

SKUAST-K, AICRP on Seed (NSP) distribute Quality Seed among Tribal Farmers at KVK Budgam

J NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 11

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with AICRP on Seed (Crops) NSP, Shalimar SKUAST Kashmir today organized an input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan at KVK Budgam.

About 50 tribal farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block received 10q of high yielding SKUAST-K released variety of paddy seed (SR4) and Seed bins (50).

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, chief guest on the occasion, stressed the need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of Paddy.

Explaining about the benefits of the SR4 paddy



variety, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the variety is climate resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming community in the valley.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone (Prof. & Head KVK Budgam) briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/awareness programmes. He encouraged the farmers to avail the services of

the Kendra for more profitable farming.

Dr. Gowhar Ali (Assoc. Prof. NSP) and Dr. Aflak Hamid (Assoc. Prof. NSP) deliberated upon the Package of Practices to be adopted for the SR4 variety.

Scientists and technical staff of KVK Budgam and NSP also attended the programme.

GCOE hosts Seminar, Preamble Pledge to mark Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

The NSS Unit of Government College of Education Jammu, organized a thought-provoking seminar and Preamble Pledge ceremony to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

The event was held under the dynamic leadership of Principal of the college Dr. Jyoti Parihar and the guidance of NSS Programme Officer, Professor Sarita Dogra.

The celebration began with the solemn recitation of the Preamble, reaffirming the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which Dr. Ambedkar stood for. This was followed by



a seminar where students eloquently expressed their thoughts on the life, struggles, and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar towards social justice and nation-building.

The seminar was judged by an esteemed panel comprising Dr. Rajinder Kour, Professor Anuradha Choudhary and Dr. Sonam Gandotra. Their insights and encouraging words added great value to the

event. The First Position was clinched by Salma Khattoon, second position by Shiwali Sharma, while third Position went to Maansi Rajput.

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished faculty members including Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Professor Kiran Thapa, Professor Deepali, Professor Roopa Kumari, Dr. Shalini Sharma and Dr.

Suraj Prakash, who appreciated the efforts of the students and emphasized the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in today's time.

The NSS Unit continues to uphold the values of service, education, and equality through such meaningful engagements. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective commitment to carry forward the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Government focuses on boosting entrepreneurship, employment: Dy CM

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, convened a comprehensive meeting to review the functioning of Labour and Employment department, here today.

Secretary Labour and Employment, Rajiv Ranjan, Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Assistant Labour Commissioners of Jammu division and other officers were present during the meeting.

The Department gave a power point presentation highlighting its progress and achievements under various schemes. He apprised that the department intends to establish 1.5 lakh nano entrepre-



neurships which are under Rs 10 lakh and need no collateral from the applicant as overall budget for Mission YUVA is Rs 1830 crore.

The Dy CM had district wise review of all the schemes besides assessing the hindrances in desirable outcomes of the initiatives.

The Dy CM, while highlighting the need for creating awareness about various labour welfare schemes being implement-

ed by the Government, said that the same will help in ensuring the benefit percolates to the targeted population. He asked the officers to regularly hold awareness camps so that the information about the benefits of different schemes is properly disseminated. "The officers should ensure that these camps are holistic, so that massive participation of stakeholders is ensured", he maintained.

He asked the concerned

officials to motivate the individuals and create supportive environment for all businesses to thrive besides focusing on capacity building.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture. "Government's prime focus is on boosting entrepreneurship and employment," he added.

He also directed for undertaking regular inspection of various business establishments so that the welfare of workers is ensured. He said that there should be no laxity whenever a violation is observed. He asked the officers to conduct regular inspections of Industrial Estates, Hotels, Factories and other business establishments to gather feedback on production units besides the facilities and working conditions of human resource engaged there. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister met several deputations who projected their issues and sought redressal of the same

Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government would ensure time bound redressal of their issues.

Satish Sharma inaugurates 3 day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Trainings, Satish Kumar Sharma, today inaugurated a three day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu, showcasing the remarkable works of renowned artist Muneer Ali Khan.

The exhibition, being organized by Kala Kendra Jammu, featured a collection of art works that highlight the diverse and unique artistic vision of Khan.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra, stated that the primary objective of today's exhibition is to promote creativity in arts and provide a platform for artists like Muneer Ali Khan to share their work with a wider audience. Kala Kendra is committed towards nurturing and celebrating the talent that contributes to our cultural richness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the importance of art in shaping cultural identity and inspiring the future generations. "Art



and creativity are essential components of our culture and I am truly impressed by the talent and expression reflected in the paintings of Muneer Ali Khan. Events like this not only celebrate artistic excellence but also encourage our younger generation to engage with creative pursuits. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Kala Kendra for organizing such a purposeful exhibition", maintained the Minister.

He suggested that similar exhibitions should be held in various districts to bring art closer to the people and foster cultural awareness at the grassroots level.

The exhibition was also graced by the presence of noted journalist Zafar Choudhary, who shared his personal experience of being associated with Muneer Ali Khan's artistic

journey over the years. "Muneer Ali Khan's work stands out for its diversity and imaginative expression. His art reflects deep thought, emotion and a distinctive creative approach. It is always a pleasure to witness his evolving style," asserted Choudhary.

Muneer Ali Khan expressed his gratitude to the organizers and attendees. He shared insights into his artistic process and the inspiration behind some of his key works on display. "I have organized several exhibitions over the years, but every opportunity to present my work is special. Art appreciation is essential for an artist's growth and motivation. I thank everyone who came today and took the time to engage with my work," said Khan.

DYSSO hosts Sports Mela as part of Rajouri Day Celebration



J NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 11

As part of the ongoing Rajouri Day celebrations, the District Youth Services and Sports Department, in collaboration with the District Administration today organised a vibrant Sports Mela here at Mini Sports Complex.

The Sports Mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 students drawn from different educational institutions of the district. A total of 12 teams competed in different events including Volleyball (minor), Tug of War, Musical Chairs, Spoon Race and other fun-filled games.

Additional District

Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa was the chief guest, who lauded Youth Services and Sports Department for engaging the youth through such meaningful and energetic events.

The ADDC emphasized that Rajouri Day is not only an occasion to pay tribute to the sacrifices of our heroes but also a day to celebrate the spirit of unity, youth power and communal harmony. He urged the youth to stay committed to physical fitness, sportsmanship, and nation-building.

Prominent among others present were PO ICDS Fareed Ahmed Kohli; Chief Education Officer

Iqbal Ahmed; representative Rotary Club Grand, Dr. Sachin and officers and officials from the DYSSO. Their presence added great value and encouragement to the participants and organisers alike.

The event created an atmosphere of excitement, camaraderie and thrill, truly reflecting the spirit of Rajouri Day. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer, staff and volunteers ensured smooth conduct of the event and thanked all stakeholders for their support.

The celebration concluded with presentation of appreciation certificates and encouragement to all the participants.

SMC conducts demolition drive in Shalteng, Maloora areas



J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 11

Srinagar Municipal Corporation today launched a demolition drive in Ward 25 and Ward 26, targeting unauthorized and illegal constructions in the Shalteng and Maloora areas.

This initiative carried out on the directions of Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed and supervised by the Enforcement Officer for Zone West, aims to reinforce municipal regulations and curb illegal building activities.

During the demolition drive, several unauthorized structures were dismantled, highlighting the SMC's commitment to maintaining

urban order. The corporation strongly urges residents to obtain the necessary building permissions before undertaking any construction work.

Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmed said, "We reiterate our appeal to the general public to adhere to legal processes and secure prior approvals from the competent authority to avoid punitive measures."

SMC has increased its vigilance across Srinagar city and warns that violations of building norms will result in strict action.

Corporation remains dedicated to ensuring that all development within the city aligns with the Master Plan 2035.

Special summary revision intensified in Budgam, Nagrota ACs

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

The activities of Special Summary Revision 2025 for the twin Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota have gained momentum following the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The integrated draft electoral rolls for the two constituencies have already been published on 8th April 2025 with 1st April 2025 as the qualifying date. The period for filing claims and objections in that respect shall end on 24th April with the disposal of claims and objections by 2nd May 2025 and final publication of Electoral Rolls on 5th May 2025.

It is pertinent to mention here that the eligible voters can register them-

selves by filling Form 6 for inclusion (Form 6A in case of overseas elector, Form 7 for objecting inclusion or deleting of name and Form 8 for correction of particulars in the electoral roll or replacement of photograph). Electors can also submit their claims in their respective polling stations on 12th and 13th April wherein Special Camps are to be organised.

The filling of claims is a continuous process and shall be closed on 24th April 2025, reads the commune issued by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole.

Pole, while highlighting the importance of voting, said that, "it is our duty to participate in the democratic traditions of our country and the first step towards that goal is get-

ting ourselves registered as electors.

Speaking on the mechanism of grievance redressal of electors regarding inclusion/deletion; the Chief Electoral Officer assured that the issues/ grievances of citizens shall be promptly addressed. He stressed that any aggrieved elector can appeal against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer to the District Magistrate. If he/she is still unsatisfied with the decision, there is also a provision of second appeal before the Chief Electoral Officer, he added. The Chief Electoral Officer has appealed the electors of 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota to make the most of the Summary Revision and get themselves registered so that a pure and perfect Electoral Roll can be prepared.

ADC distributes Registration Certificates among Industrial Handicrafts, Handloom Cooperative Societies at Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 11

In an initiative to uplift the artisan and weaver community, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal, along with AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, distributed registration certificates among newly formed Industrial Handicrafts and Handloom Cooperative Societies under the Financial Support Scheme of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom.

Two societies were formally recognized during the event including Kuntwara Wheat Straw Handicrafts INDUSCO Ltd, Akarhang Kuntwara and Snow Valley Cutting Tailoring Handloom INDUSCO Ltd,



Passerkot Chattoo.

These societies have been registered under the aegis of the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, as part of the department's initiative

to foster cooperative-based micro-enterprises under the Self-Reliant Act, 1999.

Under this scheme, 11 registered Artisans/Weavers can formulate a society

and receive financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh in two equal, non-refundable installments. In addition to financial aid, the scheme also offers marketing support to boost sales and visibility for local crafts.

The objective of this initiative is to promote self-reliance among artisans and weavers by enabling them to function collectively on a single platform and operate as small-scale enterprises.

The event was attended by Supervisor INDUSCO, Abid and other concerned staff.

Commissioner SMC reviews progress under PMAY-U 2.0

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 11

Commissioner SMC, Dr.Owais Ahmed Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to provide 'Housing for All' and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended urban poor and homeless populations.

A key outcome of the discussion was the directive to conduct ward-wise intensive beneficiary identification camps across the city.

Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the implementation process and instructed the teams to ensure proper field verification and documentation for each identified beneficiary. He also called for enhanced inter-departmental



coordination and public outreach to raise awareness about the scheme.

"Every eligible person must be given the opportunity to live in a dignified and secure home. The goal of 'Housing for All' is inclusive urban development, and we must act swiftly and efficiently to achieve this target," said Dr. Owais.

Commissioner directed the teams to expedite pending approvals, fast-track the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and closely monitor the progress on ground. Special attention was given in ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women-led households, SC/ST families, and persons

with disabilities.

The meeting concluded with a strong call to action to intensify implementation efforts under PMAY-U 2.0 and to make Srinagar a model city for inclusive housing.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Corporation.

OBC/SC/ST delegation calls on Javed Rana; highlights issues



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

A delegation of OBC/SC/ST led by former Minister Ram Paul today called on Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The delegation presented set of demands including reconstitution of OBC Board, reservation in promotions, safe-

guarding constitutional provisions for welfare of underprivileged communities besides others.

The delegation also raised the issue of implementation of reservation in admission to professional educational institutions and recruitments in letter and spirit.

The Minister, while advocating the social justice, equality and inclusive

development as among the top priorities of present dispensation, assured the delegation that Cabinet Sub-Committee is looking into all the issues and grievances.

He added that various policies and programs have already been implemented aimed at fostering inclusive growth for marginalised sections of the society.

DC Baramulla convenes meeting to review alignment of Sopore-Kupwara Railway Line

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 11

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired an important meeting to review the proposed alignment of the Sopore-Kupwara railway line, a key connectivity project in north Kashmir.

The meeting was informed that the proposed alignment has been carefully planned to minimize the impact on horticultural land and avoid existing structures to the maximum extent possible. The Northern Railway officials presented detailed maps and technical plans to support their assessment.

DC emphasized the need for a balanced approach that ensures development while safeguarding public



interest. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain coordination and ensure that land acquisition and other procedural aspects are handled smoothly and transparently.

The Sopore-Kupwara railway line is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity and

contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the area.

The meeting was attended by ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi; senior engineers and consultants from Northern Railway, besides other senior revenue officers of the district.

Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 11

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out installation of isolators at GIS Tengpora, the shutdown of 33KV GIS Tengpora KP Bagh Line, GIS Tengpora Exhibition Line and GIS Tengpora Narkara Line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at KP Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Batmaloo, Exhibition, Rajbagh, Narkara and Gangbugh shall remain off while power supply to Fateh Kadal, Khayam Khankahi Mohalla and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 15, 17 & 19 April, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Bagh i Ali Mardan Khan-Takenwari line (pertains to STD-1st) shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khanyar, Rainawari and Takenwari shall remain off while power supply to KP Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Batmaloo, Exhibition, Rajbagh, Narkara, Gangbugh and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 19 April, 2025. Similarly, to facilitate the stabilization of the 11 KV feeder O4 Mughal Masjid from Sazgaripora to Aali Masjid in connection with providing of power supply to STP Plant Ali Jan Road, the shutdown of 33KV Khanyar Line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khanyar, Rainawari and Takenwari shall remain off while power supply to Miskeen Bagh, Rosebal,

Hazaribagh, Kondebal, Hasanabad, Jogi Lankar, Palpora, Sangam, JLNH Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 15, 17 & 19 April, 2025.

Further, to carry out upgradation of 33 KV Wanpoh SICOP line from 0.1 ACSR to 0.2 ACSR, the shutdown of 33KV Wanpoh SICOP line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Shamsipora, SICOP, Zirpara, Veeri, Cheniwader and Shuhul Flour Mill shall remain off while power supply Veer, Srigufwara, Zirpara, Shamsipora and Bijbehara SICOP areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 14 & 17 April, 2025.

DDC Poonch reviews developmental activities in Aspirational Blocks, Panchayats

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 11

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today evaluated the performance of departments with regard to achievement of indicators prescribed under District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and progress of development works under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP). He was chairing a meeting held today at the District Development Commissioner's office complex.

The DDC evaluated key performance indicators across different sectors, utilizing data from relevant portals. He discussed a comprehensive and implementable framework for the current financial year aimed at enhancing the quality of life and service delivery in Aspirational Blocks and Panchayats in the district. The sectors reviewed included Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Social Development. Emphasizing the



need for strict adherence to program guidelines, Kundal insisted on regular updates to ensure the accuracy of progress reported on the portal.

In a focused directive, he instructed the Chief Medical Officer to improve health service quality and set a target for achieving bronze certification in a health institution in Balakote. The Chief Education Officer was tasked with verifying toilet and drinking water facilities in educational institutions and reporting back to the office. Additionally, the Block Development Officer was directed to prioritize the saturation of PMAY-G and toilet facilities in aspirational panchayats and blocks to better meet the basic needs of the public.

The DDC stressed the importance of enhancing

efforts in areas requiring improvement and ensuring that all aspirational blocks and panchayats are connected to internet services. The Common Service Centre manager was assigned the task of saturating these areas to provide government services at residents' doorsteps. He highlighted the necessity of channeling resources towards the modernization and overall development of these aspirational regions. The meeting was attended by PO ICDS, ACP, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, DSWO /DIO Poonch, CEO, CMO, CAO, CAHO, LDM Banks, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar Balakote/Mankote, CDPO Mendhar/Balakote, BDOs Executive Engineer PWD/Jal Shakti/PMGSY and other concerned officers.

ADM Ansuya Jamwal calls on NGOs to strengthen fight against drug abuse



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Jammu Ansuya Jamwal on Friday chaired a meeting with representatives of various NGOs, urging them to vigorously contribute towards promotion of 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' launched by the Government.

Addressing the participants, the ADM highlighted the crucial role NGOs play in spreading awareness by reaching the public directly. She assured that the District Administration would provide resource persons to support the

NGOs in conducting awareness campaigns in different localities.

ADM Jamwal stressed that while the administration continues to organise events across the district, NGOs should also take proactive steps to engage the public at the grassroots level. She encouraged them to interact with people in neighbourhoods, educate them about the ill effects of drug abuse and help in building a more informed and vigilant society.

She further encouraged the NGOs to inform the administration about drug addicts and suspicious elements involved in

the drug supply chain. She assured complete confidentiality and appropriate action against the perpetrators with the support of the police and concerned agencies.

The ADM invited suggestions from NGOs for a sustained and coordinated fight against drug abuse. The District Administration reiterated its full support to all genuine initiatives aimed at making Jammu a drug-free district.

The meeting was part of the larger strategy under the 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' to mobilise all sections of society in the campaign against drug addiction.

Traffic enforcement drive conducted at Gujjar Nagar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

A joint enforcement drive was carried out today at Gujjar Nagar by officers from the District Administration, Motor Vehicle Department, Police and Traffic Police to check traffic violations, particularly the issue of wrong parking which often causes congestion in the area.

During the drive, around 100 vehicles were checked, resulting in 26 challans issued for various offences. A total of 11 vehi-

cles were also seized on the spot. The expected fine collection from the challans stands at Rs 60,000.

The enforcement team included Tehsildar Jammu Khas Paramdeep Singh, ARTO Jammu Mohd Saleem Manhas, DTI Arjun, SHO Peer Mitha Raza Ali, MVI Azad Hussain, along with supporting staff from the concerned departments.

It is informed that such drives will continue in the coming days to ensure smoother traffic movement and enhanced road safety.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Amit Shah welcomes...

It may be recalled that earlier, on April 8, three Hurriyat-linked organisations—Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front—publicly disassociated themselves from the separatist conglomerate.

Prior to that, on March 25, the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement (JKDPM) also announced their exit from separatist politics. On March 27, Tehreek-i-Isteqlal and Tehreek-i-Ishtiqamat followed suit, cutting ties with the Hurriyat Conference.

The trend of separatist organizations breaking away from Hurriyat, as per KNO, began in recent months, with groups issuing public statements declaring their rejection of secessionism and pledging allegiance to India's Constitution.

The Hurriyat Conference, once a key separatist alliance in Kashmir, has seen a decline in its influence over the past few years, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the detention of many of its leaders.

PAK UNABLE TO HANDLE SEPARATISM TERRORISM IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY

Meanwhile, the Union Home Minister in an interview with a national news channel trained guns at Pakistan being unable to handle separatism in Balochistan and terrorism in their own country. "India is not supporting the Balochistan movement. Certain provinces of Pakistan are unhappy with the way the Pakistan Government is functioning," Shah said.

Pertinently, Pakistan has been facing increasing unrest not only in Balochistan but in other parts of the country also. "Pakistan should find out a solution to their problems," Shah added.

He reiterated that Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) belongs to India and that "our legal case is also strong."

"India's claim on PoJK is not a mere claim but a firm belief backed by historic documents and evidence," he added. KNO

Terrorist killed in...

with the terrorists was established late on April 9, leading to an intense firefight.

"Today (April 11) one terrorist was neutralized during the ongoing engagement. The operation, conducted under challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions, underscores the relentless commitment of security forces to eliminate terrorism in the region. The identity of the slain terrorist is yet to be confirmed, though preliminary assessments suggest the individual may be a foreign national," he added.

"Despite hostile terrain and adverse weather, relentless operations by our brave soldiers continue," stated the White Knight Corps in an official communication.

"The operation remains active as security forces continue to comb the area for additional threats, with two more terrorists suspected to be hiding in the vicinity," it added.

According to Shridhar Patil, Deputy Inspector General Kishtwar Doda Ramban Range, the operations in the Kishtwar region have been going on for the past three days. One terrorist was eliminated this morning.

He stated that the other terrorists in the region are trapped, and the operation will continue until they are all eliminated.

"This operation was going on for three days and is still ongoing. As we have told so far, one terrorist has been neutralised in the morning hours, and further operation is in continuation. Details of many operations cannot be shared at this time. Right now, we can tell you this much: the operation is in continuation, and some terrorists are trapped. The operation will continue until all the terrorists are eliminated", Patil told reporters.

UDHAMPUR OPERATION

The officials said that a separate counter-terrorism operation is underway in the Jopher-Marta forests of Udhampur district, under the jurisdiction of Ramnagar police station. "Initiated on April 9, based on credible intelligence regarding terrorist activity, the operation has seen joint teams of the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies establish a cordon-and-search operation (CASO) to track down a group of terrorists," he added.

"On April 9, a civilian named Rachpal reported that three heavily armed terrorists, dressed in black, entered his residence in the Basantgarh area around 8:30 p.m., consumed food, and left by 11:30 p.m., taking a mobile phone, clothes, shoes, a bag, and an umbrella. This incident, combined with intelligence reports, confirmed the presence of two to three terrorists in the Jopher-Marta belt."

Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure, had said that contact was established with the terrorists on April 9, leading to a brief exchange of fire. The area has since been placed under a tight cordon, with night patrols, sniffer dogs, drones, and aerial surveillance deployed to prevent the terrorists' escape.

The operation has been extended to the higher reaches of Kathua and Rajouri districts, with a brief exchange of gunfire reported in the Billawar area of Kathua.

HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE

The twin operations in Kishtwar and Udhampur reflect heightened vigilance in response to recent terrorist activities in the Jammu region.

Security forces have intensified surveillance in high-altitude areas, particularly in the Bhandarwah area of Doda district, to counter potential infiltration attempts facilitated by melting snow in the higher meadows during summer months.

The operations follow a series of encounters in the Kathua-Udhampur-Kishtwar belt over the past month, during which several terrorists and security personnel have been killed. On March 28, 2025, four police personnel died and two terrorists were killed in a fierce encounter in Kathua's Sufain forest. KNO

NIA court sends Mumbai...

at the helm of the NIA. Date, who was then posted as an Additional Commissioner of Police in Mumbai when 10 terrorists struck the country's financial capital, had received serious injuries in the terror attack.

Rana is charged with numerous offenses, including conspiracy, murder, commission of a terrorist act, and forgery in the country.

It may be recalled soon after taking over as the President of United States for second time, Donald Trump in February this year had confirmed 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India and said that he was pleased to announce that Rana is "going back to India to face justice."

During the joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their bilateral meeting, Trump had said. "I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters (Tahawwur Rana) and one of the very evil people of the world, having to do with the horrific 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack to face justice in India."

"He is going back to India to face justice," he had said. KNO

J&K will never...

Parliament recently.

About the protest held by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against the Waqf Act, Abdullah said, "It is a good thing. This is a free country."

He also congratulated the Government of India for bringing back the mastermind of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused, Tahawwur Rana. However, he questioned the centre on its promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 to every citizen.

"At least they have brought someone back," he said while congratulating the Centre for extraditing Rana to India from the United States. He asked what happened to the promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 lakh to every citizen. KNO

Army committed to...

"The Indian Army stands by its commitment to keep Jammu and Kashmir terror-free," he added.

One terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kishtwar district on Friday, while a combing operation is underway in Udhampur district, army officials said. KNO

ACB registers case...

registered on the basis of a verification. The verification conducted by this Bureau revealed that the then MD of J&K Housing Corporation namely Brij Bhushan Sharma, who was superannuated from services on 30.06.2006, obtained total loan of Rs. 23 lakhs from J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation, without following specified procedure/approval and without any further mortgage/any supplementary deeds thereby abused their official positions," reads the statement.

Verification further revealed that as per Board of Directors decision dated 01.03.2006 for extending pension benefit to said Brij Bhushan Sharma Ex. MD, it was decided that Rs. 15 lakhs will be deposited with the post office as pension fund out of which 50% contribution will be made by J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation and 50% contribution by him, it reads.

"The 50% share (i.e., Rs. 7.50 lakhs) to be paid by him was to be released in his favour by the Corporation which was to be refunded by him from his retirement dues. Only Rs. 1.50 lakhs stands recovered/deposited by him during the year 2022-23. Apart from, no effective steps have been taken by present Managing Director of Corporation to recover the balance amount from his monthly pension dues."

"As per housing loan of Rs 23 lakhs drawn from time to time and repayment made by Brij Bhushan Sharma, Ex. MD, an amount

of Rs 36,40,375.50 alongwith interest as on 31.03.2023 is still outstanding against him. Further, regarding the Advance of Rs 7.50 lakhs drawn by him against pension scheme, an amount of Rs 18,99,266 alongwith interest as on 31.03.2023 is still outstanding against him," the statement added.

"The probe conducted further revealed that Bharat Bhushan, present Managing Director of J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd. who took charge after retirement of Brij Bhushan, Ex. Managing Director in the year 2006 did not take any effective steps/legal action to recover the amount drawn by Brij Bhushan, thereby shown criminal silence on his part. The concerned officers/officials in league with beneficiary facilitated the draw of housing loan without following specified procedure as well as maintained criminal silence by violating corporation rules and did not take necessary steps as envisaged to recover the long pending dues including housing loan and pension advance from the defaulter, as a result of which a loss to the tune of Rs. 55,39,641.50 (including interest) has been caused to Government exchequer," it said, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on. KNO

LG addresses 'Ayodhya...

Maniramdas Chhawani; Geeta Manishi Mahamandaleswar Shri Gyananand Ji Maharaj; Padma Shri Vasudev Kamath; Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman, IGNC; Shri Lallu Singh, former Member of Parliament and heads of various religious and cultural organisations graced the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to everyone associated with the three-day cultural celebration dedicated to the glory of Ayodhya.

"Ayodhya is not just a geographical spot but it's the cradle of spirituality, good governance and rich culture. Prabhu Shri Ram's birthplace is our identity, symbol of our unity and one of the sacred pilgrimages.

Ayodhya is spiritual resonance. Ayodhya is the key to happiness and spiritual awakening. Ayodhya is the energy, consciousness and life force of the society. Ayodhya is a repository of the best elements of our heritage and spiritualism and a beacon of hope for devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Ayodhya has been the soft power of ancient India and contributed to the spread of ideas through spiritual values, tradition and folk culture and helped in creating the Indosphere. He said, there are many examples like Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia which are closely linked to Ayodhya.

"I see Ayodhya as the Moral Compass of India whose energy, progressive policies and blessings of Lord Shri Ram will help us build a welfare state and guide us to keep our soul intact. Ayodhya has great significance as an idea and its cultural-spiritual embers will continue to shine for thousands of years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the massive impact of Ayodhya on shaping ideas and culture in Asia.

"In abstract term it was like a cultural magnet and gave a boost to India's spiritual cloud. It had gravitational pull and Ayodhya's influence spread through literature, art, music and theatre," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Bhagwan Shri Ram's ideals and values of righteousness, truth, justice, dignity, patience, tolerance, cooperation, compassion, leadership and courage are guiding the people to build a better future.

"These are the values which are powering India's journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' amidst global uncertainty.

We must recognize that development is a collaborative effort that requires cooperation and collaboration. Equal opportunities to the weaker sections should be our priority. In this mission, our unflinching faith in ancient traditions and spiritual heritage will provide a new momentum, strength and resilience to the society," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The three-day Ayodhya Parv serves as a confluence of devotion, classical traditions, and dialogue, bringing together saints, cultural thinkers, policymakers, scholars, and artists from across the country.

On the occasion, several publications including 'Santon Mein Dhruv Tare', 'Chaurasi Kos Ki Ayodhya', 'An Eternal Hero: Ram', 'Warriors Of Kurukshetra' and 'Bharat Bodh Patrika' were also released.

ECI rejects suggestions...

private networks including the Internet. They underlined that India uses Electronic Voting Machines that work like "simple, correct and accurate calculators" and cannot be connected to either the internet, WiFi or infrared.

These machines have stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are invariably checked by the political parties at various stages, including conduct of "mock polls" before actual polling starts.

More than five crore paper trail machine

MLA Bishnah spearheads devp, mobilizes party workers in Bishnah

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BISHNAH, APRIL 11

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, has been actively engaging with his constituency, organizing a significant BJP Active Karyakarta Sammelan and inaugurating a Kissan Khidmat Ghar in Smailpur. These events underscore his commitment to both political mobilization and grassroots development.

The BJP Active Karyakarta Sammelan in Bishnah served as a platform for Dr. Bhagat to connect with and energize party workers. The gathering aimed to strengthen the party's presence in the region, fostering unity and outlining strategies for future endeavours. In his address, Dr. Bhagat emphasized the importance of dedicated karyakartas in driving the party's vision and ensuring effective implementation of government initiatives. He highlighted the party's dedication to the regions development. Shri Rinku Choudhary District BJP Border Jammu President, Senior Leader and Ex MLA Shri Ashwani Sharma, General Secretaries Zila Border, District Team, Mandal Team and other



senior Karyakarta of BJP Border Zila Jammu attended the Sammelan.

Simultaneously, Dr. Bhagat inaugurated the Kissan Khidmat Ghar in Smailpur, a crucial step towards supporting the local farming community. This initiative reflects his focus on addressing the needs of agricultural workers, a significant demographic in the Bishnah constituency. The Kissan Khidmat Ghar is designed to provide farmers with essential resources, information, and support, thereby enhancing their productivity and livelihoods. Providing farmers with up-to-date infor-

mation on agricultural practices, government schemes, and market trends. Offering guidance and assistance on various farming-related issues.

Dr. Bhagat's dual approach, combining political mobilization with tangible developmental initiatives, demonstrates his dedication to serving the people of Bishnah. His efforts are aimed at fostering a stronger, more prosperous community.

It is clear from the available information, that Dr. Rajeev Bhagat is very active in his constituency, and is working to improve the lives of the people that he represents.

Modi Govt's firm policies end separatist influence in J&K: Purnima

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 11

Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, has hailed the continued disintegration of separatist groups in the region, asserting that the firm and visionary policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have brought an end to the decades-long separatist narrative in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued today, Advocate Purnima Sharma said, "The recent decision by yet another constituent of the Hurriyat Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, to renounce separatism and pledge allegiance to the Constitution of India is a testament to the Modi Government's unwavering commitment to national unity and peace in J&K." She pointed out that so far, twelve Hurriyat-linked organizations have disassociated themselves from the



separatist fold, marking a historic shift in the political landscape of the Union Territory.

The senior BJP leader remarked that the consistent surrender of separatist outfits is a direct result of the Modi Government's ironclad policy against anti-national elements. "This is not a coincidence. It is the outcome of strategic decisions like the abrogation of Article 370, zero tolerance towards terrorism, and a firm stand on national integration," she said.

Purnima said the development is a resounding endorsement of the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' vision of the Prime Minister. "Jammu and Kashmir

is undergoing a historic transformation—from being a hotspot of separatism to becoming a beacon of development and unity," she stated.

The BJP Spokesperson also highlighted the failure of previous governments that, according to her, allowed separatist elements to flourish for political convenience. "For years, some political parties nurtured Hurriyat as a tool for unrest. But under PM Modi's leadership, the falsehood of separatism has been exposed and dismantled," she added.

Advocate Purnima Sharma urged all remaining fringe elements still clinging to separatism to introspect and join the mainstream. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have chosen peace and progress over propaganda and provocation. The time has come for complete national integration and the Modi Government is determined to deliver on this promise," she added.

slips have been verified and matched while counting in front of political parties, they pointed out.

Then Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, had in January responded to Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on. They (the US) don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms.

Day 4: Rains, snow...

"Fresh spells of light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) at many places accompanied with thunder, gusty winds from April 18 evening onwards to April 20," Ahmad said.

Furthermore, the MeT has issued an advisory, advising the travelers, tourists and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory.

The farmers are advised to resume farm operations from 12th April onwards till 17th April, reads the advisory, adding that there is a possibility of thunder and gusty winds at few places.

Pertinently, the intermittent light rains and snow continued to occur across Jammu and Kashmir since April 08, leading to the dip in day temperatures by a few degrees. The four-day wet spell occurred just a day after the Valley including Srinagar recorded the hottest day of the season. Srinagar had recorded a day temperature of 28.2 degree Celsius on April 07. KNO

JK likely to require...

Jammu and Kashmir has touched a peak power demand of nearly 3000-3100 Megawatts (MW) of power.

The official documents in this regard states that the region was having actual peak power demand of 2675 MW till the year 2016-17.

However, after six years, the peak power demand in the year 2021-22 had increased by 401 MW. In this fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir was having an actual power demand of 3076 MW.

Earlier this news agency had reported that in the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.

An official had said, "Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data."

"When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region's increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region's population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period," the official had said. KNO

7th Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 celebrated in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 11

District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Poshan Unit, celebrated the Seventh Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 with great enthusiasm here at the Auditorium Hall of SKC GDC.

The campaign focused on four critical themes set for this year -- the first 1,000 days of life, popularising the Poshan Tracker's beneficiary module, community-based management of malnutrition, and addressing childhood obesity through lifestyle changes.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the chief guest at the event attended by ACR Mohammad Sayeed; PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa; DSWO Wakeel Ahmed Bhat; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz, ACP Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and Professor Rakesh Sharma from



GDC Poonch, along with a large number of female guests.

In his address, the DC emphasized the importance of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, a national nutrition mission aimed at improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. He commended the staff working on the mission for their dedication and achievements.

PO ICDS, ACR, CMO and others also addressed

the gathering, stressing the significance of the mission and its various initiatives. The event featured engaging skits, speeches, and awareness activities focused on Mission Poshan schemes, such as "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi," traditional dietary practices, health education for pregnant women, infant and young child feeding practices, and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, along with information on Aadhar enrollment.

The celebration concluded with DC presenting awards and certificates of appreciation to the best performers in the mission, recognizing their invaluable contributions to enhancing nutrition and health in the community.

This celebration underscored the commitment of the District Administration toward enhancing nutrition and health awareness among the community.

Progress of JJM, HADP schemes reviewed at Handwara



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 11

In order to ensure timely completion of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and saturation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in sub district Handwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Friday chaired a series of meetings with concerned officers, here.

While chairing the meeting of PHE officers, the ADC impressed upon the concerned engineers to speed up the pace of

work and ensure completion of all ongoing JJM schemes in the sub district to mitigate the water supply issues of people of various areas.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the status of various ongoing water supply schemes coming up in different areas of PHE division Handwara.

It was informed that 10 schemes have been completed under JJM in the sub district besides, out of the total 122 allotted works pertaining to construction of Bore wells/Tube wells/Dug wells, OHTs, RSFPs, GSRs/Pipe

Network, 59 works stands completed and work is in progress on the rest of the projects.

The ADC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes of the Agriculture department. He enjoined upon the officers to ensure awareness of the HADP scheme at grassroots level so that maximum beneficiaries are covered and benefited under the ambitious scheme targeted for upliftment and welfare of the farmer community.

TLSC organises awareness program on Child Rights, Child abuse at Gurez

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 11

Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Gurez under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised an awareness programme on child rights and child abuse.

The programme was aimed to sensitize the public, especially students and parents, about the fundamental rights of children and the alarming issue of child abuse in its various forms.

Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Gurez, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of

safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure, nurturing environment for their growth and development.

In his keynote address, Chairman highlighted various legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Constitution of India, which guarantee the safety, education, and dignity of every child. He urged all stakeholders viz. parents, teachers, legal authorities, and the community at large to remain vigilant and report any instances of abuse or exploitation.

DIPR Cultural Unit spreads anti-drug awareness at Bakshi Nagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Cultural Unit of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu, today organized a cultural awareness programme titled "Nasha Mukh Bharat" (Say No to Drugs) here at Bakshi Nagar.

The purpose of the initiative was to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and advocate a drug-free society.

Artists from the Cultural Unit engaged the audience with theme-based songs, effectively illustrating the impact of drug

addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

Present at the event were the Lecturers from the Education Department and Naib Tehsildar Jammu Khas, who also shared their viewpoints on the issue and emphasized its relevance to the audience. They praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for hosting such an impactful event aimed at increasing public awareness.

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

Div Com Kashmir reviews action plan of works for SANJY-2025



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 11

In order to ensure top notch facilities for Yatris during the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting to review the action plan of works of line departments and concerned district administrations. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Bandipora & Ganderbal besides Director Tourism, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director ULB, Director CAPD, Labour Commis-

sioner, Chief Engineers of R&B, KPDCL; officers of SMC, Information, PHE, I&FC, Ayush, Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonmarg Development Authority, etc.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed Departments to submit action plans for SANJY-25 urgently, and initiate the process of floating of tenders so that the works shall be completed within the stipulated time.

Keeping in view the railway connectivity, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners for creating temporary additional facilities at Railway Station Anantnag and Budgam to accommodate and ferry pilgrims.

He urged departments including Health, KPDCL and PHE to frame work plans for these stations also to ensure smooth delivery of respective services.

He instructed the Director Tourism to make the accommodation of the department at Budgam Railway station available to district administration for utilization during yatra.

Div Com enjoined DC Anantnag for creating the facilities of appropriate number of RFID registration counters in the district.

He also urged DCs for keeping funds for unforeseen exigencies to address issues urgently and efficiently.

Market inspections conducted in Srinagar to check quality of food items

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 11

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a Food Safety Team today conducted intensive inspections of various food outlets in Hazratbal area of the District.

During the inspection, some street vendors in Hazratbal market were found violating provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. These violations included Temperature Control; High-risk food was exposed to temperature danger zones. Environmental Protection: High-risk food was not protected from environmental hazards.

At Hazratbal market about 7 FBOs were found operating in insanitary/unhygienic conditions and improper handling of High Risk foods. Accordingly challan was submitted before Adjudicating Officer (ADC) Srinagar for violating various provisions of the Food Safety Act.

The Srinagar Food Safety Team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi has been working to strengthen its intelligence network to



gather information about unhygienic or misbranded food items. This initiative aims to enhance food safety enforcement in District Srinagar.

Those Food Business Operators especially dealing with High Risk food are directed to maintain high standards of sanitary and Hygiene conditions of their establishments failing which strict action under FSS Act will be initiated against defaulters.

The Food Safety Team actively made food business operators aware of food safety laws. They were

cautioned that strict action will be taken against violators.

Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the viral video that surfaced on social media yesterday, the Food Safety team inspected a meat shop in Hazratbal.

The shop was found to be non-operational for over 10 years, as confirmed by locals and the shopkeeper. However, the owner was discovered to be running a street vending business selling chicken, potentially storing equipment like wooden logs and knives within the shop premises.

Inaugural Session of 49th Meeting of National Committee of Archivists (NCA) held in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

National Archives of India (NAI) in collaboration with the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Jammu & Kashmir, inaugurated the 49th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA). The event was inaugurated by Director General of the National Archives of India, Sh. Arun Singh alongside Jammu and Kashmir Minister Sh. Satish Sharma. The event brought together experts, archivists and cultural custodians to share knowledge, discuss key

issues and encourage partnerships to safeguard historical records for future generations.

In a video message, Union Minister for Culture, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat congratulated the stakeholders for organizing the two-day workshop. He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to preserve and present India's heritage for the world to see. "This is a collective effort, and everyone has a vital role to play in safeguarding our history," the minister said. He emphasized the importance of preserving antiquities and historic

documents and noted that India's efforts to digitize its archives were gaining international recognition.

Director General of the National Archives of India, Sh. Arun Singh expressed his gratitude for Jammu's role in hosting the NCA meeting emphasizing that Jammu and Kashmir had proudly organized this important event twice. He praised the state's efforts in archiving valuable documents. He said that NAI has undertaken digitisation of are manuscripts such as the Gilgit manuscript,

Singhal stressed the urgent need to revive the archiving culture in India,



pointing out that many essential historical documents are still in the possession of private individuals. "We must take collective responsibility to safeguard these documents and ensure that they are preserved for posterity," he

added. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to digitize over 34 crore pages, with 10 crore already online. By August 2026, the National Archives plans to complete the digitization process, positioning India as a global leader in

the preservation of digital archives. Singhal outlined new challenges emerging in the digitization process, particularly the need to preserve traditional knowledge, community documents, and oral histories. He referenced initia-

tives in Tripura, where the oral histories of 13 ancient tribes are being recorded to ensure that no history is lost, even in the absence of written records.

The NAI is also focusing on increasing outreach activities to generate public interest in archiving and collecting documents that are currently lying unused in private hands.

Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Satish Sharma expressed his pride in the region's contributions to archiving, noting that Jammu is home to over 6 lakh files, with 70 lakh pages digitized. He emphasized the importance of

interconnected archives across India to make these valuable resources more accessible to scholars, researchers, and students.

He congratulated the NAI team for their inspiring work, stating, "Archives are living bridges between the past and the future. In a fast-paced world, the role of preserving archives is more crucial than ever."

Sharma also highlighted the challenges of modernizing and integrating technology into the archiving process, calling for continued collaboration across the country to create a more efficient archival system.

EDITORIAL

Firm stand against subversion!

The dismissal of two more government employees in Jammu and Kashmir under Article 311 of the Indian Constitution is more than just administrative action—it is a bold, necessary stance against separatism and terror-friendly elements operating within the administration. The move by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha sends a resolute message: there is no room for disloyalty and covert support for terrorism within the corridors of public service. This action, involving Basharat Ahmad Mir, an Assistant Wireless Operator in the Police Department, and Ishtiyak Ahmed Malik, a Senior Assistant in the Public Works (R&B) Department, is rooted in extensive investigations by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Mir's alleged collaboration with Pakistani Intelligence and the sharing of sensitive deployment details not only breached his oath of service but placed countless lives and national security at risk. Similarly, Malik's deep involvement with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir and connections to the terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen are egregious violations of trust, implicating him in supporting and enabling violent activities against the Indian state. The termination of these employees, among the 72 dismissed since the establishment of the Special Task Force (STF) in July 2020, marks a clear and unwavering commitment by the government to cleanse the administrative machinery of subversive elements. The collaboration between the STF and the Terror Monitoring Group (TMG) has proven effective in identifying and uprooting such threats, reinforcing that government positions are not sanctuaries for covert anti-national agendas. This decisive action also underscores the critical importance of accountability. Government jobs, especially within security and infrastructure departments, come with unparalleled access and influence. When such positions are exploited to aid enemies of the state, the betrayal is not just procedural—it is moral and existential. The government's zero-tolerance policy is not an overreaction but a necessary safeguard to maintain the integrity of public institutions and the safety of citizens. For too long, a dangerous ambiguity loomed over how the system should deal with those who wear the garb of state service while advancing the interests of hostile actors. The time for ambiguity is over. Dismissing such individuals is not just about removing a threat—it's about reaffirming a national consensus that loyalty, transparency, and patriotism are non-negotiable traits for public servants. Lieutenant Governor Sinha's administration has shown that the UT government will act without hesitation when national security is compromised. This serves not only as justice for past transgressions but as a deterrent to those who might consider using their public positions for nefarious ends in the future. India, and Jammu and Kashmir in particular, stands at a pivotal moment in its journey toward peace and progress. A clean, loyal, and dedicated administrative force is not a luxury—it is a prerequisite. And actions like these are vital in building that foundation. Let this be a loud and clear message: The state will not hesitate to act when the nation's integrity is at stake.



OMKAR DATTATRAY

Hanuman Janmotsav, called Hanuman jayanti is a Hindu festival celebrating the birth of the Hindu deity Hanuman, and one of the protagonists of the Ramayana. The celebration of Hanuman jayanti varies by time and tradition in each state of India. In most northern states, the festival is observed on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Chaitra (Chaitra Purnima). Hanuman is one of the most powerful and popular deities of Hinduism and considered the patron God in wrestling. Hindus celebrate the Hanuman Janmotsav or birthday of Hanuman with a grand festival known as Hanuman Jayanti. In most parts of India, the auspicious festival of Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated on full moon day (Purnima) of the chaitra month which usually falls in March or April of the English calendar. But moving towards south India, it is celebrated on different dates in different states. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it is observed on the Margashirsha Amavasya - new moon day

, whereas in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, it is observed on the 10th, in Krishna paksha of Vaisakha month. Karnataka celebrates this auspicious festival on the Shukla Paksha Trayodashi -13th day of Margashirsha month and Odisha, the eastern state of India celebrates Hanuman Jayanti on the first day of the month of Vaishaka generally in April. According to mythology, Lord Hanuman is an incarnation of Lord Shiva -11th Rudra and the most powerful being in all realms. Lord Hanuman is one of the prominent heroes and a central character of the Hindu super epic Ramayana. According to epic, He is a Vanara and took birth to assist Lord Ram. Lord Hanuman is a widely worshipped deity and has the ability to attain victory against all evils and provide protection to all his devotees. On the auspicious day of Hanuman Jayanti, devotees visit Hanuman temples and offer prayers. Lord Hanuman was born at the time of sunrise, so after a holy bath in the early morning devotees perform various rituals before the dawn itself. They apply red tilak -vermillion on the forehead of Hanuman's idol, chant different hymns and mantras, read Hanuman Chalisa, offer Diya, offer sweets, coconuts as Prasad, do Aarti, Pradakshina as per tradition. Reciting Hanuman chalisa or lines from Ramayana -Sunderkand are common practices performed on this day. After completion of

the puja, devotees apply red sindoor on their foreheads and distribute prasada Lord Hanuman is considered as the 11th Rudra avatar of Lord Shiva and is worshipped as a symbol of strength, knowledge, and devotion. It is believed that He is an immortal being and possesses immense power to eradicate all kinds of negativity or temptations. Lord Hanuman is an adherent devotee of Lord Ram and Sita, and had never shown his strength or valor without any purpose. On this day, offering Prayers and chanting mantras to worship Lord Hanuman is helpful to achieve these kinds of virtues. As per the teachings of Hindu mythology, if you want Lord Rama to fulfill all your wishes, you can reach Him only through Lord Hanuman and Hanuman Jayanti is the most auspicious day for this Lord Hanuman is not only an absolute devotee of Lord Rama but also a merciful God who takes good care of His devotees. Devotees strongly believe that reciting the divine hymn Hanuman Chalisa continuously helps to overcome all sorrows and difficulties. According to a popular legend, Lord Hanuman was born on a full moon day and his father Kesari was the son of Lord Brihaspati. His mother Anjana was a celestial body -apsara who got cursed by a sage to live on earth. She was redeemed from her curse after doing 12 long years of worship of Lord Shiva, and by giving birth to

Lord Hanuman. Thus Hanuman is regarded as an incarnation or reflection of Lord Shiva. The holy epic, Ram Charita Manas written by Goswami Tulsi Das, beautifully narrates the role of Vayu dev -God of wind in Hanuman's birth. The epic describes that Vayu God played an important role to transfer Lord Shiva's energy to Anjana's womb. Thus, Lord Hanuman is often called Vayuputram or Pawan Putra which means the son of Vayu. On the day of Hanuman Jayanti devotees love to remember Him as a naughty character in his childhood days. One such legend beautifully explains that He crossed several mountains and flew to great heights to eat sun, thinking it as a ripe fruit. A baleful planet Rahu which was on its way to form an eclipse with the sun, came in front of the little Hanuman and stopped him midway. Hanuman easily defeated Rahu who later requested Indra, the king of heaven for assistance. To this Indra responded immediately and threw his powerful weapon Vajra -thunderbolt and hit the young Hanuman and made him unconscious. After this event, God vasyu found his son lying in an unconscious state on earth, and an angry Vayu made his life difficult for all living beings on the planet. Later, Lord Indra and all demigods realized that they made a huge mistake and revived the young Hanuman and blessed Him with several boons

. In short Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman who is an incarnation of Lord Shiva and a disciple of Lord Rama. On the day of Hanuman Jayanti, devotees in large numbers assemble at Hanuman temples to offer early morning prayers. It is an important festival of Hindus and is celebrated with great enthusiasm. People chant mantras, Hanuman chalisa, offer aarti with a belief that He is the living embodiment of Ram -Naam He is an ideal selfless disciple. a true Karamyogi. He was a great devotee and served Lord Rama with pure love and devotion. Every year on the auspicious day, devotees worship Lord Hanuman with pure heart, some observe complete fast to invoke His blessings for a successful life. This year Hanuman Jayanti falls on 12th April Saturday and the people will celebrate it with great pomp and show and worship Hanuman to get his blessings in the form of strength, valor, knowledge, power and the like. Let us celebrate this festival with devotion so that Lord Hanuman will bless us all and direct our energies towards fuller and meaningful life. Jai to Lord Hanuman may He bless us all on this day of Hanuman Jayanti. Hanuman is Mahashaktishali and is monkey God besides being the avatar of Lord Shiva.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

Spinning Khadi into the Future: The Create in India Challenge Encouraging Sustainability

BY DHANALAKSHMI P

Imagine wearing a fabric that's not just stylish but also tells a story of freedom, sustainability, and global influence. That's Khadi - India's iconic fabric! Why are we talking about Khadi now? Is it because it's hot summer, and what other fabric can give solace to the skin and well-being other than Khadi? Of course, it is. But one more important reason for bringing this dialogue is hoping you have heard of the "Make the World Wear Khadi" challenge - one of the 32 Create in India Challenges being conducted as part of the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), happening from 1st to 4th May 2025 in Mumbai.

This isn't just another campaign. The challenge is more than just a call to action. It's an initiative where creative minds from around the world compete to transform Khadi from a traditional fabric into a global fashion icon through their digital art, social media storytelling, or advertising con-

cepts. The initiative helps creators across the globe to put their creative stamp on something legendary. The Create in India Challenge, and especially the Make the World Wear Khadi segment, offers creative professionals an incredible opportunity to reshape how the world sees Khadi. By blending India's cultural heritage with cutting-edge creativity, participants can help establish Khadi as a global fashion force that reflects modern values.

With over 750 participants registered for the 'Make the World Wear Khadi' challenge, both from India and around the world, the stage is set for a creative showdown that highlights India's innovative spirit on the global stage. Participants were tasked with creating one print creative, one outdoor hoarding, and one digital/social media creative. Registration opened on January 27th, shortlisting took place in March, and the final list of shortlisted candidates have been announced yesterday. A distinguished jury, comprising stalwarts

from the advertising and creative industries, evaluated the submissions based on originality, cultural resonance, global appeal, and alignment with the contest's vision. The shortlisted entries stood out for their strategic insight, powerful storytelling, and the ability to spark a global conversation around khadi.

A total of five candidates have been shortlisted: Iman Sengupta & Soham Ghosh - Havas Worldwide India; Kartik Sankar & Madhumita Basu - 22feet Tribal; Kajal Tirlotkar - Interactive Avenues; Tanmay Raul & Mandar Mahadik - DDB Mudra Group; Akash Mehari & Kajol Jeswani - DDB Mudra Group.

Winners will be announced at the WAVES Summit in May 2025

Khadi: The Cool Factor of Sustainable Fashion. Khadi isn't just old-school; it's the future of sustainable fashion. Handwoven, eco-friendly, and made with love, Khadi represents everything Gen Z and Millennials care about, authenticity, sustainability, and ethical

choices. Plus, it's made by artisans, empowering local communities while keeping the environment happy.

But Khadi is more than just a fashion trend, it's a movement. Rooted in India's struggle for independence, Khadi became a symbol of self-reliance and empowerment during the freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Today, it's a sustainable, handmade, and eco-friendly fabric that continues to empower artisans, especially in rural India, while contributing to the fight against fast fashion's environmental toll.

Thanks to Prime Minister Modi's clarion call years before for manufacturing products with "zero defect, zero effect," Khadi aligns perfectly with its eco-friendly processes and sustainable production, reinforcing its role in the global shift toward ethical fashion. The government's "Make in India" initiative also plays a crucial role in ensuring that Khadi products meet international standards.

As it is rightly said, "We do not inherit the earth

from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." This sentiment perfectly aligns with Khadi's ethos, a sustainable, eco-conscious fabric that connects us to our past while safeguarding the planet for future generations.

As the world continues to embrace sustainable, eco-conscious practices, Khadi's place on the global stage is clearer than ever. This fabric is not just a relic of the past but a beacon for the future. From the handcrafted artistry of rural artisans to the global appeal of its timeless fabric, Khadi is poised to redefine what it means to be stylish and sustainable in today's world.

Role of KVIC and Government Initiatives

At the heart of Khadi's resurgence is the commitment of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). As the nodal agency for Khadi's promotion, KVIC supports the empowerment of local artisans by facilitating access to skills training, financial support, and market exposure. Through government-backed initia-

tives and programs, KVIC has ensured that Khadi not only sustains its rich tradition but evolves to meet the demands of today's global fashion market.

The WAVES Summit isn't just another event; it's a global creative playground. Think of it as the hub for the media and entertainment world, with workshops, competitions, and networking opportunities with industry leaders from broadcasting, gaming, digital media, and more. The "Make the World Wear Khadi" challenge has been designed to bring fresh, bold ideas to the forefront from across the globe, inspiring creativity that might even make the world wear Khadi.

As we eagerly await the announcement of the winners during WAVES 2025, the challenge promises to unveil fresh and creative ways to position Khadi as a modern, aspirational, and sustainable brand and the excitement builds for what's to come.

Author is Media & Communication Officer at PIB Mumbai

Beauty is to see not to touch

BY MOOLRAJ

Though we have heard from childhood that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and that God created human beings in his image, we usually exclaim in disbelief when we hear about a handsome boy's wedding to an ordinary-looking girl. Believing that something is fishy, we discuss the whole affair thread-bare.

During Vedic times, beauty was considered a sign of good luck and fortune and was associated with fertility. Many religions say that inner beauty matters, however ugly one may look outside, and what is important is not one's appearance or wealth but his heart

and deeds.

One is expected to have the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit irrespective of the birthplace. Beautiful flowers on plants with their roots under dirty water or stinking soil are cited as examples.

The passage of time is a slow destroyer of beauty and health. We often see photographs of once-beautiful personalities losing all their charm, with wrinkles and sunken eyes, seeking the help of others in walking and even performing daily chores.

People have become more beauty-conscious than earlier generations. While females were considered sensitive about their beauty in the past, frequently look-

ing at the small mirrors they carry, males have joined them now. They dress in expensive costumes and visit beauty parlours regularly to appear more handsome.

It is said that beauty should not come from outward adornments such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes, but there is a thriving business in these items.

Some religions exhort women not to alter their natural beauty by wearing jewellery or by reducing their beauty with blemishes like tattoos, but they are not taken seriously.

The demand for gold ornaments and their prices have been going northward, and

the number of people getting their bodies adorned with tattoos is also increasing. The beauty industry has been growing fast throughout the world.

Even people born with deformities want to look attractive through any available means. Despite religious disapproval, cosmetic surgery has become popular with surgeons trying to alter the looks of their customers with expensive surgeries.

We often come across reports of rejected lovers throwing acids at their lovers' faces to disfigure them permanently. The victims then seek the help of cosmetic surgeons to repair the damage, which is often expensive.

Historically, barber shops periodically cut hair and shaved faces for a modest fee. Barbers even visited village houses and patiently waited for their clients. They were often paid in kind, like paddy, after every harvest.

Considered way below in the caste hierarchy, they were also supposed to do jobs like digging graves and personally conveying the death message to distant relatives.

The situation has changed dramatically. Name boards like 'Hair Cutting Salon' or 'Barber Shop' have been replaced by 'Beauty Parlour' and other fancy names, with separate air-conditioned sections for males and females with technicians in uniforms.

There is always a long waiting list at such places.

The beautician's courses are in great demand. Many people go for time-consuming and expensive beauty treatments. Even the dark colour appears fair after such treatments. Beauticians have become essential parts of weddings, costing much money and time. Make-up items are much sought after, and manufacturers spend lakhs of rupees for advertising. They are also available 'online' now.

Eyebrows are no longer raised in disgust when women take out their looking glasses frequently to apply lipstick. They look different without make-up and are advised,

in a light vein, to keep away from water, which may wash it away.

People have become so beauty-conscious that to counter their sedentary lives and food items with lots of harmful hormones, which were available only in other countries until recently, they try to keep themselves physically fit by joining health clubs managed by physiotherapists, which have mushroomed everywhere. Dental doctors who keep their teeth shining and symmetrical are another tribe frequently visited by them.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Extended loneliness triples risk of early death in middle-aged women: study

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

A study published on Monday revealed for the first time a causal link between chronic loneliness and early death among middle-aged Australian women.

Researchers analysed two decades of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health, involving over 57,000 participants.

The findings after examining data from women aged between 48 and 55 show that women who consistently reported feeling lonely over a 15-year period were three times more likely to die early compared to those who did not report loneliness.

Women without persistent loneliness had a 5 per cent risk of death, while that risk rose to 15 per cent among those with ongoing feelings of loneliness, according to the researchers of the University of



Sydney, the University of New South Wales, and Western Sydney University, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Loneliness is a risk factor that should be screened for by clinicians, just as we would screen for high blood pressure or cholesterol. We also need to raise the public awareness of loneliness to demystify and destigmatize loneliness," said the

study's lead author, Neta HaGani.

Prof. Melody Ding from the University of Sydney, the study's senior author, said women in middle age are more likely to be the primary caregivers for both young children and elderly parents, as well as going through major life transitions such as menopause, retirement or children leaving home, factors that can contribute

to social isolation.

The study, published in BMJ Medicine, also found a dose-dependent relationship -- the more frequently loneliness was reported, the higher the risk of early death.

While comparable long-term data on men's health is lacking, Ding said midlife is a period of transition that may affect women more adversely.

India's healthcare spending expected to surge to 5 pc of GDP by 2030: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Healthcare expenditure in India is expected to surge from 3.3 per cent to 5 per cent of its GDP by 2030, according to a report on Monday.

While global healthcare spending stands at about \$10 trillion, India spends about 3.3 per cent of its GDP on healthcare. Its per capita expenditure stands at only around \$80.

The report by CareEdge Ratings showed that with structural improvements, including doubling the number of medical seats, increasing insurance coverage (about 40 per cent of the population), and expanding hospital bed capacity, India's healthcare infrastructure is expected to improve substantially by 2030.

"India's lower per capita income compared to many other countries has been a key reason for



underinvestment in the healthcare infrastructure and lower healthcare spending," said the report.

"However, the Government has been stepping up its efforts to increase healthcare spending, which bodes well, especially for rural areas and weaker sections of the society which are heavily dependent on public health services," it added.

India's health insurance coverage (public and private) has more than doubled over the last 10

years, reaching about 40 per cent in 2023, largely due to increased awareness and central and state-sponsored health insurance schemes.

In addition, the recent expansion of the Ayushman Bharat scheme to cover citizens aged 70 years and above is likely to expand health insurance coverage to about 50 per cent in 2025.

India is expected to add about 25,000 to 30,000 hospital beds over the next three years, with

investment from both the public and private sectors.

Over the last decade, there has been a substantial investment in medical education, resulting in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate seats in medical colleges almost doubling.

Further, the report noted that the availability of doctors in the country will also improve, driven by more than 1 lakh undergraduate medical seats. "This may also bridge the gap somewhat between the availability of healthcare professionals in rural areas and urban areas," it said.

"India's healthcare landscape is evolving rapidly. The government's commitment to increasing healthcare spending, coupled with private sector participation, is laying a strong foundation for improved healthcare access and quality," said Krupal Modi, Director, CareEdge Ratings.

Good food, sleep, exercise key for better health: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Good food, sleep, and exercise are crucial for better health, said the government on Monday on World Health Day.

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year. The theme this year is Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures.

"This #WorldHealthDay, let's commit to small healthy habits for a brighter, stronger future," the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shared in a post on social media platform X.

In a video posted along the post, the ministry advised people to eat good food, with more fruits and vegetables; to move more, and sit less.

"Walk, run, dance, or stretch for 30 minutes a day to stay fit," the ministry said



"Take a good night's sleep to recharge your body and mind," it added.

The Ministry also suggested people increase their intake of water, to "keep body cool and energy high" as well as to care for mental health by taking breaks.

"On this World Health Day let's promise to take care of our health every single day," the Ministry said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to adopt a healthier

lifestyle and work towards a life free from obesity.

He emphasised that maintaining personal fitness would be a significant contribution to India's goal of becoming a developed nation -- Viksit Bharat.

"On World Health Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a healthier world. Our government will keep focusing on healthcare and invest in different aspects of people's well-being. Good health is the foundation of every thriving society!" PM

Modi posted on X.

In a video message shared on the platform, the Prime Minister stressed the age-old adage that "health is the ultimate fortune and the ultimate wealth" while sounding an alarm over India's growing obesity crisis.

"You all know that today, our lifestyle is becoming a big threat to our health. Recently, a report has come on the problem of obesity. This report says that by 2050, more than 44 crore Indians will suffer from obesity. This is scary. How big a crisis can this be?" he said.

He called for immediate action to prevent such a scenario and proposed a simple change: "I want to take a promise from you today that we all should reduce our cooking oil by 10 per cent. This will be a big step towards reducing obesity."

Struggling with Face Fat? Here are 10 possible reasons

Ever wondered why you're gaining weight on your face? Why exercise hasn't resulted in face fat loss? There could be several lifestyle or genetic reasons for fat accumulation in the face. Here's a look at 10 common causes of face fat:

- 1. Genetics:** Genetics play a significant role in how and where your body stores fat, including in your face. If your family tends to carry more weight in the face, there's a high chance you might do so too.
- 2. Overall Weight Gain:** When you gain weight, fat can accumulate in different parts of your body, including your face. The face has fat deposits, and an increase in body fat can lead to a rounder face.
- 3. Diet & Water Retention:** Consuming high-calorie, processed, or sugary foods can contribute to weight gain and facial fat. Excessive sodium intake



can also lead to water retention, which might make the face appear puffy.

4. Hormonal Changes: Hormones, particularly those related to ageing (like a decrease in estrogen or thyroid imbalances), can influence fat distribution in the body, including the face.

5. Aging: As you age, the skin loses elasticity, and the fat in your face may begin to shift or accumulate differently. This can cause the face to appear fuller or rounder, even if your weight hasn't changed drastically.

6. Alcohol Consumption: Alcohol can cause bloating and dehydration, which may lead to a puffy face.

7. Dehydration: Ironically, not drinking enough water can lead to your body retaining water in an effort to stay hydrated, which might cause puffiness in the face.

8. Sleep and Stress: Poor sleep and high levels of stress can lead to weight gain and fluid retention, which can show in the face. Stress hormones like cortisol can increase fat storage, especially around the face.

9. Medical Conditions: Certain conditions, like Cushing's syndrome, which causes high cortisol levels, can lead to fat accumulation in the face, giving it a round or "moon-shaped" appearance.

10. Medications: Some medications, like corticosteroids or antidepressants, can lead to weight gain or fluid retention, which can contribute to facial puffiness.

Since targeted weight loss is not possible, reducing face fat can be achieved through a combination of overall weight loss and lifestyle changes. Additionally, it's important to note that genetics, overall body composition, and lifestyle choices play a significant role in how fat is distributed in the body.

If you're concerned about your facial appearance or weight, consulting with a healthcare provider or nutritionist can provide more personalized advice.

South-East Asia recorded 53pc reduction in maternal mortality ratio since 2010: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The South-East Asia region recorded a 53 per cent reduction in maternal mortality ratio (MMR) since 2010, said the World Health Organization (WHO) on World Health Day on Monday.

World Health Day is observed every year on April 7.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia noted how the region made significant progress in the last years, in improving maternal and child health.

From 2010 onwards, the SE Asia region achieved the highest reduction in the stillbirth rate, and in the maternal, newborn, and child mortality rates, compared to all other WHO regions and the global average.

"We recorded a 53 per cent reduction in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), a 44 per cent reduction in the neonatal



mortality rate (NMR), a 39 per cent reduction in the stillbirth rate (SBR), and a 49 per cent reduction in the under-five mortality rate (U5MR)," said Wazed.

She noted how the region for the first time "reported an MMR of below 100 per 100,000 live births (currently 96)".

From 2016 to 2023, Maternal Mortality in the region reduced by an average of 5.1 per cent per year -- more than three times the global reduction rate.

However, despite progress, the region continues to see maternal deaths,

said Wazed.

"The stark reality is that in our region today, approximately 2,700 mothers and 45,000 newborns still die every month. We tragically see about 34,600 stillbirths each month. Most of these deaths are from preventable causes," the Regional Director said.

Addressing this -- whether through coverage, quality of evidence-based intervention packages, or socio-economic factors -- requires a concerted and coordinated effort from all stakeholders, she noted.

"Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures" is the first World Health Day theme dedicated to maternal and newborn health since 2005.

"Our health begins before birth. It is a multi-generational inheritance, bequeathed from our grandparents to our parents to us. This means that when we improve the health of our people today, the effects ripple across time and uplift generations yet unborn," said Wazed.

"The health of mothers and their newborns, therefore, is vital not just for our communities today, but for all who will come after us," she added.

Ayush Minister launches 'Harit yoga' to boost personal, planetary health

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav on Monday launched 'Harit Yoga' to boost both personal and planetary health.

'Harit Yoga', which means a sustainability-driven initiative combining Yoga with tree planting and clean-up drives, is one of the 10 signature events to mark the 11th edition of International Yoga Day (IDY).

"Our health is inextricably linked to the health of our planet. Just as Yoga nourishes our mind and body, tree plantation nourishes the Earth, ensuring a greener and healthier future for generations to come," said Jadhav, while addressing the media at the grand Yoga Mahotsav 2025 in Odisha's Bhubaneswar.

"Yoga has gained unprecedented popularity in the last 10 years and now it has become a global



phenomenon," he added. He also mentioned about sustainability and environmental aspects of Yoga and aligned Harit Yoga with PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

"This initiative encourages individuals to plant trees as a symbolic act of nurturing both personal and planetary health," the MoS said.

He also highlighted

the success of the 'Prakruti Parikshan Abhiyan' in which Prakruti Parikshan of more than 1.29 crore people was conducted earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Yoga Mahotsav 2025 sets the stage for a revolution in health and well-being, with India leading the charge in making Yoga a way of life worldwide.

To mark the launch of the signature event, Jadhav along with other dignitaries also planted medicinal plants. At the grand celebration, more than 6,000 Yoga enthusiasts practiced the Common Yoga Protocol -- intended to popularise Yoga practices like Yoga Nidra, Pranayama, Dhyana, etc.

Meanwhile, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush praised the enthusiastic turnout and noted that the 11th edition of IDY is poised to witness record-breaking global participation.

Bhumi & realme empower over 80,000 young lives through Tech-Driven Education and Community Development Programs

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Bhumi, one of India's leading non-profit organizations dedicated to youth empowerment and social change, has partnered with realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, to expand its impact through a range of educational and community development programs. As a brand that understands the aspirations of young India, realme has always stood at the intersection of innovation and impact. Through this collaboration, realme aims to empower more young individuals by providing them with the right skills, resources, and opportunities to shape a brighter, more promising future. This initiative will enable

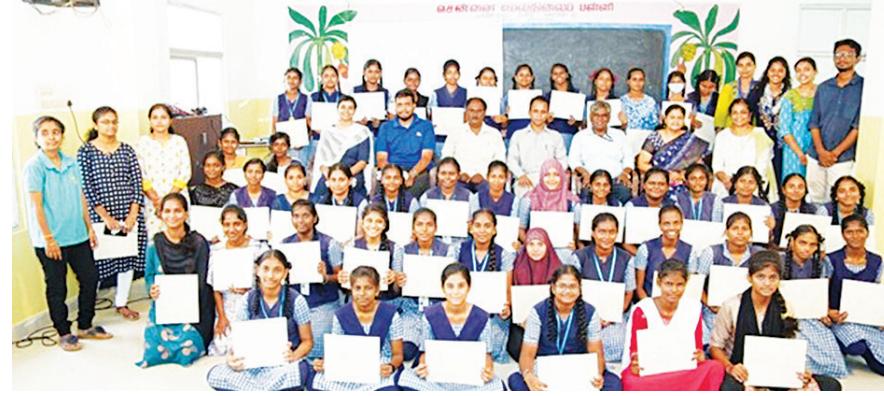
Bhumi to reach and support a larger community, equipping them with the necessary tools to build a successful path forward.

Through this partnership, Bhumi will strengthen its key initiatives such as the Bhumi Fellowship, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program, Schools of Excellence, Ignite Shelters and Bhumi Clubs. These programs focus on enhancing education, leadership, and civic engagement, ensuring holistic development for underserved youth. By empowering young individuals with the right tools, resources, and knowledge, realme is working toward building a brighter, more inclusive future.

The Bhumi Fellowship is a unique, two-year paid program that empowers

young changemakers to bridge educational inequity in low-income communities. Fellows work hands-on in under-resourced government schools, teaching foundational skills, supporting teachers, engaging parents, and enabling holistic school transformation. Designed by Bhumi, India's largest youth volunteering organisation - the Fellowship builds a cadre of future leaders who are deeply invested in systemic education reform. Since 2020, the program has engaged 21 fellows and impacted 5352 students. The program is currently engaging 75 fellows, impacting over 13017 students and continues to nurture alumni who are driving change across the education sector. Through immersive training, mentorship, and community engagement, the Bhumi Fellowship is not just transforming schools, it's shaping the next generation of education leaders.

The Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program nurtures emotional intelligence and resilience among students, equipping them with essential life skills. Schools of Excel-



lence aims to enhance learning environments by improving infrastructure, training teachers, and introducing innovative teaching methodologies. Ignite Shelters provides quality education and mentorship to children in shelter homes, while Bhumi Clubs foster a spirit of volunteerism and leadership among students in

schools and colleges. Speaking about the partnership, Vaishnavi Srinivasan, Executive Director of Bhumi, said, "At Bhumi, we believe in the power of education to drive lasting change, and with realme, we're able to take this mission to the next level. With realme's support, we are not only amplifying our reach but also adding

incredible momentum to our programs. Their deep connection with young India and commitment to social impact make this collaboration truly transformative. Together, we are creating meaningful opportunities for children and youth across the country to learn, grow, and lead."

Speaking on the collaboration, Tao Zhang, Chief Marketing Officer at realme India, added, "At realme, we see technology as a powerful enabler of change not just in how people connect, but in how they grow, learn, and thrive. As a youth-centric tech brand, we believe it's our responsibility to go beyond innovation and actively contribute to shaping a better future for the next generation. Our partner-

ship with Bhumi reflects this vision; empowering young individuals with access to education, skills, and opportunities that can truly transform their lives. We are proud to support Bhumi's incredible work and to be part of a mission that combines innovation with social impact."

Through these programs, more than 70,000 school children and 10,000 students from colleges across India have been empowered with access to quality education, essential life skills, and leadership opportunities. Together, Bhumi and realme reaffirm their commitment to social progress, ensuring that education and youth empowerment remain at the forefront of building a more inclusive and equitable society.

Movement Kalki forms "Sarika Vihar Vikas Samiti" in Roop Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 11

On April 11, 2025, Movement Kalki organized an important meeting at the residence of its advisor Shri Pritam Sharma Ji, located in Sarika Bihar, Roop Nagar. The meeting was presided over by Shri Sharma Ji himself and saw the participation of many respected residents of the area. The discussion focused on the holistic development of Sarika Vihar.

In a unanimous decision, it was resolved that Sarika Vihar will be divided into four sectors to ensure planned and comprehensive development. To facilitate this, the "Sarika Vihar Vikas Samiti" (Development Committee) was officially formed. Shri Rakesh Sharma



Ji was unanimously appointed as the President of the Committee. He was entrusted with the responsibility of forming sub-committees comprising 11 members from each sector. These sub-committees will oversee and accelerate the development works in their respective areas.

The main objectives of the Committee are as follows:

- Regular cleaning of drains
 - Repair of roads and lanes
 - Improved supply of water and electricity
 - Availability of health services in the area
 - Installation and maintenance of street lights
- Prominent citizens present at the meeting included:
- Movement Kalki Board Members Shri Karanail

Chand, Pt. Ravi Sharma, Shankar Singh Chhib, Ramesh Singh, Harish Chandra Salathia, Dev Khajuria, Rekha Chimb, Ashu, Narayan, Rajdhani, Vishal Mohan, K.C. Katal, Arvind Kotwal, Raju Gupta, Rak Jaspal, Anu Sharma, Gopal Singh, Rajendra Kumar, Sahil Sharma,

Kaushal Kumar, and Tara Chand. It was also decided that the remaining members of the committee will be announced in the coming days, and regular review meetings will be conducted to ensure transparency and effectiveness in the development process. This initiative reflects Movement Kalki's core philosophy of inspiring awareness, responsibility, and service in society.

Varsha Bansal honoured with International Achievers Award 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

In a prestigious ceremony held at Crowne Plaza, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi, Varsha Bansal was conferred with the International Achievers Award 2025 in the category of "Most Dynamic & Promising Role as Prominent Leader in the Hospitality Industry of the Year 2025." The award recognizes her outstanding contribution and visionary leadership in redefining standards of excellence within the hospitality sector.

The event, organized by Brandman India in collaboration with IEMS (International Excellence Management Society), celebrated and honored trailblazers from across industries who have made a significant impact through their dedication and innovation.



The event was graced by eminent personalities, with Indian actor Puneet Issar as the Chief Guest. His presence added to the grandeur of the occasion, where he applauded the awardees for their relentless pursuit of excellence.

With an impressive portfolio in the hospitality landscape, Varsha Bansal has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation in guest experience, and strategic foresight. Her dynamic

approach and commitment to excellence have not only elevated her brand but also inspired peers within the industry.

Receiving this accolade places her among an elite league of achievers and highlights her continuing journey of growth, excellence, and transformation in hospitality. The recognition serves as a testament to her hard work, resilience, and impactful leadership in a highly competitive industry.

Samsung to Outpace Industry Growth in AC Segment in India

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today said that sales of its Air Conditioners grew 2x between January and March, 2025, outpacing the industry growth of 20-25%. The industry-leading growth helped Samsung secure 10% market share in the first quarter of the calendar year in India. "Our AC business is growing at a robust pace. In the March quarter, we grew by 2X, which helped us secure 10% of the market, according to our internal estimates. We are confident that we are going to lead the growth in the industry, and with better growth we will have good market share as well," said Ghufuran Alam, Vice President, Digital Appliances Business at Samsung.

Samsung expects broad-based growth across channels and regions, helped by a rise in disposable income, growing aspirations and increasing electrification in smaller cities and towns. Samsung has increased its distribution footprint by 40% and has partnered with leading financial institutions for providing zero-cost EMI for purchase of room-air conditioners.

"We have launched 19 new models this year with a clear focus on superior cooling, energy efficiency, durability, and future readiness. Our new Bespoke AI WindFree ACs learn consumer patterns and behavior - whether they are home, sleeping, or coming in from a hot day. Based on these patterns, the AC adjusts itself to deliver optimal comfort," Alam added.

The Bespoke AI WindFree ACs come with AI Energy Mode that intelligently adjusts the cooling settings to save up to 30% energy. This addresses the top key buying factor for consumers while buying an air conditioner - the demand for energy-efficient appliances without compromising on comfort.

The AI Fast & Comfort Cooling feature ensures instant relief by rapidly reducing room temperature with maximum fan speed. Once the desired temperature is achieved, the system intelligently switches to WindFree Mode to maintain consistent cooling, ensuring a comfortable environment for activities like sleeping or entertaining guests.

Omar-led Govt brings transformative change to lives of J&K people: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) was addressing a meeting of youth at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President Youth National Conference.

Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that the National Conference-led government, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has ushered in significant positive changes across the Union Territory. "The Omar Abdullah led government, in just five months of governance, has taken decisive steps to restore the democratic ethos and address the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

Rattan Lal Gupta enumerated several pro-people initiatives implemented by the Omar Abdullah-led government within a short span of five months of his governance. These include free travel for women in government-operated buses, enhanced marriage assistance for underprivileged girls (increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 for



AAY families), provision of 200 units of free electricity per month for AAY households, and an increase in the ration quota from 5 kg to 10 kg per person per month for AAY beneficiaries. Additionally, the government has granted exemption from stamp duties for the registration of gift deeds among blood relatives. He also emphasized the NC government's focus on safeguarding jobs and rights of general public, ensuring equitable development in far-flung areas, assuring to uplift underprivileged sections of society.

The Provincial President stated that such timely and youth-centric decisions by the Omar Abdullah-led government reflect the sincerity and commitment of the NC towards the welfare of the common masses. "The NC remains steadfast in its mission to restore the region's dignity, ensure democratic rights, and work towards a prosperous

future for all its residents," he affirmed.

Speaking on the occasion, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President, YNC, criticized the previous administration for its failure to address the pressing issue of unemployment. He highlighted that the current Omar Abdullah-led government is actively implementing youth-centric policies aimed at creating sustainable job opportunities, enhancing educational infrastructure, and launching skill development programs to empower the younger generation.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, in his address, emphasized the importance of grassroots engagement. He asked party workers to connect with the youth and address their concerns, thereby strengthening the party's base and ensuring that the aspirations of the people are effectively represented.

Abdul Ghani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone also addressed the gathering, expressing confidence that only the present NC government can ensure equitable development across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. They highlighted the administration's commitment to inclusive growth and the upliftment of marginalized communities.

On this occasion dozens of youth Joined National Conference. The names are Saqib Showket Ganie, Mohit Gupta, Sahil Quersh, Faisal Quersh, Khair Mohd, Raj Singh Asif Shawaz and others.

Among those who were present included: Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Asha Mehra, Nitish Gowsami, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Akash Kharka, Majid Iqbal Naik, Dr. Vishal and others.

Indian Army hosts Symposium honouring General Zorawar Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 11 APR 2025

The Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), hosted a prestigious symposium titled "General Zorawar Singh: Up, Close and Personal" at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment, today. The event aimed to commemorate the remarkable life, military campaigns, and enduring legacy of General Zorawar Singh, one of India's most celebrated military leaders.

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The symposium witnessed participation from esteemed veterans, serving officers - particu-

larly from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles and Ladakh Scouts - their families, and distinguished scholars from academia.

The event brought to the fore General Zorawar Singh's strategic brilliance, mastery in high-altitude warfare, and his pivotal role in shaping the formation of the modern-day state of Jammu and Kashmir and the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army.

A highlight of the symposium was the unveiling of two significant books by General Dwivedi: "The Warrior Gurkha" by Mrs. Madhulika Thapa daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC who was from First Battalion of Eight Gorkha Rifles (now 3rd Battalion the Mechanised Infantry

Regiment), and "A Kashmir Knight and the Last 50 Years of the Princely State of J&K" by Lieutenant General Ghanshyam Singh Katoch (Retd). These literary works add depth to the understanding of India's military history and the enduring heritage of the Indian Army.

In addition, General Dwivedi felicitated the winners of the Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Essay Competition-2024, organised by CLAWS under the theme "India's National Security and Emerging Challenges."

The symposium served as a fitting tribute to General Zorawar Singh's indelible contributions to Indian military history and underscored the importance of preserving military heritage through scholarly dialogue and literature.

Mohan Lal Bhagat vows to fulfil each promise made to people of Akhnoor

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APRIL 11

Following his first Assembly session as the elected representative of Akhnoor, Hon'ble MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat addressed the media today and highlighted the key concerns, demands, and developments he has put forth on behalf of his people in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly. After the session, he reiterated his commitment to work tirelessly to fulfil every promise made in his Sankalp Patra and to make Akhnoor a model constituency.

He said that he brought attention to the dilapidated condition of the Akhnoor Sports Stadium located in Palma, questioning how crores of rupees were spent on a facility that now lies in neglect. On his demand, the concerned Sports Minister visited the stadium and assured a detailed enquiry. He also strongly advocated for the introduction of vari-

ous sports courses at GDC Akhnoor to provide local youth with meaningful opportunities in physical education and professional sports.

He apprised the media that he also raised the urgent need for embankment work along both banks of the Chenab River. He emphasized how villages like Kerala, Chak Sikandar, Mehra, and Indri are facing devastating soil erosion as the river continues to claim fertile lands belonging to poor farmers. He called upon the government to immediately take up flood protection works to safeguard livelihoods. Additionally, he proposed the construction of check dams in Gandharva, Suma Panjikan, and surrounding areas, stating that such structures would help improve groundwater levels, support local flora and fauna, boost tourism potential, and enhance irrigation facilities.

Addressing the long-pending issue of land

compensation under Defence acquisition, I had demanded justice for landowners of his constituency. In response, the government acknowledged that compensation worth approximately Rs 9.21 crore remains pending due to verification delays by the Defence Department. He assured the public that he will pursue this matter directly with the Defence Ministry in New Delhi to ensure rightful compensation is delivered at the earliest.

On healthcare infrastructure, he strongly demanded the immediate filling of vacant doctor posts in Akhnoor. He further called for the functional use of the old hospital building in the town. During the recently held Rogi Kalyan Samiti meeting at SDH Akhnoor, he ordered that ENT and other feasible departments be shifted to the old building, directing PWD to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for neces-



sary repairs. He informed the media that the tender for the dialysis unit has already been issued, and CT Scan, MRI, and Blood Bank facilities will be operational within the next one to two years. Regarding CHC Jourian, he stated that efforts are underway to shift hospital operations to the new building within this month.

MLA Mohan Lal also pushed for expediting the completion of 43 JalJeevan Mission schemes in the Akhnoor constituency. He said once completed, these water supply projects will effectively resolve the issue

of drinking water scarcity in the region.

Education, youth development, and welfare remained a key focus of his address. He raised the need for timely disbursement of scholarships to SC/ST students, implementation of a fair transfer policy for SC employees posted in Srinagar, and the creation of a post for a Social Welfare Officer in Akhnoor. He also took up the issue of the slow pace of work on GDC Jourian, and informed that the project has now been transferred from JKPC to PWD, with work progressing steadily. He demanded

the establishment of an ITI and Polytechnic institute in the constituency to address the need for skill-based education and employment generation.

On cultural and administrative development, he announced that the DPR for the construction of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Library, adjoining Maharaja Hari Singh Higher Secondary School, is complete and funds are being sought for its execution. Addressing rumors about the mini secretariat, he clarified that the government has officially confirmed an expenditure of Rs 5 crore on the project, with a new DPR being prepared to complete the remaining work. This, he said, should end all speculation regarding the project's status.

A strong advocate for youth employment, MLA Mohan Lal demanded that the government immediately fill the 32,474 vacant posts lying with JKSSB and JKPCS, stating that unem-

ployment is a growing concern that must be urgently addressed.

He also passionately reiterated his demand for District Status for Akhnoor. He revealed that while raising the issue in the Assembly, he was marshalled out. He said that given Akhnoor's vast geographical spread—over 70 kilometers from Kathar to Battal—the creation of at least an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) post is necessary, on the lines of Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kotranka, Basholi, and Billawar. He affirmed that granting district status to Akhnoor would bring direct funding, more administrative offices, and overall upliftment of the region.

MLA Mohan Lal did not hold back from calling out the government on its failure to deliver on several major promises made to the public. These included the provision of 12 free gas cylinders annually, exemption from electricity bills, free job application

processes, and the implementation of the Youth Employment Generation Act within 180 days. He noted that marriage assistance and enhanced pensions have only reached a small fraction of the population, with the pension amount increased to merely Rs 1250 against a promised Rs 3000.

Condemning recent statements by an NC-backed MLA that he described as anti-Hindu, Mohan Lal Bhagat warned that no such remarks against any religion will be tolerated. He asserted that communal harmony is a priority, and that any such attempts to disturb peace will be strongly countered.

In his closing remarks, he said, "You, the people of Akhnoor, have placed your trust in me, and I will not rest until I fulfil every promise made. I am working day and night with one single mission – to turn Akhnoor into a progressive, self-reliant, and model constituency."

BJP launches 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan' to Commemorate Ambedkar Jayanti from 13th April to 25th April: Parmod Kapahi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 11

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a series of programmes under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan, to be observed from April 13 to April 25, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The announcement was made by Parmod Kapahi, senior BJP leader and Incharge of the Abhiyan for Jammu & Kashmir, during a press conference held at the party's headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. He was accompanied by Abhiyan Committee Members Sanjita Dogra, President of BJP Mahila Morcha, and senior leaders Sanjay Kumar Baru and Rekha Mahajan.

While addressing the media, Kapahi underscored Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contribution



as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and his tireless efforts toward empowering the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. He emphasized that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains committed to furthering Dr. Ambedkar's vision through its focus on Antyodaya – the upliftment of the last person in the queue.

Sharing the list of programmes to be commemorated under the Abhiyan, Kapahi said that BJP will

hold cleanliness drives on the statues of Baba Saheb and then illuminate the adjoining area on 13th of April.

While offering the floral tributes on the statues and the portraits of Baba Saheb, the party activists will organize multiple programmes to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Baba Saheb on 14th of April.

From 15 April to 25 April, the party will organize District level Seminars to highlight the life-struggles and the achievements of Baba Saheb, in which

his contributions to the nation, and society especially the oppressed persons will be emphasized.

During the same period from 15 April to 25 April, 25 designated BJP leaders in each district will reach out to five prominent individuals from the Scheduled Caste community as part of an outreach initiative.

Sanjay Baru said that the campaign aims to honour the enduring legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and further his message of Samrasta (social harmony) across all sections of society.

SMVDU Architecture Student earns Offers from Five Prestigious U.S. Universities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 11

Pradnya Pradeep Jogdand, a final-year B.Arch. student at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has earned admission offers from five prestigious universities in the United States of America for postgraduate studies in architecture. The institutions include University of Texas, Austin for M.Arch (Advanced Architectural Design); University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for MS in Architecture and Urban Design; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor – Master of Urban Design (MUD); Columbia University, New York for MS in Urban Planning and University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles for M.Arch. in First-Professional Degree program. Pradnya cited UT Austin's focus on innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and original research as the main reasons behind her decision. "I was particularly drawn to the university's strong culture of original research, creative inquiry, and intellectual leadership," she said. "I believe



this environment will empower me to address both contemporary and future challenges in architecture and urban design." Established in 1910, the University of Texas at Austin is globally recognized for its research-oriented academic programs and excellence in architectural education. Pradnya expressed heartfelt gratitude to her mentor, Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor at SoALD, for his constant support and guidance throughout her academic journey. In an email to him, she wrote, "Your guidance played a crucial role in shaping my interests and preparing me for this next chapter, and I deeply value everything I've learned under your mentorship." During her B.Arch. studies, Pradnya completed a disserta-

tion titled Morphogenic Membranes in Parametric Architecture under the guidance of Ar. Vinod Kumar and also she presented a research paper titled Revisiting Sacred Geometry: The Dialogue between Parametric and Religious Architecture at an international conference on religious architecture hosted by NIT Patna. The same paper was later co-authored with him and published in a peer-reviewed journal, showcasing her dedication to academic research even at the undergraduate level.

Her academic achievements, innovative research ability, and passion for architecture played a key role in securing offers from globally acclaimed universities. Pradnya extended her appreciation to the entire SoALD faculty for their guidance and encouragement from her first to final year at SMVDU. Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Head of SoALD Ar. Abhiney Gupta, and other faculty members congratulated Pradnya on her outstanding accomplishments and wished her continued success in her academic and professional journey.

Suspected thief caught snatching earrings of lady, head shaved, face blackened by locals in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 11

A suspected thief was paraded semi-naked with shaved head and blackened face when he was caught red handed by the locals while snatching earrings of a lady in old city area here on Friday.

Sources said that the suspected thief, said to be a resident of Reasi, was caught by the locals when he snatched the gold earrings of a lady in busy Link Road, in the heart of the old city.

An eyewitness said that he was thrashed on the spot following which his head was shaved and the face was blackened.

He was later paraded semi-naked to the Police Station Pacca Danga.

Police, however, said that a case has been registered and the matter is being investigated.

Xiaomi Launches X Pro QLED TV series, redefining home entertainment

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 10 APRIL

Xiaomi India, a global leader in technology and innovation, has unveiled its latest QLED TV series, designed to seamlessly blend technology with real-life entertainment needs. Whether it's creating a home theater experience or providing smarter control for everyday use, the new X Pro Series offers a versatile solution for modern lifestyles.

Commenting on the launch, Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India, said, 'At Xiaomi, we are not merely responding to market trends; we are looking to shape the future of home entertainment. Audiences are wanting to foster shared moments with family and yearning for experiences that bring the magic of cinema into their homes.'

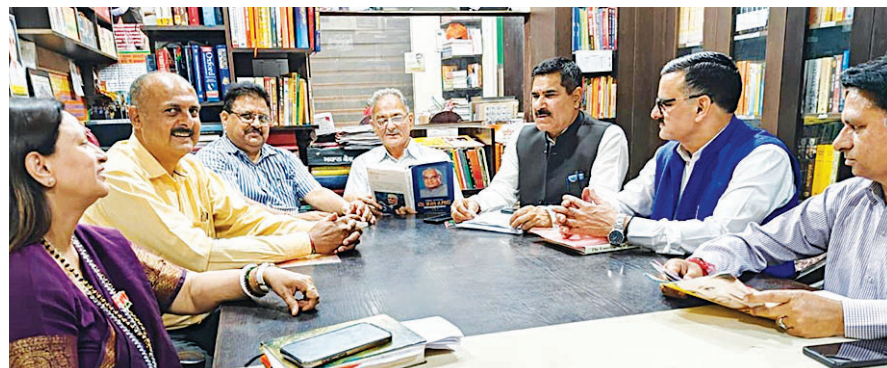
Vajpayee Ji symbolized value-based politics, never compromised on National Interest: Kavinder

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta said that the former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji devoted his entire life in the service of the nation and its people.

He was speaking while addressing a meeting of senior party colleagues at the BJP headquarters in Jammu. In the meeting, senior BJP leaders Parmod Kapahi, Sanjay Baru, Rekha Mahajan, Hari Dutt Shishu, Kulbhushan Mohtra, and Ramesh Katoch were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta described Vajpayee ji as the epitome of value-based politics. "Atal Ji never compromised on his principles and always kept the national interest above party or personal gains. His speeches in Hindi inspired generations and made every Indian proud of their language," he said.



He further said that Vajpayee ji believed in inclusive governance, democratic values, and fostering unity in diversity. He strongly advocated for cultural pride and was a supporter of the Dogri language being included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, which was ultimately fulfilled under his leadership.

The former Deputy Chief Minister urged BJP workers to adopt the qualities of Atal Ji in their political and personal lives. "Every worker must take inspiration from his humility, vision, and unwavering commitment to the country," he said, adding that Atal Ji's poli-

tics was not just about winning elections but about winning hearts.

He said Vajpayee Ji's leadership during testing times, especially in the aftermath of the Kargil War and the Pokhran nuclear tests, showcased his statesmanship and courage. He also shared his memories and thoughts about Vajpayee ji's legacy and called for following his path of nation-first politics.

Kavinder said that the present BJP Government at the Centre, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is truly realizing the dreams of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by ensuring inclusive development,

good governance, and national pride. "Modi ji's leadership reflects the same spirit of dedication and integrity that Atal ji stood for. Whether it is the abrogation of Article 370, massive infrastructure push, welfare schemes for the poor, or India's rising global stature – all these achievements are a continuation of Vajpayee ji's vision of a strong and self-reliant Bharat," he added.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to carry forward the ideals and vision of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and work towards building a stronger, united, and self-reliant India.

Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags to Gujjar, Bakkarwal Communities at Gunda, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 11 APR 2025

The Indian Army, as part of its ongoing social welfare initiatives, distributed sleeping bags to residents of the Songri area. This initiative aims to provide warmth and improve the living conditions of the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, underscoring the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the well-being of all sections of society. This outreach aligns with the Indian Army's broader mission of promoting community welfare, sustainability, and empowerment. By enhancing safety during harsh winters, demonstrating genuine care, and fostering meaningful community engagement,



the initiative helps create a positive environment. It also plays a vital role in diverting vulnerable populations from potential involvement in extremist activities or radicalism. The effort is a testament to the Indian

Army's holistic approach to national service ensuring not just the security of the nation, but also contributing meaningfully to the socio-economic development and upliftment of the diverse communities it serves.

Polycab India Doubles Down on the Fan Category; Unveils Super ROI Fans Superior Air delivery, Superior Savings

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 11

Polycab India, a leader in electrical solutions, is strengthening its presence in the fan category with the launch of its Super ROI range. Designed to set new benchmarks, this strategic initiative aims to redefine Return on Investment (ROI) for the fans category. This range promises a perfect synergy of high performance, energy efficiency and modern aesthetics. With rising energy costs and evolving consumer preferences, Polycab remains dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that ensure superior value for customers.

Polycab's range of Super ROI Fans, are powered by BLDC technology. They not only help you



save up to 50% energy and electricity*, but their select BLDC models also provide 25% higher air delivery Reverse rotation help you stay comfortable in winters also. Built with a 100% copper winding motor, these fans promise durability and reliability, backed by a four-year warranty. Polycab fans are available in modern

aesthetic designs, in over 30 colours to compliment your home décor. These Polycab Super ROI fans, ensure Return on Performance, Return on Technology and Return on Product, making it the right investment that pays off.

To cater to the growing demand, Polycab has made substantial invest-

ments in the fan category. The company has set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with a production capacity exceeding 9 million fans. This strong manufacturing infrastructure is backed by an advanced Research and Development (R&D) centre, leveraging deep consumer insights to drive innovation and deliver exceptional products.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Ishwinder Khurana, Executive President & Chief Business Officer (B2C), Polycab India, said, "Today's consumers expect more from their home appliances. With evolving needs and rising energy costs, 61% of consumers prioritize energy efficiency, without compromising on performance or aesthetics. Recognizing this demand,

fans have become a strategic growth pillar for Polycab. Following the success of our Roorkee plant, we have established a state-of-the-art facility in Halol to accelerate expansion. The Super ROI Fans are designed to exceed traditional expectations, embodying Polycab's dedication to innovation and offering solutions that genuinely 'pay back' over time."

Super ROI Fans offer a smart and sustainable choice for consumers. They are now available at leading retail outlets and on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart. With this launch, Polycab strengthens its position as a leader in energy-efficient home solutions, delivering exceptional performance and value to households across the nation.

Indian Army organizes Amity Meet with Sarpanch, Locals at Sindarah, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 11 APR 2025

In a continued effort to foster strong Civil-Military relations, the Indian Army organised an Amity Meet with the Sarpanch at Sindarah village in Poonch. The primary objective of the event was to enhance communication and build deeper trust between the Indian Army and the local population. Sindarah, a village located close to the Line of Control, faces unique challenges due to its strategic location. The meeting witnessed active participation from local representatives, including the Sarpanch, Chairman and Panchayat members from Sindarah and neighbouring villages. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining a constructive and continuous dialogue with civil society. During the interaction, the Indian Army shared various



opportunities available for the local youth and community under the Sadbhavna initiative, focusing on personal and professional development. A significant part of the discussion revolved around the collaborative efforts of the Indian Army and locals in countering terrorism and maintaining peace in the region. The Indian Army emphasized the critical role of community cooperation in ensuring long-term stability and security. The event

succeeded in strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the Awam, providing an open platform for local leaders to share their views, concerns, and suggestions. The villagers appreciated the Indian Army's continuous support and welcomed the initiative. They conveyed a strong desire for such engagements to be held regularly, recognizing them as essential for maintaining a harmonious and secure environment.

Pushpesh Raman Tripathi, DRM interacts with Sahayaks (Coolies) at New Delhi Railway Station



J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

Pushpesh Raman Tripathi, Divisional Railway Manager Delhi Division today interacted with Sahayak (coolies) at New Delhi railway station to address their concerns. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Passenger Services, Station Director, New Delhi and other officers of Delhi Division were also present.

The interaction aimed to strengthen the bond

between the Railway Administration and the Sahayaks, who play a vital role in the smooth functioning of the railway station. DRM listened to their suggestions and assured them of the Railway's commitment to their welfare. DRM discussed various welfare initiatives, including improvement in facilities at their rest places.

Pushpesh Raman Tripathi, DRM said that the interaction with Sahayaks is an essential part of Railways' efforts to improve

their working conditions and overall well-being. He further said that Sahayaks have a major role to play as they are at front line of contact with the passengers at the station and they should strive to create an atmosphere of trust with the passengers. He further said that the Sahayaks would be imparted First Aid Training which would benefit the passengers at the railway station as well as be useful to the Sahayaks in their daily life.

Adv Dakhseesh Sharma meets MOS for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Adv Dakhseesh Sharma discussed the issue pertaining to the illegal mining in Jammu and Kashmir with the Minister of Coal and Mining Sh Satish Chandra Dubey. Giving his response, the Hon'ble Minister assured

that those who involved in illegal mining will not be forgiven. Other key issues were also discussed.

Adv Dakhseesh Sharma also felicitate the Hon'ble Minister for the commendable reforms in the Coal and Mining Department.

Indian Army organizes Special Interaction with ESM in Khanetar, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 11 APR 2025

In a show of gratitude and solidarity, the Indian Army organized a special interaction with Ex-Servicemen in the border village of Khanetar, located in the Poonch district. The event aimed to acknowledge their service and to understand the issues they face in both civil and military domains.

The interaction witnessed heartfelt exchanges, with ESM sharing their rich service experiences and highlighting challenges they encounter post-retirement. Their insights provided a deeper understanding of their needs and expectations.



As a token of respect, the Indian Army felicitated the Veterans and expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the entire Indian Army and the Nation.

The gesture was warmly received, with Veterans and Veer Naris expressing deep appreciation for the Indian Army's continued support and outreach.

Ashok Koul underlines localized, people-centric activism, in culturally rich areas like Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APR 11

Emphasizing the vital role of active BJP workers, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, said that "the role of an active member of BJP is crucial in building the party's presence, strengthening its organizational structure, and connecting with the local population." He underlined the importance of localized and people-centric activism, particularly in strategic and culturally rich areas like Bhaderwah.

Ashok Koul was addressing during the BJP Active Member Sammelen of Bhaderwah Assembly Constituency, held at Bhaderwah. Prominent leaders including Shakti Raj Parihar (MLA Doda West & Vice President J&K BJP), Daleep Singh Parihar (MLA Bhaderwah), Dhanantar Singh Kotwal (DDC Chairperson), Babu Ram Sharma (District President BJP Doda), and Pawan Sharma (Prabhari BJP Doda) were also present.

During his address, Ashok Koul urged active members to step up their village-to-ward engage-



ment to understand people's concerns and involve local civil society in disseminating awareness about Modi government welfare schemes and BJP's organizational initiatives. He asked activists to organize area-specific programmes to ensure targeted outreach and strengthen public trust.

Highlighting upcoming campaigns, Koul emphasized active participation in the 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan', encouraging the inclusion of prominent civil society members at the grassroots.

Shakti Raj Parihar, speaking at the Sammelen, praised the Modi government's economic achieve-

ments, stating that India's rise from the 11th to the 5th largest economy globally is a testament to visionary policies and self-reliance initiatives like Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Dalip Singh Parihar highlighted the sustained development and peace in Jammu & Kashmir under PM Modi's leadership, acknowledging the government's commitment to consistent policy implementation and ground-level transformation.

Dhanantar Singh, DDC Chairperson, detailed the fulfillment of BJP's core promises, including economic growth, job creation, increased FDI through Make in India, and robust support for youth

via Startup India and Skill India initiatives.

Babu Ram Sharma, District President, reaffirmed the dedication of BJP workers towards the party and society, assuring senior leadership that the active cadre in Doda will leave no stone unturned in strengthening the party's connect with the masses.

Pawan Sharma reflected on BJP's organizational expansion and electoral success, noting that the party's continued mandate, including a third consecutive term at the Centre, reflects the growing public faith in BJP's development-oriented governance.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com

e-NIT No.EDJ/04 of 2025-2026 Dated 09-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of way side Amenity Near Sati Mata Mandir at Shurighat Samlar (Electrical Part).	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	4.94	600/-	9880/-	Linked with Civil Works	22-04-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-04-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-04-2025 to 21-04-2025, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	10-04-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	21-04-2025 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22-04-2025 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of 11 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. at the time of allotment.

No :- EDJ/ 451-60
Dated :-09-04-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

DIP/J-227/25
Date: 11-4-24

Ravinder, Kundal meet Congress President Malikarjun Kharge

New Delhi, April 11, 2025:- JKPC Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma Former MLC and Former Minister & Ex Vice President JKPC Shri Yash Pal Kundal today met the Congress President & LOP Rajya Sabha Shri Malikarjun Kharge at his residence in New Delhi.



The two leaders apprised him about the

latest political situation and organisational activities in Jammu and Kashmir, especially the ongoing movement for restoration of statehood to J&K.

CS Atal Dulloo pays obeisance at Tirupati Balaji temple, participates in abhishek ceremony

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU II-4-2025

Jammu Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Sai Krishna Temple Inspector, Kiran ji Temple Inspector, Amit Shukla, Today paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateswar is performed.



Atal Dulloo Lord Venkateswara is Abhishek Ceremony on Fridays. On this occasion, many devotees come and participate in this Abhishek. This Abhishek Ceremony is done every Friday at the Balaji. He said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south

India and this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here. He said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism

On this occasion kiran Temple Inspector also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus ser-

vice here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Temple Inspector R Kiran Kumar, Ved Pandit Amit Shukla, Neeraj Shukla Archak Yam Gautam, Narasimha, Raviteja Bhattacharya Attendants Anurag Mishra, Suryaprakash Dwivedi Potu Chandan Tiwari, Gautam Pandey Distributor Ram Gopal Sharma, Keshav Tripathi.

GDC Akhnoor organizes Documentary Screening and PowerPoint Presentation on Sexual Harassment Awareness



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR II

The ICCASH (Internal Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment) in collaboration with College Human Rights Committee of Government Degree College Akhnoor organized an awareness program featuring a documentary screening and a series of PowerPoint presentations on Sexual Harassment: Prevention and Redressal Mechanisms under the able guidance of Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat on 11th April, 2025.

The objective of the program was to sensitize students, faculty, and staff about the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment within the campus. The session began with the screening of a thought-provoking documentary

that highlighted real-life cases, psychological impacts, and the legal framework surrounding sexual harassment in educational institutions and workplaces.

Following the screening, members of the committee and student volunteers presented informative and visually engaging PowerPoint presentations. The presentations covered key topics such as:

Understanding what constitutes sexual harassment.

Rights and responsibilities of individuals

The role and functioning of the ICCASH Committee

Reporting mechanisms and support systems available on campus

The event was well-attended and concluded with an interactive session where participants shared their thoughts, asked ques-

tions, and discussed proactive measures to prevent harassment.

The ICCASH Committee remains committed to fostering a campus culture of dignity, equality, and zero tolerance towards any form of harassment. The Coordinator ICCASH Committee Dr. Monika Malhotra encouraged everyone to stay informed, speak up, and stand together against misconduct. The Convener College Human Rights Committee Dr. Shandilya Parminder Kour also highlighted the importance of protecting the human rights and equality and justice for all. The committee members Dr. Deepali Mahajan, Dr. Rajiv Katoach, Dr. Pinki Manhas Prof. Anjeela Qureshi Prof. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Shreya Sharma, Prof. Suresh Kumar, Ms. Sonu, PTI also interacted with the participants.

Civil Defence Jammu organizes one day awareness camp

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU II APRIL

One days Civil Defence awareness programme was organized at MIER College of Education B.C Road, Jammu under the supervision of Dy.SP. Ziaul-Haq, Deputy Controller, Civil Defence, Jammu. The awareness programme was attended by 100 NSS Students of 4th semester of the College. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting, CPR and other life saving techniques were given to the students by the Civil Defence expert. During the programme demonstration on the above said topics was also presented by the Civil Defence team. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during natural or



man-made disasters.

Director and Principal Sh. Adit Gupta appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing the awareness programme. Dr. Komal Sharma programme officer

of the College, Sh Paramjeet Kumar Chief warden Civil Defence Jammu Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, and other staff of the School also present on the occasion.

Movement Kalki raises alarm against Water Supply crisis in Mazdoor Basti, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR II

Pawan Sharma, Board Member of Movement Kalki and In-Charge of the "Nasha Mukh Bharat - Anti-Drug Campaign" in Jammu, who also serves as the President of Mohalla Social Welfare Committee, Ward No. 13, has highlighted a severe issue of water supply in Mazdoor Basti, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.

Mr. Sharma stated that the water supply in the area is highly irregular and poorly managed. There is no fixed timing for supply, and no effective action has been taken by the PHE Department, Division-I, City Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. Despite several complaints to the Overhead Tank (OHT) in-charge at Resham Ghar Colony, there has been no response.

He added, "People are struggling to get even the basic necessity of clean drinking water. The negligence of the authorities is



causing immense hardship for the residents. This has now become an unbearable situation."

Pawan Sharma has appealed to the Hon'ble PHE Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir UT Government to immediately look into the matter and ensure proper and timely water supply to the residents.

He further emphasized, "The government must not take this issue lightly. When it comes to something as basic as water, the administration needs to listen and act. People should not be forced to stay awake at night just to collect water."

Indian Army holds Joint Security Review Meeting at Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: II APR 2025

A Joint Security Review Meeting was held today at Rajouri under the aegis of the Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo), Indian Army. The meeting witnessed the participation of Officers from Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force, and

various intelligence agencies. The primary focus of the meeting was to review the prevailing security situation in the region and to enhance interoperability and synergy among all security stakeholders. Discussions were held on intelligence sharing, coordinated operational strategies and measures to further strengthen the security grid in the area.

India witnessed a silent revolution under Modi's leadership: Sat

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL II

BJP State President (J&K UT), Sh. Sat Sharma (CA), called upon the party cadre to intensify their outreach efforts and take the party's ideology to every corner of the constituency.



He was addressing a vibrant gathering of party workers during the Active Member Sammelan of Jammu West Assembly Constituency, organized at Baby Caterers, Jammu. The event saw the presence of District President Sh. Rajesh Gupta, District General Secretaries Sh. Ravi Kant and Sh. Suneet Raina, Yuva Morcha State President Arun Prabhat, Adv. Karan Sharma (State IT Co-Convener), and Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, among others.

Addressing the Sammelan, Sat Sharma took the attendees on a reflective journey through the political legacy of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He emphasized the historical necessity of the party's formation as a principled alternative to the Congress, which, he said, had committed several blunders post-Independence. Paying heartfelt tributes to visionaries like Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, he credited their supreme sacrifices for laying the foundation of a united and strong India, especially in the context of Jammu and Kashmir.

Remembering the towering Dogra leader Pt. Prem Nath Dogra, Sat Sharma urged the party cadre to take inspiration from his life of dedication, discipline, and unwavering commitment to Jammu's cause. "His ideals must guide us as we carry forward our mission of national service," he asserted.

Speaking on the transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sat Sharma stated that the past eleven years have marked a silent revolution across the country. "From the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which realized Mahatma Gandhi's dream, to women-centric schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and direct benefit transfers for transparency, the Modi government has ushered in a new era of governance and accountability," he said.

MLA Jammu West, Sh. Arvind Gupta, in his address, reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots. He applauded the Modi government's focus on national security, empowerment of women, and upliftment of marginalized communities. "Now is the time to redouble our

efforts," he said. "Every karyakarta must become a torchbearer of BJP's vision, values, and mission of inclusive development."

Sh. Rajesh Gupta, District President, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the unprecedented peace and development witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. He encouraged the workers to carry forward the message of progress with renewed dedication and ensure that no citizen is left behind in the journey of growth.

The gathering was further graced by senior BJP leaders including Sanjay Baru, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Prem Gupta, Bawa Sharma, Ravinder Birpuria, Keshav Chopra, Munish Gupta, Bablu Chand, Brahmjot Satti, Rahul Nargotra, Sonali Gupta, Deepak Sharma, Happy Sharma, Rajesh Saini, Pardeep Sharma, Vikas Gupta, Indresh Gupta, Pardeep Malhotra, Rajni Sethi, Venu Khanna, Reema Padha, Chakshu Kapoor, Rekha Sharma, Neelam Nargotra, Sudesh Sharma, Pratibha Sharma, Suman Mahaldar, Anuradha Rajan Bhan, and many others.

Focus on Healthcare Improvement: Rogi Kalyan Samiti meeting held at SDH Bhalwal under chairmanship of Sham Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL II:

A crucial meeting of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti was held today at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bhalwal to review and strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and service delivery across the block. The meeting was chaired by MLA Jammu North and Chairman of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti, Shri Sham Lal Sharma, and attended by key administrative and medical officials.

During the meeting, a comprehensive Monthly Work Done Report was presented, highlighting the number of surgeries conducted, gynecological procedures, emergency and accidental cases, and other essential health-



care services. Shri Sham Lal Sharma emphasized that such records must be properly documented and regularly updated, ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of all health institutions.

Issues related to hospital infrastructure, especially those concerning electricity, plumbing, and overall maintenance,

were also discussed in detail. Shri Sharma expressed concern over these challenges and directed that immediate corrective measures be taken to prevent disruption of patient services. He also raised the issue of the irregular water supply at SDH Kot Bhalwal, terming it a serious matter that needs urgent intervention from the concerned

departments. He instructed that the issue be escalated on priority and resolved in a time-bound manner.

While addressing the committee, Shri Sham Lal Sharma emphasized that healthcare is not just a service but a responsibility, and every officer and stakeholder involved must function with commitment and seriousness. He stressed that detailed documentation of surgeries, procedures, and medical cases should be treated as an institutional priority, not just for internal records but also for

performance audits and policy planning.

He further stated that no compromise should be tolerated in the availability of sanitation, water, electricity, and essential medical facilities. Referring to specific infrastructure gaps, he directed officials to immediately communicate any basic requirement to the relevant departments. "A time-bound resolution mechanism must be in place, and the seriousness of the healthcare sector must reflect in every level of functioning—from administration to patient care," he said. He also assured full support in taking up major issues at higher forums and securing required assistance or approvals.

Sharper probes, better prosecution to boost convictions in NDPS cases: Chief Secretary

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the 13th UT Level NCORD (Narcotics Coordination) meeting to review progress on tackling drug trafficking and abuse across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting highlighted key achievements, ongoing challenges and future strategies to curb the menace of narcotics in the region.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary gave a set of comprehensive directions aimed at tightening the enforcement and judicial mechanisms under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act. He underscored the urgent need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement, judicial efficiency and community awareness to successfully deal with this menace.

In a significant decision, the Chief Secretary asked for constitution of District Monitoring Committees in each district of the UT. These committees, to be headed by the respective Deputy Commissioners, with SSPs and Public Prosecutors as members, will be responsible for regularly monitoring the status of NDPS cases. They will

specifically focus on long-pending cases and facilitate their speedy trial and disposal, he added. He also directed that a police station-wise review of all NDPS cases be carried out regularly to strengthen the quality of prosecution and enhance conviction rates.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of various FIRs registered years ago in different police stations that remain pending for final disposal. He asked the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to personally monitor the progress on such cases and ensure investigations are concluded without any further delay.

The Chief Secretary raised concerns over underutilization of court time in handling NDPS cases, often due to gaps in the investigation process. He emphasized the need to identify these lacunae and hold officials accountable, particularly in instances where defective charge sheets (challans) delay or derail the judicial process. He asked the Police Department to closely examine whether procedural delays or poor-quality investigations were causing bail or acquittals, especially in serious cases involving commercial quantities of narcotics.

Recognizing the evolu-



tion nature of drug trafficking networks, Dulloo called for strengthening the intelligence-gathering mechanism to identify and apprehend key players involved in the drug trade. He advised the Police Department to utilize its intelligence network effectively to detect patterns, identify repeat offenders, and track supply chains.

In cases involving habitual or organized drug traffickers, he suggested invoking the provisions related to organized crime or Sec 346 of BNSS to effectively dismantle syndicates and create a strong deterrent in the society against drug trade.

The Chief Secretary expressed concern over the vulnerability of border districts to cross-border drug smuggling, particularly from neighbouring regions. He directed the concerned authorities to

maintain heightened vigil in these areas and increase surveillance activities with several other measures to detect the involvement of locals in this illicit trade.

Dulloo also instructed that unauthorized drug de-addiction centres be identified and penalized heavily for violating norms. Additionally, he emphasized strict monitoring of chemist shops to ensure that no contraband substances are sold without valid prescription or authorization.

Highlighting the delays in trial due to pending forensic reports, Dulloo instructed the Forensic Science Laboratory to expedite the analysis and reporting of samples collected under NDPS cases. He asserted that early submission of forensic evidence plays a pivotal role in the timely conclusion of trials.

Reiterating the importance of community engagement, Dulloo called for continuous IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaigns to raise awareness among the masses, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He said such campaigns must reach even the remotest corners of the UT to prevent young people from falling prey to this life-destroying menace.

While speaking in the meeting, Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, emphasized upon adopting a 'whole of government approach' to successfully nip this evil from the society. He made out that the law enforcement agencies can not be successful without the active support of other government departments and responsible citizens.

In his remarks, Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti, made out that the quality of investigation can further be improved to further increase conviction rates. He also favours making of appeals in genuine cases and handing over of big value cases to NCB/ED for more professional investigation and better outcomes.

The DG, Prosecution and ADGP, CID along with other senior officers including Divisional Commissioners, IGP, Kashmir/Jammu also gave their viewpoints to curb this menace in a more efficient manner. Some of the Deputy Commissioners/District SSPs also made their presentations highlighting the action taken by them to get rid off this drug abuse in their districts.

The meeting noted that enforcement agencies

have registered significant cases and arrests over the past two years with some 1,514 cases registered in 2024 and 2,260 arrests made and 274 detentions under the NDPS Act.

For the first Quarter of 2025 (Jan-Mar), it was added that 464 cases had been registered till date with 637 arrests and 76 detentions, with 31 cases involving commercial quantities of the properties of drug dealers worth Rs 12 Cr stands attached by the authorities.

Regarding the destruction of illicit crops and conduct of awareness programs, the meeting was informed that in 2023-2024, poppy cultivation on 273 acres of poppy and cannabis on 1,642 acres was destroyed. In addition, over 1,903 programmes on public awareness conducted across the districts, with Kupwara/Handwara leading at 347 events.

As far as the training and fixing of accountability is concerned, it was revealed that 195 training sessions were conducted since 2022, training 4,267 officers. It was further divulged that 27 departmental inquiries were initiated in 2024 against the IOs, with 16 punishments awarded including censures and withheld incre-

ments. About the treatment facilities, the meeting was apprised that around 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities are functional across the UT (11 in Kashmir, 9 in Jammu). It was given out that 2,332 new patients were registered, with 77,382 follow-up visits recorded for the first quarter of 2025 in these treatment centres.

Besides, the Police and Social Welfare Departments run facilities reported 1,762 fresh OPD cases and 450 IPD admissions in 2024. Moreover, the IPD services will be expanded in districts like Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama and Ganderbal shortly as the manpower is being trained for the same.

With respect to the regulatory actions against lenient pharmacies, the meeting was apprised that 22,379 licenses reviewed with 73 suspended and 4 cancelled in 2025.

The Housing & Urban Development and Rural Development Departments are further going to intensify awareness through wall paintings and hoardings to create awareness among the general public about the ill effects of drug abuse in nook and corner of the UT, informed in the meeting.

ACS Education reviews upcoming college admissions, NEP 2020

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

The Higher Education Department today convened a high level meeting in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Education.

The meeting was attended by Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Deans of Academic Affairs and Registrars from the University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Jammu and Cluster University Srinagar besides Principals of autonomous colleges, Government College for Women, Parade Jammu, GDC Baramulla and Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar.

The deliberations centered on critical issues pertaining to undergraduate admissions for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year and crucial progression of students to the 4th year under the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 besides other NEP related initiatives.

The meeting took several decisions aimed to smoothen the admission process for upcoming UG 2025-26 admissions. It was decided that the Universities across the Union Territory will formulate and implement statutory provisions by the end of this month, facilitating lateral entry for eligible polytechnic students into the 2nd year (3rd semester) of Four Year Undergraduate Program of Degree Colleges.

It was decided that admissions would continue to be granted through both CUET and non-CUET



modes, aligning with established practices. However, timelines will be thoroughly reviewed and optimized to ensure greater student convenience and accessibility. In order to optimize the process, Director Colleges will coordinate and oversee the admission process, working in close liaison with the universities to ensure strict adherence to stipulated timelines.

All the universities are mandated to establish statutory mechanisms and guidelines as provisioned under NEP 2020 for multiple exit options at the end of the 1st and 2nd year, providing students with greater portability. Besides, the Universities shall come up with an implementation plan in terms of requirement of additional credits for award of Certificate or Diploma.

It was further decided that the Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, will undertake a reclassification of colleges based on admission grant criteria on CUET or NON-CUET, pre informing students and institutions, so that aspirants seek admissions without any ambiguity.

The ACS asked for

ensuring that the admission process is completed well within the time to ensure adherence to the academic calendar. He said that the admissions should be centralized at the directorate level, instructing the Director Colleges to start the process of developing a robust centralized admission system.

The meeting also took decisions regarding progression of students to 4th Year of NEP in Honours and Research Mode and finalisation of the statutory provisions by the Universities for admission to 4th year under the Honours and Honours with Research programs. The exercise is to be completed by the month end to ensure smooth transition to 4th Year for enrolled students.

It was decided that the transition to the 4th year will be implemented in a phased and calibrated manner. The students will be duly informed about the modalities of transfer from various degree colleges to facilitate their pursuit of quality research and Honors programs. It was clarified that 4th Year programs will be offered at selected institutions, necessitating the student

mobility across institutions.

The ACS instructed the Universities to finalise statutory provisions without delay to facilitate the identification and offering of courses through the SWAYAM platform, thereby enhancing credit transferability and providing students with greater academic flexibility. An Action Taken Report, in this regard, will be submitted by the HEIs to the Higher Education Department by the month end, he added.

He affirmed the department's commitment towards coordinating with the National Testing Agency (NTA) at the highest level, to ensure that CUET examination is conducted with an increased number of centers within the UT with enhanced facilities. Shantmanu reiterated that the Higher Education Department is committed towards taking all necessary steps to facilitate the smooth and effective implementation of NEP 2020 and to continuously improve the quality of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the role of Universities in implementation of NEP for the undergraduate students.

49th meeting of National Committee of Archives begins in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 11

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Science Technology and Transport Departments, Satish Sharma, today called for 100 percent digitization of Archives records in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural session of two day 49th meeting of the National Committee of Archives commenced today at the Convention Centre, Jammu.

Speaking at the occasion, the Minister appreciated the remarkable progress being made in the areas of digital preservation of all Archives and cultural heritage in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the ongoing efforts to digitize archival records, at both Srinagar and Jammu repository, is a great milestone and a significant step towards safeguarding J&K's invaluable history.

"These initiatives not only preserve our cultural identity but also make historical data accessible to students, researchers and institutions across the country and beyond," maintained the Minister.

He said that successful hosting of photographic and art exhibitions in New Delhi and the upcoming events in Jammu and Srinagar, are reflective of our growing emphasis on modernizing cultural capacity and embracing innovative preservation techniques. These platforms not only celebrate our heritage but also foster educational awareness and cultural pride among citizens, he added.



He called for 100 percent digitization of all the records and stressed on completion of pending digitization work in shortest span of time period.

He emphasized upon all the departments and stakeholders for their collaborative spirit and commitment towards this digitalization project. "The Government of Jammu and Kashmir fully supports these efforts, which align with our broader vision of inclusive growth, heritage preservation and digital transformation," he said.

The Minister, who also inaugurated an archival exhibition showcasing rare records and documents, stressed the need for support in archival management.

The 49th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists witnessed participation from representatives of around 20 States and Union Territories.

The event started with the lighting of lamp ceremony followed by an online inaugural speech by Minister for Culture of India, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He encouraged the J&K Government for its endeavours towards preservation of its rich his-

tory and heritage.

Arun Singhal, Director General, National Archives of India; Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary to Government, Culture Department; Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K and Raju Singh, I/c Deputy Director Archives, New Delhi were also present on the occasion.

The meeting is being jointly organised by National Archives of India and Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K.

Arun Singhal, Director General, National Archives of India (NAD), was the guest of honour.

The session witnessed release of several initiatives aimed at enhancing public access to archival resources. These included launch of NAI publications meant for common masses, unveiling of Abhilekh Patal Version 3 and introducing Abhishree, an AI-based search tool designed to refine user accessibility.

In his address, Arun Singhal emphasized the critical role of archives in preserving the historical and cultural fabric of the nation.

The second half of the day witnessed the Business Session which commenced with a detailed presentation of Abhilekh Patal V3, focused on enhancing user experience through an improved interface and accessibility. The newly introduced AI tool Abhishree was highlighted as a game-changing addition, designed to simplify and personalize archival research.

The meeting proceeded with discussions on a ten-point agenda. These included review of the action taken report on digitization, infrastructure concerns such as the condition of buildings and the need for round-the-clock temperature and humidity control and crucial conservation efforts like anti-termite treatments and compactor installations.

An insightful presentation was delivered by Kalpana Shukla, Consultant, on the checklist for visual inspection of records at field offices. This was followed by a presentation by the West Bengal State Archives, detailing the challenges they encountered in the preparation of documentary films.