with patience, reform, and consistent outreach. As more voices turn toward reconciliation and constitutional engagement, a new chapter may finally be opening for Jammu and Kashmir—one of stability, participation, and a shared national destiny.

## Trump's tsunami: The end of global trade

SHIVAJI SARKAR

One man has rewritten world trade rules. Reciprocity is the name of the game. Difficult to find fault with his arguments. What you are doing to America, its President, Donald Trump, has now decided to do to you. Cold War having gone, the scope for others to play off one superpower against the other is not available and challenging times lie ahead for world leaders and diplomats.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) better self-deport itself from the scene! In a world in turmoil, unilateralism replaces multilateralism. India certainly is in a quagmire, as all WTO principles and protection walls are being felled with 26 per cent tariff – 50 per cent of 52 per cent allegedly being charged by India.

The reciprocal tariff is in addition to the existing one. Automobiles or parts have a 25 per cent tariff, and another 26 per cent is to be levied. It could hit the country's major export pillar – the IT services.

But that is not the peak of absurdity. In his absurd passion for world tariffs, fuelled by zeal for bulldozing world order, Trump has imposed a 10 per cent tariff on the uninhabited, volcanic Heard and McDonald Islands – one of the remotest places on Earth, home to penguins, near Antarctica – an external territory of Australia, reached by a two-week boat ride from Perth.

The last visit to this forsaken place by people is believed to be nearly 10 years ago. But data show that the US had imports of \$15,000 to \$325,000 in machinery a year during the past five years! Such tariff-hit territories include the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, and Norfolk Island. Norfolk, a 2,000-inhabited island, gets a 29 per cent tariff for its tiny footwear exports of \$655,000 to the US.

The islands are part of Aus-

tralia. Leading Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reacted on April 3 – a day after Trump's moves roiling the world – "Nowhere on Earth is safe." India thus is not in an unviable position. At best, it can wonder whether it would remain fascinated with the New World as the order collapses. Would it look for new trade avenues?

It is trying, but has not yet found a lucrative market. Even as the US sinks, it remains a "superpower". It knows that the US system itself has gone beyond sane moves – forcing India to extend several concessions, even in pro-Trump or better say, Joe Biden – days, on agriculture and other products.

The more it yields, the more it is being subjected to shed. India needs a charter for negotiating world chaos. It was once at the forefront of establishing multilateralism since its glorious Non-Aligned Movement.

It has lost the edge during the 30 years of globalisation, getting closer to the US – perhaps fascinated by its economic power. And now, as Trump announces April 2 as Liberation Day, it is looking for new avenues. The new tariffs include a universal 10 per cent duty on all imports into the US starting from April 5, with an additional 16 per cent to be applied from April 10. The reciprocal tariff imposed is a big blow to India's exports, affecting multiple industries. Key sectors could be hit. Ranging from small to big, company revenues are likely to fall.

**\$23 bn Concessions**

India has a trade surplus of \$46 billion. Hit by the big brother, it may slash import duties worth \$23 billion on US goods, including gems, jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and auto parts. Would that soften the blow? India's top exports to the US are engineering goods – \$17.6 billion (bn) in 2023-24 and \$18.6 bn in 2022-23; electronic goods – \$10.1 bn and \$5.7 bn; gems and

jewellery – \$9.9 bn and \$12.5 bn; pharmaceuticals – \$8.7 bn and \$7.5 bn; textiles – \$9.2 bn and \$9.7 bn; and petroleum products – \$10.10 bn and \$5.8 bn.

The imports are: \$5.2 bn petroleum oil in 2023-24 and \$10 bn in 2022-23; petroleum gases – \$1.2 bn and \$1.9 bn; petroleum coke – \$1.54 bn and \$1.9 bn; aircraft – \$2.09 bn and \$2.11 bn; and nuts – \$1.02 bn and \$1.11 bn. The new tariffs are likely to have short-term and long-term implications for the overall economy, trade relations, currency markets, investments in businesses, and stock markets.

There is a view that compared to other countries like China (54 per cent tariff), Vietnam (46 per cent), Thailand (36 per cent), Taiwan and Indonesia (32 per cent each), the impact is less on India. The reality may be harsher and the industry would have to make wider adjustments – do cost-cutting and reduce product prices.

The tariffs are likely to hit autos, pharmaceuticals, and IT. Additional duties may hit hard automobiles and auto parts, cars, and light trucks. Tata Motors – the parent company of Jaguar Land Rover, which exports to the US – saw its shares fall 5 per cent following the tariff announcement, while Sona Comstar, an Indian global automotive systems manufacturer, declined 4 per cent.

The pharmaceutical sector may also come under pressure. Although specific tariff rates are yet to be detailed, the US remains a key market for Indian drug exports, and any hike in duties could impact revenue. However, pharma products have reportedly been exempted from the latest round of US reciprocal tariffs.

**Steel, Farms, IT Hit**

Sectors such as steel and agriculture are likely to be hit, with the impact first reflected in the stock market. Indian equities may come under pressure – particularly export-driven sectors

like pharmaceuticals and IT – amid fears of retaliation. It could disrupt global supply chains.

Rising trade tensions may weigh on the rupee and dampen FDI, though domestic stimulus could cushion some of the blow. Japan's auto sector may face export hurdles, pressuring the Nikkei. Globally, risk-off sentiment could boost the US dollar and Treasuries. Investors should closely track retaliatory moves and sector-specific vulnerabilities. India's diplomacy will be changing on the pattern summed up best by Minister for External Affairs, who in 2022 said, "This is a time for us to engage America, manage China, cultivate Europe, reassure Russia, bring Japan into play, draw neighbours in, extend the neighbourhood and expand traditional constituencies of support." China may emerge as a friend, and the US may not be a foe in the new order as trade diversifies. Being optimistic is a natural human phenomenon.

Every Indian expert, including former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, says the country would emerge stronger, as it has done with each crisis. There are others who are critical of the accommodative Indian approach. Many wanted the country to retaliate like China, a prime Trump target. China announced imposition of a 34 per cent tax on all US imports next week, part of a flurry of retaliatory measures.

Trump threatens an additional 50 per cent tariff on China and a termination of negotiations if Beijing does not withdraw its retaliatory measures. But China has called for global digital Renminbi (Chinese Yuan) settlements – making the US fear of de-dollarisation sharper.

Trump has already expressed disdain over the BRICS bid to move away from dollars. He forgets that many nations, including India, have taken to trade in gold, as till three months ago it cost less than the dollar.

With central banks of many countries rushing for gold purchases, gold prices shot up by 15 per cent. Since the "Liberation Day" US announcement, gold slipped 2.7 per cent or \$3,000 an ounce. It is predicted to fall further. Stock markets across the globe – the US, Asia, and Europe – are crashing since the April 2 shockwaves.

Hong Kong's stock market suffered its steepest single-day decline in nearly three decades amid a wave of panic selling. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index plummeted 13 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei fell 8.6 per cent, and Shanghai's Composite dropped 7 per cent. European equity markets are experiencing their worst session since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, as investors continue to flee from risky assets. European trade officials are meeting in Luxembourg to discuss tariffs, with Germany calling it "nonsense".

Indian companies are witnessing the sharpest wave of earnings downgrades. Foreign portfolio exits are causing severe concern. The Trump trade war sees everyone losing.

The internal US financial crisis has led to severe protests in 50 American states, as they fear harsh economic conditions with prices zooming. It reminds one of the 1930s when the Great Depression in the US gradually escalated to World War II. Could it happen again?

A pessimistic trading nation – tiny Singapore, at least has expressed the apprehension. Though so far nobody has said the tariff barrier could break into a global armed conflict, the trade war is destabilising the global system – more likely to be unfolded in the coming weeks and reflect how India fares amid the glut of unwanted American imports.

**(The writer is a veteran journalist; Views are personal)**

## Cooperative university to power dairy sector

MEENESH SHAH

The Government's belief in the power of cooperatives in rural development and nation-building has led to pathbreaking initiatives under the vision "Sahkar-se-Samridhi" of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021 under the able leadership of Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home and Cooperation, it has been the endeavour of the Government that the cooperative sector gets the same opportunities as the corporate sector.

Among many other initiatives, the establishment of Tribhuvan Sahkari University (TSU) is an unprecedented step in strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. Dairying has been a traditional household activity since time immemorial; however, due to decades of neglect during British rule, India turned into a milk-deficit, import-dependent nation. Post-independence, the rising population led to declining milk availability, and dependence on imports increased. The milk production during the 1950s and 1960s was stagnant and hovered around 20 million metric tonnes. The per capita availability of milk declined from 130 grams per day to 112 grams per day during this period.

In such a situation, a glimmer of hope emerged from a remote city in Gujarat – Anand – a city synonymous with India's cooperative success story and known as India's milk capital. It is the very place where a successful cooperative movement inspired by the freedom struggle led to the establishment of Amul in 1946. The dairy farmers of the Kheda region were being exploited by middlemen and Polson Dairy, who arbitrarily decided prices and controlled the intake of milk on their whims and fancies.

The dairy farmers decided to call a "milk strike" and stopped supplying milk to Polson. They approached Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for help, who inspired them to form their dairy cooperative under the guidance of young freedom fighter Shri Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel. Shri Tribhuvandas Patel spearheaded the

formation of village dairy cooperatives in Anand – and thus Amul was born, with just two village dairy cooperative societies and about 250 litres of milk collection.

The movement quickly spread and more dairy farmers started joining. Shri Tribhuvandas Patel also brought Dr Verghese Kurien to Amul and inspired him to remain with Amul. Amul has never looked back since then – becoming a household name today and rated amongst the world's strongest food brands.

While dairying was flourishing in Gujarat post-independence, it continued to struggle elsewhere in the country. When the then Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri ji visited Anand to inaugurate a Cattle Feed Plant in 1964, he was keen to study the success of dairy cooperatives in Gujarat and spent a night at Ajarpura village.

Impressed by the success of dairy cooperatives in Gujarat, Shastri ji promulgated the formation of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 1965 to replicate the success of Amul across India. In 1970, NDDB initiated the implementation of Operation Flood (OF) – the world's largest dairy development programme – following the Anand model of cooperation. OF – or the White Revolution – gained momentum and started showing tremendous results. Post-OF, NDDB has continued spearheading the development of the dairy sector through large-scale programmes such as the Perspective Plan and National Dairy Plan I.

These large-scale dairy development programmes have eventually transformed India from a milk-deficient nation into the world's largest milk producer – and today, India contributes one-fourth of the global milk output alone. It has also enabled the dairy farmers to get the maximum share of the consumer rupee, as cooperatives pass on 75-80 per cent of the revenue to the dairy farmers through remunerative, fair, and transparent pricing. The dairy cooperatives not only provide safe and nutritious milk and milk products at affordable prices to consumers but also provide livelihoods to crores of

dairy farmers across the country.

During OF implementation in the country, NDDB experienced that such large-scale programmes, dealing with crores of people, needed rural management professionals with skill sets to manage complex rural environments. This led to the birth of an institution – namely the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) – that was established with a vision of promoting sustainable, ecologically friendly, and equitable socio-economic development of rural people through professional management.

IRMA was established in 1979 with financial and technical support from NDDB, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Government of India, the erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation, and the Government of Gujarat, which provided land.

IRMA has now become a premier institution dedicated to cooperative and rural management. It is a matter of great pride that IRMA is now set to achieve a historic milestone with the establishment of Tribhuvan Sahkari University (TSU) at its campus in Anand, Gujarat – rightly chosen as the place for India's first cooperation university.

IRMA is all set to expand its legacy with the establishment of TSU. The university has been aptly named after Tribhuvandas Patel ji, who started the cooperative movement in the dairy sector.

Since then, dairy cooperatives have been the shining example of the most successful cooperative model for any agricultural commodity in the country. The success of dairy cooperatives has inspired the spirit of cooperation in many other sectors.

The unique and remarkable idea of a dedicated cooperative university was first proposed by Shri Amit Shah ji, the first Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation, to honour Tribhuvandas Patel's contributions to India's cooperative movement and to create a world-class institution that fosters research, policy formulation, and leadership development in the cooperative sector. This university will be one of its kind – and India's first dedicated cooperative institution for

higher education. The TSU will leverage IRMA's 40+ years of expertise in rural and cooperative management.

The TSU will help strengthen the rural economy, develop the ecosystem of self-employment and small entrepreneurship, increase social inclusion, and increase opportunities to set new standards in innovation and research.

It will impart technical education and management training in the cooperative sector; promote cooperative research and development; attain standards of global excellence; and strengthen the cooperative movement in the country through a network of institutions.

The TSU will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a body corporate and will be declared an institution of national importance. It will have the capacity to provide education to about 8 lakh candidates every year.

The colleges affiliated with the university will be opened across the country. IRMA will continue to function as an autonomous school under TSU and will be declared a centre of excellence for rural management. As a result, there will be an infusion of new blood into the cooperative movement – with young, dynamic professionals graduating from TSU. India will get a new cooperative leadership – inspired by the spirit of cooperation and equipped with modern education.

The establishment of an exclusive national university for cooperatives will surely prove to be a landmark initiative and will go a long way in grooming manpower resources aligned to the needs of the sector. Tribhuvan Sahkari University will not just be another academic institution – but a movement to ensure that India's cooperative sector grows further by leaps and bounds.

By blending traditional cooperative values with modern management practices, it aims to produce leaders who can replicate the Amul success story in agriculture, banking, and other rural enterprises. Passage of the TSU Act could not have had better timing – as not only is it the International Year of Cooperatives

of the UN, but more importantly, we are also embarking on the journey of establishing viable PACS / dairy / fishery cooperatives in the uncovered panchayats and villages, and strengthening the existing PACS / dairy / fishery cooperative societies across the country in the next five years – ushering in White Revolution 2.0 under the guidance of the Ministry of Cooperation.

The main objective of this initiative is to empower crores of small and marginal farmer members to reap the benefits of equitable regional development and bridge the gap in rural prosperity.

The Government of India has targeted to establish 2 lakh multipurpose PACS / dairy / fishery cooperatives in the next five years to cover all the gram panchayats under any form of cooperative – with the help of NABARD, NDDB, and the National Fishery Development Board (NFDB).

As per the plan, NABARD will form about 70 thousand new multipurpose PACS (M-PACS); NDDB will form and strengthen about 1.21 lakh Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS); NFDB will establish about 12 thousand Fishery Cooperative Societies (FCS); and in addition to these, about 25 thousand new M-PACS / dairy / fishery cooperatives will be formed by the state governments.

Along with other resources, this massive effort will require lots of trained manpower and this is where the establishment of TSU will supplement our efforts and provide critical manpower support for the success of White Revolution 2.0. It will truly contribute to realising the vision of "Sahkar-se-Samridhi" in India.

Through strong government backing and IRMA's expertise, TSU is poised to become a global benchmark in cooperative education – invigorating and revitalising the cooperative sector, driving India's next phase of rural prosperity, and making India a developed nation by 2047.

**(The author is Chairman and Managing Director of NDDB and Chairman of IRMA, with four decades of experience in the dairy sector; Views are personal)**

## Ganesh Sharma's art works published in International Art and Literature Magazine "Al Fayad" Iraq

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

Well known Eminent Senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma's art works selected and published in International Art and Literature Magazine "Al Fayad" published by "Al Fayad International Academy for peace, culture and arts" Iraq. The issue Shawwal 5, 1448, issued on April 04, 2025.

Ganesh Sharma's three art works marvelous marvel stone Sculptures, selected by International Jury Members appointed by the management of the Academy, from invited entries across the world and published in this prestigious International Magazine.

It is to mention here that "Al Fayad International Academy for peace, culture and Arts is accredited by more than twenty Arab and International bodies. Eminent Sculptor



Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and recipient of so many States,

National and International awards and honors from so many different art organizations at National and international levels.

## Grand Inauguration Ceremony of Smart & A. C. Classroom at GPS Upper Rajwal

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJWAL, JOURIAN | APRIL 8, 2025

In a remarkable step towards redefining primary education, Govt. Primary School Upper Rajwal today hosted a grand inauguration ceremony of its newly upgraded Smart & Air-Conditioned Classroom, equipped with modern teaching aids and facilities aligned with the NEP 2020 guidelines.

The inauguration was gracefully carried out by Sh. Bhushan Bral, DDC Member Bhalwal Brahmana, and Dr. (Prof.) Archana Kesar, Sahitya Akademi Awardee and Former Head of the Department of Dogri, University of Jammu, who served as the Chief Guest of the event.

The function witnessed the august presence of dignitaries including Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu (Guest of Honor), Smt. Indu Bala, Principal



SSSDC, GHSS Jourian, Dr. Rakesh Chib, President, Non-Teaching Association, University of Jammu, Sh. Mangal Bral, President, Bral Biradri, Sh. C.L. Sharma, Principal, Govt. HSS Kharah,

The school proudly unveiled a range of modern facilities including projector-enabled smart classrooms, fully air-conditioned learning space, free transport facility within 2 km, highly qualified staff, and a holistic curriculum fostering overall student development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Archana Kesar praised the initiative, call-

ing it a milestone for rural education, and encouraged teachers and students to fully utilize the modern tools now at their disposal. Dr. Romesh lauded the efforts of the school management and staff

for bringing transformational change to a government primary school setting.

The event concluded with cultural performances by students and a vote of thanks by the school Incharge Sh Roshan Bral and staff, who expressed deep gratitude to all dignitaries, parents, and community members for their support and participation.

Govt. Primary School Upper Rajwal, under the Zone Jourian, has taken a giant leap toward quality education, aiming to inspire and empower the next generation of learners.

## DLSA Samba Observed "World Health Day"



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, APR 8

As per the Action Plan for the month of April, 2025, issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and also under the able guidance and supervision of Mr. R.N.Watal Chairman District Legal Services Authority Samba, District Legal Service Authority Samba today observed 'World Health Day, 2025' with the Theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures" in collaboration with Department of Health Samba at District Hospital Samba.

This year's theme kicks off a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health wherein Medical Superintendent and team of Doctors from District Hospital Samba were the resource persons who deliberated upon different components of Health, importance of General

Health and what an individual can contribute by his/her actions for the Protection and Safety of the Earth Planet.

Sh. Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary DLSA Samba highlighted critical issues for global health which underpins lifelong health, stronger communities and collective future. Workers of District Hospital Samba, Staff members and Plv's of District Legal Services Authority, Samba participated in it.

The objective of organising this Awareness Program was to spread awareness among the participants about the importance of global health and also to focus on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy globally. Officers of Legal Aid Defense Counsel Samba also spoke on the working of the District Legal Services Authority Samba.

## Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia Slams INDI Alliance for Misleading Voters over Waqf Amendment Act

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

In a fiery press conference at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, BJP spokesperson Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia launched a blistering attack on the INDI Alliance MLAs for creating chaos in the J&K Assembly over the Waqf Amendment Act.

Flanked by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge J&K BJP, and party leader Amit George, Dr. Jasrotia accused the alliance of deceiving the very people who voted them to power. "Since this Gath Bandhan government has failed to deliver in the past six months, they are resorting to diversion tactics to avoid accountability on core issues," Dr. Jasrotia asserted. He described the uproar in the Assembly as a "planned conspiracy" to distract the masses from matters of public importance.

Citing Article 252 Clause 2, he defended the Waqf Amendment Act passed



by Parliament, saying the matter is currently sub judice and that disrupting Assembly proceedings over it is a blatant misuse of taxpayers' money. "This is a betrayal of public trust. These MLAs are wasting time and resources instead of addressing real issues faced by people," he added.

Dr. Jasrotia questioned the silence of these parties' MPs during the Parliamentary debate on the Act and condemned their theatrical protests in the J&K Assembly as attempts to misguide the public. "Why didn't they raise objections in Parliament? This drama is meant to cover up their failures," he said.

He also accused the alliance of harming the interests of Pashmanda Muslims, who rely heavily on the ongoing tourist season. "Do they want to snatch away the livelihoods of those operating Shikaras and Rehri's?" he asked, challenging opposition leaders to highlight any real welfare measures taken for marginalized Muslim communities.

Targeting parties like the NC, Dr. Jasrotia reminded them of the unfulfilled promises made in their election manifesto. "For seventy years, they fooled the people with empty slogans. The same is being repeated now," he said.

He further called for

## Dr. Ambedkar's life was full of struggles: Balbir Ram

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

As the nation remembers the legacy of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, we are reminded of his lifelong struggle for equality, justice, and dignity for all. Revered as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a staunch advocate for human rights, Dr. Ambedkar's vision continues to inspire movements for social reform and inclusivity today.

This was stated by Jammu & Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan while speaking to his party colleagues during a discussion on Dr. Ambedkar's struggle for life. He said that Dr. Ambedkar overcame immense social and economic challenges to emerge as a great intellectual, economist, and legal reformer. His unwavering fight against caste-based discrimination laid the foundation for a more just and equal India.

Because of his efforts, the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity were enshrined in the Indian Constitution – values that remain deeply relevant in today's socio-political



context. Balbir further said that the ideology of "Ambedkar for Equality" calls upon society to strive toward a future where every individual is treated with respect and justice, irrespective of caste, gender, or economic status. The belief that education is a means of empowerment, as emphasized by Dr. Ambedkar, remains just as important today, since education is a powerful weapon against injustice and marginalization.

Balbir Ram Rattan noted that every year, on Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, various political, social organizations, educational institutions, and community groups organize seminars, cultural events, and awareness campaigns to spread knowledge about his

contributions. The main goal of such programmes should be to familiarize youth with Ambedkar's life and values, and to rekindle a collective commitment to building an inclusive society.

Dr. Ambedkar once said, "We are Indians, firstly and lastly." Balbir remarked that this message of unity in diversity is a beacon of empathy, dialogue, and action in today's world.

As we pay tribute to his memory, let us renew our commitment to the ideals he stood for – a society based on equality, compassion, and justice.

Balbir was discussing this with BJP SC Morcha General Secretary Gulshan Bhagat, Morcha Office Secretary Hansraj Loria, and Mahila Morcha spokesperson Pooja Grover.

## FICCI-FLO JKL signs MOUs with JKDCF, UAMMCL to promote cooperatives



**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 8

To commemorate ongoing "International year of Cooperatives -2025" (UN Charter) The FICCI-FLO, Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh chapter executed Two separate Bi-lateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Limited (UAMMCL) and Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Cooperative

Federation limited (JKDCF). The MOU was signed between Aarti Chowdhary (Chairperson, FICCI-FLO JKL) and Vikrant Dogra (the Chairman, JKDCF and UAMMCL) under the auspicious presence of Ms Babila Rakwal (JKAS), the Commissioner Secretary Department of Cooperatives JKUT, AS REEN (the Director Agriculture, Jammu) along with other dignitaries of cooperative moment and department.

# Chief Justice inaugurates training program on Computer Skill Enhancement

**JJ NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 8

Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Tashi Rabstan, today inaugurated one day training programme on Computer Skill Enhancement "Level I & II" (ECT\_7\_2024 & ECT\_12\_2024) for Advocates of Jammu district at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur.

The Chief Justice also released two significant compendiums, on the occasion, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy). The training programme was organized in collaboration with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court

of J&K and Ladakh; M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Rajeev Gupta, Registrar Vigilance; Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial; Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority; Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer(IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Fayaz Ahmed Qureshi, CPC; Mayank Gupta, Joint Registrar Protocol and Jeevan Kumar, Secretary, High Court Legal Service Committee attended the inaugural session.

The inaugural session of the programme was also attended by Satinder Singh, Registrar Recruitment; K. Nirmal Kotwal, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu and his Executive Members besides Bhagirath, President, Young Lawyers Association, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

On the occasion, Chief Justice officially released

two compendiums 'Breaking Barriers: Landmark and Recent Judgments Shaping the POCOS Act'; and 'Redefining Justice: Landmark and Recent Judgments Shaping the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015'. These publications shall serve as invaluable resources, encapsulating key judicial pronouncements that have shaped and strengthened the child protection laws in our country.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi Rabstan emphasised that the intersection of law and technology is no longer a concept of the future but it is our reality today. He stated that rapid digitization of court processes, development of e-Courts services and integration of information technology into legal practice are reshaping the way justice is accessed, understood and delivered.

He highlighted that the strength of any justice



delivery system lies in the synergy between the Bench and the Bar. As courts move towards e-filing, virtual hearings, digital display boards and online case management systems, the Bar must be equally skilled and confident in engaging with these systems, he added. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in her welcome address, underscored that the initiatives under the e-Courts Project are not merely policy

documents, but a vision to bring judicial services to the fingertips of citizens. She emphasized that this training ensures no advocate is left behind in the process. She further added that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that technological progress does not create a divide, but rather unites the system in a shared pursuit of excellence. She also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Judicial Academy for releasing two significant compendiums.

The first technical session was chaired by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, who shared valuable insights from his experience as a judge, emphasizing the evolving role of technology in the judicial process. He highlighted how modern judges are increasingly integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and digital platforms in their workflow, particularly in drafting and delivering judgments.

Justice Shreedharan explained the practical use of Microsoft Word for typing judgments, focusing on its advanced features like templates, formatting tools and auto-citation management, which significantly enhance the efficiency and precision. He further illustrated how online legal research portals, AI-driven case law databases and dictation software are transforming the traditional style of judgment writing. Moreover, he underscored the importance of adapting to technology to meet the growing demands of judicial work.

Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, along with his team conducted the second technical session. They delved upon the eCourt Services/Initiatives useful for day to day working of Advocates, eCourt Services Portal, eCourt Services App, Display Boards

for HC & DC, e-filing etc. The learned resource persons underscored that e-filing enables the electronic submission of court documents, thereby saving both time and paper.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A segment, where the participants discussed eCourt Services and other related modules.

Sonia Gupta, Director of the J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session and efficiently coordinated all the technical sessions throughout the day.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

# Demand for justice: KPSS calls for restoration and protection of Kashmiri Hindu Temples

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 8

The recent uproar and theatrics in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly over the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 have once again exposed the deep-rooted hypocrisy, double standards, and dangerous communal appeasement that continue to define the politics of the Valley. The slogans of "Narai Takbeer, Allah Hu Akbar" echoing through the legislative corridors are not only deeply disturbing but also a stark reminder that religious sentiments are weaponised selectively – and always in one direction.

The Kashmiri Pandit Sangarash Samiti (KPSS) finds it morally reprehensible and legally indefensible that the same legislative space which has never, in 35 long years, uttered a single word in defence of encroached temples, desecrated shrines, or the illegal transfer of thousands of kanals of Hindu endowment land – suddenly erupts in anguish when the question of regulating Waqf properties arises. This selective morality is not just appalling, it is criminal.

Since the orchestrated exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community in 1990, there has been a systematic and silent loot of our religious and cultural heritage under the very nose of the state machinery. Encroachments upon temples and sacred lands, aided by forged documents, corrupt officials,

and the complicity of local influencers, have been rampant. Attempts by the displaced community to seek redressal have been met with bureaucratic stonewalling, legal manipulation, and most disturbingly, a societal mindset intoxicated with the ideology of "Maal-e-Ganimat" – property of the vanquished is fair game.

This deep-seated moral and religious corruption has been institutionalised over the years. Cases are buried in files, evidence mysteriously disappears, and the complainants – already victims of displacement – are dragged through a deliberately exhausting and humiliating process till they are forced into silence. Justice, it seems, is a privilege reserved only for the majority community in the Valley.

Let it be known that over 1000 temples and their associated properties are either encroached, vandalised, or illegally sold off with forged documents – and no legislative tears have ever been shed, no slogans of faith ever raised in protest, no bills passed to protect what is rightfully ours.

KPSS wishes to reiterate its stand – religion must never be used as a tool for politics. But when the legislative system acts as a political cathedral echoing only one faith's concerns, while the other is trampled upon with silence, it becomes imperative to speak with harsh, uncompromising truth. If

there is room for outrage over Waqf reforms, then there must be equal – if not greater – legislative, judicial, and administrative urgency to restore the usurped temples, shrines, and lands of the Kashmiri Pandits.

This double-faced politics is not just unacceptable – it is unconstitutional, unethical, and a permanent blot on the conscience of this so-called democratic system.

In line with the principles of justice, secularism, and the rule of law, we reiterate our unambiguous demand: the Parliament and the Union Territory administration must immediately table a comprehensive "Temples and Shrines Protection, Preservation and Restoration Bill," specifically aimed at safeguarding, restoring, and accounting for the thousands of desecrated, usurped, or destroyed religious properties belonging to the minority Hindu community of Kashmir. This is not a political agenda; this is a legal necessity and moral compulsion.

This demand is firmly rooted in the Indian Constitution, which is neither a ceremonial document nor a pick-and-choose instrument to appease certain vote banks. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to every citizen. Where is this equality when a displaced minority is denied basic protection for its religious sites? Article 25 promises freedom of conscience and the right

to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion. What practice remains possible when temples are demolished or converted into shops, cattle sheds, and residential buildings? Article 26 gives every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion, including owning and maintaining religious property. These guarantees have not just been ignored in Kashmir – they have been violated with systematic cruelty.

In legal doctrine, there exists the principle of Restitutio in Integrum – the obligation to restore a victim to their original state before a wrong was committed. Applying this universal jurisprudential standard, we assert that the effective and only fair baseline date for restitution must be 01.01.1989 – the eve of the ethnic cleansing and mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities. Any law or commission formed to address this issue must use this date as the legal benchmark to assess encroachments, desecrations, and theft of religious properties.

Moreover, India is not just accountable to its own Constitution. As a signatory to international treaties like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the nation is under binding obligation to protect the rights of religious and cultural minorities. The ongoing destruction, appropriation, and institutional neglect of our

temples not only violates these covenants but tarnishes India's global moral standing as a pluralistic democracy.

There is also precedent. States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka have long enacted strong and detailed legislation to protect the religious and administrative integrity of temples through acts like the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Acts. In stark contrast, Jammu & Kashmir – a region that has witnessed unparalleled religious vandalism against non-Muslim heritage – has no dedicated law to protect Hindu temples. This is a legal and ethical void that must be filled without delay.

The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 was celebrated as the beginning of a new era of equality and constitutional integration. If that promise is not to remain hollow rhetoric, then the restoration and protection of Hindu religious properties must be made a legislative priority. With the full application of the Indian Constitution to J&K, there now exists no legal bar to enacting a dedicated and enforceable statute. The Union Government and the Lieutenant Governor's administration have not just the competence, but the undeniable duty, to act.

To ensure genuine oversight and transparency, all existing religious Trusts, Samitis, Sansthas, and entities claiming stewardship over these religious assets must be brought

under the jurisdiction of the proposed Act. These bodies must be made accountable to a statutory Commission empowered under the law. The era of self-declared custodians functioning without transparency, public auditing, or legal supervision must come to an end. We demand that these institutions be restructured and placed under a unified legal framework that enables proper restoration, administration, and safeguarding of shrines and temples – not just for the sake of faith, but for the preservation of civilizational memory.

We, the displaced, dispossessed, and disregarded children of a once-thriving civilisation, declare with utmost clarity: our silence will no longer be mistaken for surrender. The selective secularism, opportunistic outrage, and politically convenient blindness that have defined the Kashmir discourse for decades must now give way to truth, justice, and legislative action. Our temples are not just places of worship – they are anchors of identity, symbols of survival, and repositories of an indigenous culture that predates all divisions.

Let the Government of India and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir know this – until every desecrated temple is restored, until every inch of encroached land is reclaimed, until every right denied is reinstated – we will not relent.

## Pawan Sharma expressed disappointment over uproar in J&K Assembly against amended Wakf Board law

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 8

Pawan Sharma, senior BJP leader and former state secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed his deep disappointment and concern over the recent uproar created by the National Conference, Congress, and PDP in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly against the amended Wakf Board law. As a senior BJP leader and former state secretary, Pawan Sharma firmly believes that this law was enacted through a democratic process by both houses of the country's supreme parliament and ratified by the country's honorable President, Mrs. Draupadi Murmu.

Pawan Sharma stated that the behavior of these parties is not only unconstitutional but also highly reprehensible. They are attempting to subvert the democratic process and the rule of law, which is unacceptable.

The amended Wakf Board law aims to introduce much-needed reforms and transparency in the management of Wakf properties, which will ultimately benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma emphasized that the BJP has always been committed to the development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We

believe that the amended Wakf Board law is a step in the right direction, and we will continue to support and implement it for the benefit of the populace.

Sharma urged the National Conference, Congress, and PDP to refrain from creating unnecessary controversy and instead work towards the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. BJP, as a responsible opposition, will continue to hold the government accountable for its actions and ensure that the interests of the people are protected.

Sharma reiterates that the amended Wakf Board law is a constitutional and democratic legislation that aims to bring about positive change in the lives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and urged all parties to work together towards the development and progress of the state.

He urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir not to fall prey to the divisive agenda of these opposition parties and to stand firm with the BJP's vision of development, transparency, and good governance.

The BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, remains committed to safeguarding the interests of all communities while upholding the constitutional values and integrity of the nation, said Sharma.

## Ashok Koul asks Active Members to take party's ideology, and Modi govt schemes to masses

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APR 8

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, encouraged the BJP's Active Members from Ramban Assembly Constituency for extensive work to extend the organization to the remotest areas.

He was addressing a meeting regarding the party programmes under the ongoing BJP foundation day programmes in the 43 Assemblies in Jammu region and 10 districts in Kashmir region.

Neelam Langeh, BJP District Ramban President & former MLA, Rakesh Thakur, DDC & former district president, Ramesh Sharma, former district president, District General Secretary Adv. Balbir Singh Bali, Rajeshwar Kumar, former district



president and Jagdeep Singh, District General Secretary were among the prominent present in the meeting.

Ashok Koul, prompted the Active members to work dedicatedly for the organizational strengthening in the district. He asked the party activists to conduct all the Shapna Diwas programmes with the involvement of prominent from the society. While lauding them for their first step to contribute in the nation building by becoming Active

members of BJP, the largest political organization in the world in terms of primary membership, he asked them to play their part effectively to take the party's ideology and Modi governments' schemes to masses.

Neelam Langeh, in his address, focused on the party activists' resolve to organizational strengthening. He said that braving all odds, party activists continue with the task given to serve the nation and society.

Rakesh Thakur, called

for the dedicated effort on the part of party activists for the expansion of the organization among the masses. He called for the ever-increasing efforts and the commitment of the active members to take the party ideology and the policies to the masses. Ramesh Sharma, shared the achievements of the 11 years of Modi government with the party activists and said that under the decisive governance of Modi ji, the lives of poor and needy got better. Balbir Singh, said that progressing with the 'nation first' ideology of BJP, the nation has witnessed major transformations on the international as well as societal level with the effective welfare measures for the masses.

In continuation of its endeavour to promote peace and tranquillity in the region and to evolve an environment of brotherhood and harmony amongst the local population, the Indian Army organized an interactive session with local youth at Gando. The event at Gando served as a platform for open dialogue, encouraging the exchange of ideas and strengthening bonds of friendship among youths. The main aim of this interaction was to motivate youth to join the Armed Forces and also apprise them that the career in Armed Forces is considered as one of the most prestigious service to the nation. Students having passion for adventure and temperament for

## Indian Army organizes Interactive Session for Local Youth to Join Armed Forces at Gando, Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA: 08 APR 2025

challenges can fulfil their desires and expectations by pursuing a career in the Defence Services. Also the gathering emphasized the importance of rising above petty disputes and working collectively for the progress of society and the nation. It encouraged young minds to embrace broader perspectives, promoting tolerance for all religions and communities. The youth were motivated to look beyond fundamentalist ideologies and develop a more inclusive worldview. The event invited valuable feedback on Indian Army development projects and highlighted the Indian Army's commitments to the welfare, education and empowerment of local youths. These interactions not only build trust between the Indian Army and youths but also help to shape more unity and progressive society. Another aim of this meet was to engage with the youths in a positive manner thereby defeating the nefarious design of adversaries. The participants raised many queries regarding the entry process in Indian Armed Forces and their queries were satisfactorily responded by the representative of Indian Army. A total of 55 Boys and 50 Girls attended the event.



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## ZFunds introduces 3-Second SIP setup with UPI AutoPay to boost Mutual Fund adoption

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 8

ZFunds, Gurugram-based wealthtech company empowering Mutual Fund Distributors (MFDs) across India, today announced the launch of UPI AutoPay functionality for Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) on its platform. ZFunds, the first platform to empower MFDs, lets customers set up SIPs in just three seconds with only a UPI PIN – no paperwork, debit card details, or net banking needed.

Introduced in February, the feature has been adopt-

ed by approximately 70% of ZFunds partners as their preferred method for client SIP setup. Currently available for monthly SIPs, the company plans to extend this functionality to daily SIP options in the future.

Traditional approaches using net banking and auto debits have seen limited adoption, as users usually struggle with requirements like debit card numbers, net banking login id and password etc. which most people don't remember, leading to high dropout rates during the SIP mandate setup process.

"Our estimates suggest that only 60% of the one time mandates receive approval, meaning about 40% of all SIPs never begin" said Manish Kothari, co-founder and CEO of ZFunds. "With UPI AutoPay, we're leveraging India's most widely adopted payment system to solve a fundamental problem in the investment landscape. By reducing the SIP setup time to just three seconds and using a familiar authentication method everyone remembers, we're helping ensure that potential investments aren't lost at the first step."

**ZIFUNDS**

"I want to congratulate ZFunds for launching UPI mandate for SIP customers. Around 65% of all mutual fund folios are being serviced by mutual fund distributors and yet access to UPI autopay for setting up SIPs is not as widely available to them as one would think. This initiative gives MFDs a high quality tech experience and unmatched con-

venience." said Deepak Jain, President and Head - Sales, Edelweiss Mutual Fund

The integration of the autopay feature into the mutual fund ecosystem aligns with India's broader financial digitization goals. The new generation of Mutual Fund customers seek assistance over and above technology and they do not want to

compromise on either. As the only platform offering this feature free of cost to MFDs,

ZFunds is positioning financial advisors to capitalize on India's digital payment revolution

The launch comes on the heels of ZFunds' Rs 25 crore seed funding round led by Elevation Capital in December 2024, signaling the company's broader push to streamline mutual fund investing in India. The fresh capital is being deployed to enhance product capabilities, upgrade technology infrastructure, and

expand access to investment solutions, reinforcing ZFunds' efforts to simplify and improve the SIP experience for investors across the country.

The feature is now live on the ZFunds platform and available for investors nationwide. About ZFunds:

ZFunds is on a mission to make mutual funds Sahi\* (Right) and Asaan\* (Easy) for India. The company was founded by Manish Kothari and Vidhi Tuteja in the year 2019. ZFunds firmly believes that the human-to-human model, with technology

as an enabler, is the way forward for a large segment of "digital refusers" who need guidance and expertise to handle their finances. While digital channels have emerged as the go-to channel for the industry, transaction-only platforms are challenged to increase penetration in these markets. The advisor app launched by ZFunds in 2020 provides access to right savings and investment products to consumers PAN India. The company has over 10000 micro entrepreneurs advising 60000+ customers in 600 cities and towns.

## Indian Army celebrates Ram Navami for Local Youth at Mastandbara, Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 08 APR 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through Awam. The Indian Army celebrated Ram Navami with great fervor and enthusiasm at Mastandhara of Poonch. Ram Navami is a Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Rama, one of the most popularly revered deities of Hinduism, also known as the seventh avatar of Vishnu. Representative of Indian Army addressed the children and locals about the significance of the festival. He also explained why Ram Navami is celebrated across India. Bhandara was organized for children during the celebration. A total strength of 70 children (including 40 x Boys and 30 x Girls)



participated with zeal and enthusiasm in the celebration. The event was aimed to promote cultural awareness, understanding and aspect symbolizing the unbreakable bond of love, care and protection between security forces and locals. Delicious dishes and sweets were distributed among the children during the bhandara. Conveying love to children and trust of security to local populace. Event was a testament to the strong bond between Indian Army and the local populace. This event was helpful for establishing peace amongst all and spreading unity in diversity, protection and to create brotherhood amongst locals and Indian Army and to promote love, unity and peace amongst the people so that the country stands together, with a view to foster and reinforce the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and Pride. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam. This endeavour by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased the Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

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## GCW Udhampur organizes Embark on Educational Journey to Hartyan village, Udhampur district

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR APRIL 8

The Department of Geography at Govt. College for Women (GCW), Udhampur, recently enriched its students' learning through an engaging educational tour to Harteryan village, Udhampur district. This practical excursion, a key component of the department's academic program, offered 45 students of Sem 2nd Major Practicla a valuable opportunity to explore the region's physical geography firsthand and understand the dynamics of pilgrimage tourism.

The tour was led by Assistant Professor Pooja Bharti (HOD Geography) Under the able guidance and support of worthy Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini



Pathania and accompanied by teaching staff: Lecturer Aizaj Sadiq Mir, Lecturer Insha Amin, Lecturer Divya Sharma, Lecturer Poonam Bharti; and non-teaching staff: Balbir Singh (Lab Bearer), Sanjay Kumar (Driver), Subhash Chander (Driver).

During the tour, students visited the significant Mata Kali temple, allowing them to witness the intersection of cultural and physical landscapes. They actively observed the area's distinct physical features and gained crucial

insights into the role of pilgrimage tourism in bolstering the local economy. The experience proved to be an invaluable bridge between classroom theory and real-world application, sparking enthusiasm and deeper understanding among the participating students.

The Department of Geography is committed to provide such enriching experiences and intends to organize further educational tours in the future to continually enhance the academic journey of its students.

## Urban Cruiser Hyryder elevates Mobility Experience with Advanced Feature Enhancements

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced that it has introduced feature upgrades in the Urban Cruiser Hyryder that redefine safety, comfort, and convenience. The latest enhancements underscore Toyota's commitment to customer-centric innovation, seamlessly incorporating valuable feedback and evolving market trends to elevate the driving experience. Widely celebrated and embraced as India's first Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric SUV, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has already crossed the milestone of 1 lakh sales. It continues to win hearts with its innovative technology, exceptional fuel economy, dynamic performance, and premium driving experience. Speaking on the introduction of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, said, "As the SUV segment evolves, we continue to refresh and elevate our lineup to stay ahead of the curve. The latest Urban Cruiser Hyryder is a testament to our commitment for best-in-segment technology, advanced safety, and superior comfort. Crafted for modern SUV buyers, it seamlessly blends Toyota's legendary quality, sustainability, and driving pleasure. With these latest upgrades, we are confident that the Hyryder will appeal to an even broader audience, further solidifying its position as one of India's bestselling SUVs. More than just enhanced performance and efficiency, this refined SUV sets new benchmarks in hybrid technology, safety, and connected mobility, delivering a future-ready driving experience tailored to the dynamic needs of today's customers." Launched in 2021, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder blends Toyota's global SUV heritage with bold styling, advanced technology, and sustainability. Designed for efficiency and performance, it offers a highly efficient Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric powertrain, along with a 1.5L K-series engine with Neo Drive (ISG), 5-speed Manual, and 6-speed Automatic Transmission with 2WD & 4WD options. Its sleek exterior features LED Project Headlamps, Twin LED DRLs, a Sporty Skid Plate, Crystal Acrylic Grille, and 17-inch Alloy Wheels, available in seven monotone and four dual-tone colours. Inside, the premium cabin includes a 9-inch infotainment system, wireless charging, ventilated leather seats, a 360-degree camera, ambient lighting, cruise control, head-up display, and Google & Siri voice assistants. Rear passengers benefit from reclining seats, rear AC vents, USB charging, and a 60:40 split seat. Toyota enhances ownership with 66 exclusive accessories, a 3-year/100,000 km warranty (extendable to 5 years/220,000 km), and an 8-year/160,000 km hybrid battery warranty, ensuring a premium and hassle-free driving experience. The Urban Cruiser Hyryder with enhanced feature upgrades starts at an attractive price of Rs. 11.34 lacs [ex showroom].

## Ruling party playing role of opposition, dodging Waqf Amendment Bill: Hakeem Yaseen

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 8

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Tuesday criticized the ruling party for evading its responsibilities and behaving like an opposition force by disrupting proceedings in the Assembly.

He expressed deep concern over the government's failure to take up the Waqf Amendment Bill, a matter of significant public interest, especially for the Muslim community of Jammu and Kashmir.

"For the first time in history, we are witnessing a ruling party deliberately stalling its own Assembly proceedings. Instead of facilitating dialogue and decision-making, they



are playing the role of the opposition," he said.

Hakeem Yaseen said that the Waqf Amendment Bill deserved urgent attention, as it directly affects the management of religious and charitable properties across the Union Territory.

"Despite being a Muslim-majority region and with over 20 percent of the population impacted by Waqf affairs, the ruling party chose to look the other way. This is a clear attempt to divert attention and silence serious

discussions," he added. Calling the behavior a "mockery of the public mandate," Hakeem said that while the matter may be sub judice, there was still ample scope for legislative discussion and clarity.

"People had high hopes that the government would prioritize this bill and bring transparency and reform to Waqf management. Instead, their silence and disruption speak volumes about their intent."

He urged the government to stop playing politics inside the Assembly and fulfill its legislative responsibilities.

"The Waqf Amendment Bill cannot be brushed aside. The public is watching, and history will judge those who choose silence over accountability," he added.

## Shri Hanuman ji Jayanti to be Celebrated on Saturday, Apr 12: Rohit Shastri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 8

Among the few blessed with immortality, Shri Hanuman Ji, the devoted servant of Lord Rama, is one. There are differing opinions regarding his exact birthdate. While some devotees consider it to be Kartik Krishna Chaturdashi, others believe it falls on Chaitra Shukla Purnima. Both dates find mention in various scriptures.

Regarding Hanuman Jayanti, Mahant Rohit Shastri, the President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, informed that the Chaitra Purnima tithi begins at 3:22 AM on Saturday, 12 April, and ends at 5:52 AM on Sunday, 13 April. Since the sunrise occurs during the Purnima tithi on 12 April, Hanuman Jayanti will be celebrated on that day.

Shri Hanuman Ji, the eleventh Rudra avatar of Lord Shiva, is believed to be present wherever the Ramcharitmanas is recited. He is endowed with the eight siddhis: Anima, Laghima, Mahima, Garima, Prapti, Prakamya, Ishitva, and Vashitva. When Sita Ji met Hanuman Ji in Lanka, she blessed him, saying: "Ajar amar gun nidhi suta hohu, karahu bahut raghunayak chohu."

Hanuman Ji is also known by many other names such as Bajrang Bali, Maruti, Anjani Suta, Pavanputra, Sankatmochan, Kesarinandan, Mahavir, Kapi, Shankar Suvan, among others.

Worship Procedure of Shri Hanuman Ji

If one is unable to visit a temple, they may worship at home. After bathing, sprinkle Gangajal in the northeast corner or the puja room. Spread a red cloth on a platform and meditate upon Lord Rama and Sita. Place idols or symbolic items (like betel nuts) representing Lord Ganesh, Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman, and Shri Hanuman Ji.

Offer a kesari-colored robe to Hanuman Ji. Mix vermilion (sindoor) in jasmine oil and apply it to the idol. Offer boondi laddoo, a diya of jasmine oil, and a betel leaf with cloves. Rotate a coconut over your head eight times and place it at Hanuman Ji's feet. Offer vermilion-coated urad seeds to the idol. Offering five rotis made in desi ghee is believed



to remove enemies. For business prosperity, offer a saffron-colored loincloth and hoist a saffron flag at home.

Reciting the Hanuman Chalisa five or eleven times on this day is highly beneficial. Students may experience improved memory and success in education.

Many devotees also observe a fast with great enthusiasm. Applying vermilion (cho a) to Hanuman Ji's idol is a common practice, inspired by his act of covering himself in sindoor to bless Lord Ram with a long life. It is considered highly auspicious to chant mantras before a south-facing idol of Hanuman Ji in the evening. Reading the Sundarkand section of the Ramcharitmanas is another way to please Hanuman Ji. On this day, Hanuman Chalisa, Sundarkand, and Ram Raksha Stotra are recited in homes and temples.

For severe health problems, chant the mantra: "Om Lakshmanpranadaare Namah."

To get relief from illnesses, regularly chant: "Naasai rog hare sab peera, japat niranantar Hanumat beera."

Worshipping Hanuman Ji is believed to remove the malefic effects of Rahu and Shani (Saturn).

Mahant Rohit Shastri

## Best tribute to artists is to take forward their legacy through young generation: Director, CBC Ghulam Abbas



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 8

Verma Gharana paid rich tribute to "Pt. Krishan Lal Verma", an eminent Tabla Maestro by organizing a programme at Abhinav Theatre to highlight the deeds and achievements of Sh. Krishan Lal Verma in the field of Music, Art and Languages. The event was organized by his son Mr. Neeraj Verma who is a reputed Tabla artist.

Sh. Ghulam Abbas (IIS), Director, Central Bureau of Communication, J&K and Ladakh under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of

India was the Chief Guest of the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Sh Abbas stated that the best tribute to artists is to take forward their legacy through young generation. He said artists never die but they live forever through their art

Dr. Anupriya Sachar, daughter-in-law of Sh. K.L. Verma, conducted proceedings of the event. She read out a detailed paper on the life and work of Sh. K. L. Verma. The programme began with various disciples (Vasu Partap Singh, Samdeep Singh, Sehajdeep Singh, Aditya Saraf and Adhiraj) of Mr. Neeraj Verma, a renowned

Tabla Maestro of J&K followed by a Vocal Recital by Vidushi Jasmeet Kour (Prof., GCW Parade). The programme concluded with the tribute paid by his son, Mr. Neeraj Verma.

Wife of Sh. K.L. Verma (Smt. Shama Verma), Daughter in laws (Mrs. Seema Verma and Mrs. Sapna Verma), Son of Gharana (Mr. Pankaj Verma and Mr. Shovit Verma) and Grand Childrens (Akarshit Verma, Utishth Verma and Jainsavi Verma) also graced the occasion. The programme proved to be a fruitful and energetic for the entire music community.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH RAJOURI AND REASE: 08 APR 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens Indian Army celebrated World Health Day at remote areas of Thanamandi, Mastandhara, Parat, Kotranka, Azmatatabad to highlight important health topics, inspire action, and encourage the local people to take charge of their health. The event commenced with a speech on the significance of Good Health in our livelihood. The aim of the event was to create awareness amongst the local populace about the importance of Good Health in day-to-day life.

## Indian Army celebrates World Health Day for Local Youth at Poonch Rajouri and Reasi



He explained that Good Health is crucial for a fulfilling life, enabling individuals to live longer, experience better mental and physical well-being and achieve our full potential. Thus, Good Health plays an important role in organizing more productive and happy society. Representative of Indian Army closed his speech with a slogan

"Health is Wealth". The event witnessed huge participation with volunteers from all sections of society including school children, women and social activists. A total strength of 272 attended the event. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam. This endeavor by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in

remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and Awam. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## APS Damana unveils 'Shimani Choudhary 10m Shooting Range' to Foster Precision and Excellence

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU: 08 APR 2025

"Greatness is not achieved by Chance, but by Precision, Dedication and the Relentless Pursuit of Excellence."

APS Damana proudly inaugurated the 'Shimani Choudhary 10M Shooting Range' within the school premises on 8 April 2025. The newly constructed Shooting Range envisions to honour the Star Shooter and alumna of the School Shimani Choudhary, a Gold Medalist in 24th All India Kumar Surendra Singh Shooting Championship 2022, West Bengal. It also aims to provide the young students with ample opportunities to prove their mettle through Shooting Sports.

Brig Vivek Puri SM, PhD Commander Chenab

Brigade and Chairman APS Damana dignified the occasion as the Chief Guest. S.Surinder Singh Sodhi, President JKRA embellished the event as the Guest of Honour. The other dignitaries who added glory to the event were Sh. Sharat Chander (Dy SP) Governing Body Member & CEO JKRA and Sh. Arun Mansotra, Treasurer JKRA.

The school also had the honour to have the benign presence of Mr. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, Founder Member & Chairman JKRA. He is the son of Lieutenant Colonel SDS Jamwal. During his interaction with the Chairman of the school, Mr. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal became quite nostalgic about his father and shared a memorable incident. He recounted, "My father was DAA&QMG



Chenab Brigade during the 1971 Operation against Pakistan. I was studying in college at the time and after the war ended, General Zoro Bakshi, GOC Tiger Division organized a lunch for all the officers and their families at a place 9 R Short of Head Marala in Pakistan. We had a wonderful time at the picnic and in the evening, we had a cup of tea and samosas before returning back to the brigade. "Mr. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal also highlighted the remarkable contributions of his father, who was a true hero of the Zojila Battle

on 01 November 1948. He shared with pride that his father served as the Squadron Commander of Charlie Squadron of the 7th Cavalry, which played a pivotal role in the historic capture of the Zojila Pass.

Besides Shimani Choudhary of Batch 2022-23 added distinction to the event as the Special Guest. The school alumna, displayed her marksmanship skills at the Shooting Range exuberantly. It is pertinent to mention that the newly constructed Shooting Arena will cater to the robust and progressive holistic standards of

the school. In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the school for providing the young aspirants with comprehensive training in Shooting Sports. He expressed his firm belief in the triumvirate of practice, consistency and dedication as the keys to unlock the success.

Ms Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana signified to enhance safe, disciplined and responsible gun handling at the Shooting Range inside the School. She shared her ambitious vision for the school's future in sports. She stated, "Our goal is to ensure that students strive hard to represent our country at the Olympics and other prestigious global platforms in Shooting." The event culminated with the high tea for the guests.

## Indian Army celebrates World Health Day with Events at Mamun, Samba and Kathua



J I NEWS SERVICE  
MAMUN, SAMBA AND KATHUA:  
08 APR 2025

On the occasion of World Health Day, Gurj Division of the Indian Army organized a series of events across Mamun, Samba, and Kathua, reaffirming its commitment to promoting health and wellness among the local population and students. The celebration aimed to spread awareness about the importance of preventive healthcare, physical fitness, and mental well-being.

As part of the initiative,

Yoga workshops were conducted at schools in Samba and Kathua, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 250 school children of DS Public School, Kathua & Calvary School, Samba. The sessions emphasized the benefits of yoga in daily life and encouraged students to adopt healthy habits and mindfulness for holistic development.

In Thrithi village, a vibrant health awareness camp was held for local women. Led by a dedicated team of female Army doctors, the camp provided essential consultations

and comprehensive health check-ups, addressing key health issues and empowering women with vital health education.

Additionally, a health awareness lecture was Organised at Mamun Cantonment, where troops and families interacted with educators from Pratap World School. The session focused on adopting a healthy lifestyle, covering topics such as balanced nutrition, hygiene, and preventive care highlighting the Army's sustained efforts toward community health and wellness.

## Birth Anniversary of Goswami Guru Nabha Dass Ji Jugal Kishore, Yudhvir attended function organized by All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha Dogra Hall

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 8

On the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Utsav of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj, a grand event was organized by the All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha at Dogra Hall Jammu in Jammu East Assembly constituency in which Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma attended the function as the Chief Guest & Ma Jammu East AC Yudhviri Sethi also remained present at the occasion. The celebration saw enthusiastic participation from distinguished members of society and individuals belonging to the Scheduled Caste & also other communities.

Hon'ble Member of Parliament and MLA, who were warmly welcomed by the Chairman and President of All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha. Chairman All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha ND Rajwal highlighted the life, spiritual teachings, and social reform efforts of Guru Nabha Dass Ji and inspired all present to follow his path of devotion, equality, and service. President MSS Kali Dass



also shed light on the shed light on the ongoing work and mission of the Sabha.

Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering at the occasion said that All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha is one of the oldest organization of the city and working for the betterment of the community since years. He also listened the problems being faced by the Sabha and assured that best possible efforts would be done for the development of the Sabha. He said that on the eve of birth anniversary of Guru Nabha Dass ji we have to follow the path of equality and always should remain united for the upliftment of our Nation. Yudhviri Sethi MLA Jammu East AC said that

by the blessings and support of All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha he became the MLA. He said that it is now our duty to think about the development of the Mahasha Sadar Sabha and announced funds for the Construction of rooms and bathrooms at Mahasha Sadar Sabha.

Members of Mahasha Sadar Sabha from various districts and students are facilitated at the occasion.

District President BJP Rajesh Gupta, Ex-Corporator Dr Akshay, Raman Sharma, Member MSS Jai Dev Rajwal, Mandal President Swati Sharma, Arun Manmotra, Suresh salgotra, Sharda ji, Mohan Lal, Ramesh Kumar, Retd Col. A. Malhotra, Vijay Chib and others also present at the occasion.

## Industrial Automation Specialist Course at Jammu for Armed Forces



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU : 08 APR 2025

A three-month certificate Course in "Industrial Automation Specialist" commenced for Armed Forces personnel at Jammu. Instrumentation Automation Surveillance and Communication (IASC) SSC, Jammu is an autonomous Industry lead under aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Govt of India. The course which will continue till 11 Jul 2025 is designed to equip defence personnel with specialist Skills in Industrial Automation focusing on Job training in the Industrial Sector which is vital for India's Industry.

Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Ministry of Defence (MoD) have enrolled 40 participants in the course from Army, Navy & Air Force.

The collaboration between the IASC SSC under MSDE and DGR aims to provide valuable training to the retiring personnel. The course was inaugurated by Director, Directorate of Resettlement Zone (North), Udhampur and Mr. Nitin Kumar, Head of Strategic Partnership & Operations MSDE, Govt of India.

## Team SIBA honoured for Event Management Excellence at Coop FPOs Stakeholders Meet

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 8

Team SIBA Sidharth Verma Baljeth Singh honoured for excellence in event management by Babila Rakwal, The Commissioner secretary department of cooperatives along with Aarti Chowdhary Chairperson FICCI flo Jammu kashmir & Ladakh and Director Agriculture Arvinder Singh Reen, Sh. Vikrant Dogra Chairman Unati & JKDCF at a event of Stakeholders Meet for Sensitization & Orientation for smooth implementation for pro-



motion and formation of Kendra, Talab Tillo Jammu Cooperative FPOs at Kissan on 07.04.2025

## Yudhviri visits fire-ravaged Maheshpura Vegetable Market, assures full support to affected vendors

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 08

BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhviri Sethi, today visited the vegetable market at Maheshpura in Bakshi Nagar to take stock of the tragic fire incident that left the entire market gutted. The blaze, which erupted in the early hours, reduced the bustling marketplace to ashes, leaving dozens of vegetable vendors devastated.

Expressing deep concern over the loss suffered by the vendors, Yudhviri Sethi personally inspected the site and interacted with the affected shopkeepers. He observed that the entire market had been completely engulfed by flames, resulting in the total destruction of goods, stalls, and livelihoods.



the aggrieved vendors that he stands firmly with them in this hour of distress. "I will take up the matter with the concerned authorities on priority to ensure that adequate compensation is provided to every affected vendor. We will also explore possibilities of rehabilitation and restoration of the market at

the earliest," he said. He further emphasized the need for improved safety measures in all market areas to prevent such incidents in the future and assured that he would raise this issue at appropriate forums.

The BJP leader was accompanied by local BJP workers and concerned citizens, who joined him

in expressing solidarity with the fire victims.

He was accompanied by ex-Corporator Dr Akshay, Raman Sharma Swati sharma Mandal president and Govinda Ashok kumar

He reiterated the BJP's commitment to safeguarding the interests of small traders and vendors who are the backbone of the local economy.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION CHATROO

(E-mail Address :- [xenroadschatroo@gmail.com](mailto: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     | 2   | 3                         | 4                         | 5                      | 6                           | 7                                  | 8                   |
| 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. Shivanagar 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><b>Total Length:- 06.00 Kms.(3<sup>rd</sup> Time)</b> | 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: 8-4-25

## Movement Kalki's protest continues for 171st day to demand "National Mother" Status for Cow



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

Today marked the 171st consecutive day of the historic protest led by Movement Kalki, carried out with full enthusiasm and determination. The movement's primary demands include: granting cow the status of Rashtramata (National Mother), enforcing strict laws against animal trafficking, constructing gaushalas (cow shelters), and establishing a Sanatan Board.

On this significant occasion, prominent members of the Brahmin Sabha came forward to extend their support to Movement Kalki. They appreciated the noble intentions and goals of the movement

and shared their thoughts on how to preserve and promote Sanatan (eternal) culture in today's rapidly deteriorating world.

A meaningful discussion was also held regarding the upcoming Parshuram Jayanti celebrations. It was emphasized that the only way to overcome the moral and cultural decline in the world is through the revival of Sanatan values.

The protest gained further momentum today when Advocate Mr. P. C. Sharma and dedicated movement member Mr. Raman Sharma visited the protest site and expressed their strong support.

Advocate Mr. P. C. Sharma said in his address:

"The fight being led by Movement Kalki is not just that of an organization, but of the entire Sanatan Dharma, Indian culture, and society. This is a matter of social and religious awakening, and every devotee and follower of Sanatan Dharma must unite to take it forward.

Mr. P. C. Sharma also extended a respectful invitation to the Movement Kalki family, for which the entire team expressed heartfelt gratitude.

All members of Movement Kalki, the Brahmin community, and Sanatan devotees were present during the event and reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to this sacred cause.

## AJKGRDS to celebrate 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar on Apr 14

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

In a highly attended and spirited press conference held at Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, Krishna Nagar, the All J&K Guru Ravidass Sabha (AJKGRDS) announced its decision to commemorate the 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with grandeur and unity. The event, scheduled to take place at Krishna Nagar on \$14, will be organized in collaboration with all major SC/ST/OBC socio-religious organizations of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, bringing together thousands of followers to honor the legacy of India's chief architect of the Constitution.

Mohinder Bhagat, President of the All India Bhagat Mahasabha (J&K Unit), lauded the collective decision to host a joint celebration. He shared that this noble initiative was spearheaded by the Adhoc Committee of AJKGRDS, which extended invitations to various socio-religious groups to participate in what is poised to be one of the most unifying celebrations of Babasaheb's ideals in the region.

A wide spectrum of organizations and respected individuals attended the press



meet, pledging full support. These included Prof. Kali Dass, Qureshi (AIBCU), Er. Sadiq Azad (GDCT), Mohd Muneer Mugal (Pir Panchal ABC), M.R Bangotra (AIBCU), K.K Fotra (Sain Samaj), Brij Mehra, Prof. G.L. Thapa, Er. Joginder Paul (JKRCEA), representatives from Kabir Sabha, Saryara Sabha, Gardri Sabha, Batwal Sabha, and numerous branches of Guru Ravidass Sabhas.

Ajay Thapa of Bhim Kranti Sena and many Sarpanches, Panches, and social activists were also present to endorse the joint effort.

Sham Basson from the Dalit Chetna Manch, elaborated on the planned program, which will begin with Buddha Bandana, followed by addresses from dignitaries, children's speeches, and a cultural segment. Notable performers include Sonu Heer, the Tapasya Art Group, and students from Savitri Bai Phule Modern School led by

Sunita Bangotra.

The event will be graced by Rajinder Kashyap, former Special Secretary of Law, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, while the Director of IIM-CSIR, Jammu is expected to be the Guest of Honour. A keynote address will also be delivered by a prominent local speaker with national repute.

Er. R.C. Bhasin, Convener of the All J&K Shree Guru Ravidass Sabha, concluded the announcement with details of the closing ceremony, which will feature Bheem Bandana and a vote of thanks, followed by a community lunch for all attendees. He urged all Ambedkarite followers, especially youth, women, retirees, and working professionals from SC/ST/OBC communities, to attend the event in large numbers and be inspired by the life and teachings of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

## Indian Army conducts Awareness Lecture on World Health Day at Hamirpur, Akhnour



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR: 08 APR 2025

On the occasion of World Health Day 2025, a special health awareness lecture was organized by the Indian Army at Government High School, Hamirpur with the aim of educating students about the importance of maintaining good health and hygiene. The event focused on emphasizing the need for accessible healthcare, healthy lifestyle habits and mental well-being for all individuals, especially the youth. Health experts and educators engaged with students through

interactive sessions covering topics like personal hygiene, balanced nutrition, regular exercise and the importance of mental wellness. The initiative aimed to instil health-conscious habits in students and empower them to be ambassadors of change within their communities. The school staff, local health officials and community members actively participated, making the event a great success. Such awareness drives not only enhance knowledge but also bridge the gap between health services and rural populations, fostering a more informed and healthy society.

## Role of Nuclear Energy in Clean Energy Transformation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA: 08 APR 2025

In a compelling lecture delivered on 08 April 25, distinguished speakers Neeraj Gaur and Mahesh Prasad from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) emphasized the pivotal role of nuclear energy in India's transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

The session, titled "Nuclear Energy for Clean Transformation", was covered under following heads: -

Nuclear Energy: A Clean and Reliable Option

Neeraj Gaur opened the lecture by highlighting the increasing global urgency to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. He emphasized that while renewable sources like solar and wind are important, they alone cannot meet the growing energy demands of a developing country like India without support from a consistent and reliable base-load source – a role nuclear energy is well-positioned to fulfill. While elaborating on the technical and safety advancements in India's nuclear infrastructure. He presented data from



NPCIL projects, showcasing the success of existing nuclear power plants and the roadmap for future expansions. He stressed that modern nuclear facilities adhere to stringent international safety standards and are designed with multiple layers of protection.

Addressing Myths and Concerns

The speaker addressed common misconceptions surrounding nuclear energy, particularly regarding safety and waste disposal. They clarified how contemporary technologies and long-term planning have made nuclear a much safer and environmentally friendly option than perceived.

Additionally, he discussed the minimal land footprint and lifecycle carbon emissions of nuclear energy compared to fossil fuels and some renewables.

Concluding the lecture, speaker called upon the NCC Cadets to consider careers in the nuclear sector and contribute to India's clean energy mission. They also encouraged active public engagement and awareness to dispel fears and build support for nuclear initiatives.

The interactive session ended with a lively Q&A, where Cadets raised thoughtful questions about nuclear safety, and the integration of nuclear with other renewable sources.

## Dogri Sanstha Jammu organizes Special Dogri Mushaira

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized a special Dogri Mushaira at Kunwar Vijoyi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu. Padmashri Dr. Jitender Udhampuri was the Chief Guest on the occasion, veteran litterateur Prakash Premi was special guest whereas Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, president Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function. The poets who recited their poems included Padmashri Dr Jitendra Udhampuri, Padmashree Prof. Lalit Magotra, Prakash Premi, Indrajit Kesar, Ashok Angurana, Purna Chandra Sharma, Deepak Arsi, Bishan Singh 'Dardi', Brijmohan, Promila Manhas, Ashok Khajuria, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Pawan Verma, Abdul Quddir Kundria, Ashutosh Parashar, Dr Tarsem Kumar, Jagmohan Sharma, Dr Narendra Bharti, Pankaj Sharma, Rajni Thapa, Neha Sharma, Meenakshi Kesar, and Abhinandan Sharma.

The chief guest Dr. Jitender Udhampuri while complementing Dogri Sanstha Jammu for organizing such a mushaira said that poetic meets help in promoting the literature and help the new entrants



to learn the basics from the veterans of the field. These literary get-togethers are necessary for the movement and hoped that it will continue at regular intervals in future also. Prakash Premi, the special guest on the occasion said that Dogri Sanstha is a pioneer literary organization and has been actively involved in promoting mother tongue Dogri and cultural heritage of Duggar Pradesh since its formation in 1944. He further added that it's always a pleasure to be part of such mushairas wherein established poets take part and the atmosphere is electrifying with the blend of veterans and youths.

Prof. Lalit Magotra while welcoming all on behalf of Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that Sanstha is committed to preserve and promote mother tongue Dogri and poetic get-togethers help a lot in this

mission. He recalled that Mushairas organized by Sanstha in different parts of the region and even the remotest part on regular intervals in the past have helped immensely in promoting the language. He said that although dogri literature is very rich in all genres of literature, poetry has always been successful in pulling the crowds not in hundreds but in thousands in the past. He hoped that the glorious past will get revived in the present time also. He congratulated all the participants for giving new heights to the Mushaira with their unique presentations and assured that Sanstha in addition to fortnightly online Kavi Goshthis will make it a regular feature off line also. Pawan Verma, conducted the proceedings. A number of litterateurs, literature and dogri lovers attended the mushaira.

## Indian Army organizes Swachhta Abhiyan for Healthy Life at Naili, Rajouri



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 08 APR 2025

With the aim to increase awareness about personal hygiene and sanitation and healthy life amongst people residing in remote areas, The Indian Army organised a Swachhta Abhiyan for Healthy Life at Naili. This event was organised by the Indian Army in Naili as well as nearby villages. During this event, an awareness lecture was also conducted to increase awareness amongst the children, youth and local populace regarding various diseases and their symptoms along with pro-active measures to stem the tide and also emphasized on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation to

increase happiness quotient amongst the gathering. On this occasion, all personnel also took a pledge to ensure cleanliness of their homes, workplace and surrounding areas. The event witnessed huge participation with volunteers from all sections of society including school children, women and renowned social activists. A total strength of 22 including (15 x Males, Four Females and Three Children) attended the event. This gesture and effort by the Indian Army was highly appreciated by the Awam. This endeavour by the Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam.

## Tug of war in House just to divert attention from liquor ban, public issues: Shiv Sena

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

A tug of war is being played between BJP and NC as part of a well-planned strategy to avoid discussion on all public welfare issues including liquor ban in Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of state status, said Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state

chief Manish Sahni said that after passing in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and becoming a law, discussion on the Waqf Bill in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly does not matter. At the same time, despite the Speaker being from the NC, not getting permission on the demand of NC MLAs to discuss the Waqf Bill is like throwing dust in the eyes. Both the parties are continuing this tug of



war to bake political breads and divert the attention of the public from important issues.

Sahni said that today some MLAs are going to bring private proposals on ban on liquor and restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, which can put both NC and BJP in a dilemma. While NC is not able to take a decision on liquor ban, BJP is also not able to clarify its position on this. BJP is

also not in favour of any kind of proposal regarding restoration of statehood. Sahni said that it is unfortunate that to divert attention from liquor ban and public welfare issues, a game of farce is being played to mislead the public by resorting to Waqf Bill. Sahni has demanded from BJP MLAs to raise their voice for implementing liquor ban in Jammu and Kashmir and the temple city of Jammu.

## SMVDU Student Sadhvi Sharma qualifies GATE 2025 in Physics

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 8

Ms. SADHVI SHARMA D/O Inder Parkash and Anita Sharma R/O Dhangri, Rajouri student of Integrated Bsc. Hons Msc Physics Batch 2020 from the School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University qualified the Graduate Aptitude Test of Engineering (GATE) - 2025 in Physics conducted by IIT Roorkee, the result of which was declared recently by the National Coordination Board (NCB)-GATE. She has secured an All India Rank of 1210 in the examination with 33.33



marks in general category. The cut-off marks for general category were 26.8. Dr. Ram Prakash, Head, School of Physics along with other faculty members congratulated her for this remarkable achievement and wished her all the best for her future endeavors.

## ADC reviews development activities in Bheaderwah Sub Division

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, APRIL 08:

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bheaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today convened an introductory meeting with officers from different departments to review ongoing developmental works in the Sub Division and enhance inter-departmental coordination.

The meeting was attended by ASP, Tehsildar Bheaderwah, Tehsil Bhalla, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and Irrigation & FC, Divisional Forest Officer, CDPO, Block Medical Officer, Horticulture Development Officer, Executive Officer of Municipal Committee, besides officers from the Social Welfare, Agriculture, and Education Departments, along with Principals of the gov-



ernment institutions.

The ADC took a comprehensive review of developmental projects across the sub-division. He emphasized the importance of effective ground-level monitoring, transparency and timeline completion of the projects to benefit the public. The departments were directed to

maintain close coordination to resolve execution challenges, especially in remote and underserved areas.

A major highlight of the meeting was the focus on curbing drug abuse in the region. The ADC called upon the Education, Health, and Social Welfare Departments to intensify

awareness campaigns, workshops, and community engagement programs in educational institutions and localities. He underlined the role of preventive education, student counselling, and youth-centric sports and cultural activities to address this growing menace and protect the younger generation.

The ADC urged officers and officials to keep a close check on trouble makers to avoid any potential threat to social harmony. He stressed the importance of fostering unity, inclusivity, and a peaceful administrative environment to ensure balanced development and societal well-being in the region.

## DC Baramulla reviews progress under Aspirational District Programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at the DC office meeting hall to assess the progress across various indicators of the Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting involved in-depth discussion regarding the progress made under various indicators of the Aspirational District Programme, including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and basic infrastructure.

During the meeting, DC took a review of the physical and financial progress of various projects undertaken under the ADP programme and directed the



concerned officers to prepare the DPRs for various pending projects of financial year 2024-25 within 3 days.

He emphasized the need for sustained efforts to address developmental gaps and to further improve the district's overall performance under the ADP framework.

Furthermore, the meeting also discussed the utilization of award money recently received from NITI Aayog, in recognition of Baramulla's exemplary

performance under the Aspirational District Programme during the previous financial year.

DC lauded the efforts of the district administration and line departments that contributed to this achievement, and highlighted the need to channel the funds strategically to ensure impactful outcomes across various indicators of the programme.

Meanwhile, to bridge the academic gap for rural and marginalized students, DC instructed the concerned

officers to collaborate with reputed coaching centres and platforms to provide free and subsidized coaching for competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE.

Furthermore, DC directed concerned officers to prepare an actionable roadmap for effective utilization of CSR funds available to the district to focus on the development of Uri Sub-division which requires additional developmental focus to accelerate progress.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad; Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of GMC associated Hospital, representatives of NHPC and officers from other concerned departments.

## DC Poonch reviews performance of Banks for FY 2024-25

J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) to review the performance of Banks under Annual Credit Plan (ACP) and Govt sponsored schemes for Quarter ended December 2024 of FY 2024-25.

At the outset, Lead District Manager informed the house that different Banks have achieved total business (Deposit + Advances) of Rs. 6161.32 crore. "Thereby Deposits have risen from Rs.3612.87 crore as on 31 December 2023 to Rs.4018.22 crore as on 31 December 2024 showing a YoY growth of 11.22%. Advances have risen from Rs. 1999.57 crore as on 31 December, 2023 to Rs.2143.10 crore as on 31 December 2024 showing YOY growth of 7.18%. CD ratio of the Dis-



trict stood at 53.33 % as on 31 December 2024," he added. Lead District Manager further informed that under ACP, Banks operating in the district have made total credit disbursement of Rs.812.46 Crore, against annual target of Rs.725.03 Crore thereby achieving 112% of the target as of December 2024. "Out of above, the credit disbursement of Rs.329.50 crore was made under the Priority sector against the target of Rs.571.10 crore thereby achieving 58% of the annual target of the priority sector," he said.

The Chairman DLRC Vikas Kundal directed all the stakeholders to

improve priority sector lending in different Government sponsored schemes so that unemployed youth can attain self sufficiency through various self employed schemes of Central and state Govt.

The DC also directed all concerned sponsoring agencies and lending institutions to improve performance under priority sector. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna scheme of government was also discussed and the stakeholders were directed to increase lending so that power generation and free power to all objectives were met.

Stress was laid on effective implementation of social security schemes including Atal Pension Yojna, PM Suraksha Bima Yojna and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojna.

Mitesh Sharma AGM, RBI Jammu, Chander DDM NABARD, Aijaj Ahmed Cluster Head J&K Bank Poonch, Vikas Padha, Director RSETI J&K Bank Poonch, Dr. S.M. Younis Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Poonch, Mr. Bharat Singh Nag Project Officer DUDA Poonch, Mr. Bharat Bushan Fisheries Development Officer Poonch, Mr. Sakib Shafi DPM NRLM Poonch, Mr. Mohd Ghayas Khan District Officer KVIB Poonch. District officers Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt Poonch, Mr. Ramanjeet Singh IPO DIC Poonch besides District Coordinators of all Banks & other District Officers of Govt Departments attended the meet.

## Awareness program on POSH Act held at GDC Paloura

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 08:

The Internal Complaints Committee and Women Development Cell of Government Degree College Paloura, under the aegis of IQAC, on Tuesday organised an awareness-cum-Interaction Programme on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace" (POSH) Act, 2013.

The programme had three sessions. In the first session, key speaker Meenu Padha (practicing lawyer, High Court, J&K and Ladakh) addressed students and staff and apprised them about the POSH Act in detail. She discussed exhaustively about the terms related to sexual harassment, the composition of committee, the procedure to file complaint, the penalties etc.



The event was ensued by an interaction session where students actively participated in the discussion and raised their doubts and apprehensions related to the act which were addressed by the speaker and the committee members.

The Principal of the College Dr. Kulvinder Kour cautioned the students

regarding the magnitude of the consequences of the penalties of this Act. She advised the students to follow the right path and focus on their career. Prof Geetanjali Multani, Convener, ICC introduced the students with the Committee members and reiterated the commitment of the committee towards safeguarding the rights of

women at workplace.

In the last session, the students of VI semester shared their views on the POSH Act through engaging presentations. Roshan, Khushi, Anjali and Poonam from NEP & CBCS were the participants. Through the organisation of such programme the college communicated its zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment.

Tanmay Mahajan of IV th Semester hosted the program. Senior faculty members, the members of ICC and Women Development Cell were present in the event. The program concluded with formal vote of thanks.

## Record 14737 houses completed under PMAY-G in District Poonch in FY-2024-25

J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APRIL 08

District Poonch has achieved an extraordinary milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by completing a record 14,737 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). The remarkable accomplishment stands as a testament to the district administration's firm commitment to rural development, inclusive growth, and the national objective of "Housing for All."

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin, a flagship housing scheme of the Government of India, aims to provide pucca houses with all basic amenities to the homeless and those living in kutcha houses in rural areas. In line with this vision, District Poonch, under the focused and mission-driven leadership of District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, successfully navigated administrative challenges and geographic constraints to deliver housing to thousands of eligible families across the district.

What makes this achievement even more noteworthy is the scale



and efficiency of financial disbursement. A total of Rs. 14,631.50 lakh was credited directly into the bank accounts of 39,064 beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. This ensured transparency, eliminated middlemen, and empowered beneficiaries to build homes

according to their needs. The robust and timely disbursement of funds also reflects the administration's commitment to good governance and responsive public service delivery.

This progress was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the officers and field-level

workers of the Rural Development Department and other stakeholders who worked tirelessly under the strategic direction of the District Development Commissioner.

Regular monitoring, field visits, use of digital technology, and grievance redressal mechanisms further strengthened the scheme's implementation and helped accelerate the pace of construction across the district.

Beyond numbers, the successful execution of PMAY-G in District Poonch has had a transformative impact on the lives of thousands of rural families. For many beneficiaries, owning a permanent house has meant a life of dignity, safety, and stability. The provision of secure housing has also catalyzed improvements in sanitation, health, education, and overall well-being, contributing to the holistic development of rural communities.

Moreover, the initiative has generated employment opportunities for

local artisans, laborers, and material suppliers, giving a boost to the local economy. It has fostered community participation and strengthened the social fabric by promoting inclusive growth and equitable access to government benefits.

The record-setting completion of 14,737 PMAY-G houses in a single financial year not only reflects the efficiency and dedication of the district administration but also sets a new benchmark for performance and innovation in rural development. This achievement is a source of pride for the entire district and stands as an inspiring example for other districts across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation.

As District Poonch continues on its journey of development, the successful implementation of PMAY-G serves as a strong foundation for future progress. Under the continued guidance of the DDC Vikas Kundal, the district remains committed to uplifting the living standards of its rural population and fulfilling the dream of every citizen to own a home.

## DDC Kupwara chairs DLRC meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, APRIL 08

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today, chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) here to review the performance of line departments and banks with regard to saturation of different government schemes in the district.

Addressing the meeting, DDC emphasized upon the officers of line departments and bankers for financial inclusion and saturation of various centrally sponsored schemes so that the people especially marginalized sections of the community get benefited at large.

The DDC directed all the banks and the sponsoring agencies to work with greater coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of financial inclusion, besides, generation of employment for unemployed youth of the district.

She further directed banks for early disposal of financial assistance cases, and instructed line departments to sponsor cases to respective bank branches strictly as per service area, within the stipulated time frame.



The DDC stressed the need for grassroots awareness of financial and social security schemes sponsored by the Government, and directed the departments to hold awareness camps for the people.

While highlighting the overall performance for FY 2024-25 under annual district credit plan, Lead District Manager, Kupwara, Tariq Ahmad Jan informed the house that achievements under ACP 2024-25 for the district stood at Rs.1850 Crores till the end of third quarter which constitutes 112.98% against target of Rs.1637 Crores.

The achievements under priority sector advances were to the tune of Rs.803 Crores against

target of Rs.1411 Crore for ACP 2024-25 which constitutes 56.91% while as under non-priority sector the achievements are to the tune of Rs.1046.86 Crores against target of Rs.226 Crores which constitutes 463%.

Rs.166.38 crore have been disbursed by the banks amongst 10021 beneficiaries

It was also informed that Rs.6100 lakh were disbursed under PMEGP scheme against 1125 cases up to 31.12.2024.

The Potential Linked Credit Plan was also launched in the meeting.

Officers from line departments, representatives from different banks and other concerned were present in the meeting.