

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Stomach pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
- Redness on the skin

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Rajouri Day : Join fight against terror ecosystem: LG Sinha to people

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

On the occasion of "Rajouri Day", the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha paid tributes to Indian Army's and civilian Bravehearts who laid down their lives for liberation of Rajouri on this day in 1948.

Attending a commemoration event at Rajouri, the Lieutenant Governor, along with Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command; Lieutenant General PK Mishra, GOC, White Knight Corps; army veterans, public representatives and senior officials of Security Forces, J&K Police and Civil administrations, honoured the



sacrifices of all the valiant soldiers and civilians.

"The supreme courage and gallantry of our soldiers will be remembered forever for their

indomitable courage, dedication to duty and undying love for the motherland.

Exemplary devotion to duty and self-sacrifices of soldiers

have always protected us in the past and their commitment to the nation's integrity and sovereignty will continue to do so in the future. The nation is grateful to the real heroes for invaluable sacrifices they have made," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the legacy of courage of Lieutenant Ram Raghobha Rane, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, and all those brave civilians and soldiers who stood tall against the enemy etched into the soil of Rajouri will continue to inspire the generations.

"This land of Rajouri is a witness to the resolve of our Bravehearts' mind and the perfection of their action.

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Ruhullah rejects ACB charges, calls it attempt to silence him

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APR 13 (KNO)

A day after the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a chargesheet against 22 individuals – including Member of Parliament and senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Ruhullah – in connection with an alleged fraudulent land compensation case, Ruhullah hit back on Sunday, terming the move "a frivolous attempt" to silence him for his political views.

Addressing a press conference here, Ruhullah, according to the news agency denied any wrongdoing in the land compensation case related to Durbal Bemina, saying the



Let me make it clear: I have nothing to do with this so-called scam," he said.

Ruhullah explained that the land in question was inherited from his grandfather, who owned about 90 kanals in Durbal Bemina, an area where land was acquired by the government as part of a rehabilitation initiative for Dal Lake dwellers. "At that time, compensation was provided not just based on revenue records but also on the actual possession of land.

That was a government decision. My family received compensation for around 40-50 kanals despite more than 90-kanal being under our possession. I, along

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matter is nearly two decades old and he was only a legal heir to his grandfather's land. "An April 1st joke is being played on April 13. The narrative being built is that a huge scam has occurred and I am somehow at the center of it.

LG attends the historic 'Tawi Aarti' at Tawi Riverfront in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Tawi Aarti' and 'Baisakhi Mela' at Tawi Riverfront Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor sought the blessings of Suryaputri River 'Tawi' and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of all.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Smart City Limited, Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council, Tourism Department, Acharyas, Archakas, young volunteers, and everyone associated with the grand event.

The Lieutenant Governor said, the ceremonial worship "Tawi Aarti" expressing gratitude and reverence on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi is truly a divine spectacle. He said, the living tradition in the city of temples offers a powerful spiritual experience.

"Tawi river is connected to the soul of Jammu and its spiritual journey and this river is the living form of our consciousness and thoughts. It is a cultural idea and spiritual flow



and with the beginning of Aarti at Tawi Riverfront, efforts are being made to awaken our ancient culture.

Tawi Aarti, the sacred ceremony, is the medium to express our ancient values and ideals on the banks of this sacred river. Today's grand Aarti has started a new era," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for concerted efforts to reduce pollution and promote responsible practices to make Tawi riverfront a unique destination. "Administration and People need to commit to restore the sacred Tawi river," he said.

"Be proud of your city. The prerequisite for making a city beautiful is that the citizens should have unwavering

pride and love for their city," the Lieutenant Governor told the residents of Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, once all the projects related to Tawi riverfront are complete, it will offer a unique and charming experience for the residents and travellers.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the incredible works done by Jammu Smart City Limited in Jammu in the last few years.

Whether it is the Heritage Trail project in the old city area near Raghunath Bazaar, the upgradation of Residency Road, or the Complete Street Development in Gandhi Nagar—all these projects are excellent examples of how

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LG interacts with Heads of GMCs, Medical Institutions from across J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13



Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the Heads of Government Medical Colleges, and Medical Institutions from across J&K at Raj Bhawan.

On the occasion, Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences shared his expert insights on proactive strategies and adopting a healthy lifestyle to improve liver health.

The Lieutenant Governor advised all the stakeholders to work in close coordination with Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin along with the Government Medical Colleges,

AIIMS, SKIMS and other medical institutions of the UT to devise a well-planned strategy for the prevention of liver-related diseases.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Prof. Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu; Principals, HoDs and Medical Superintendents from Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, and other medical institutions and senior officials of Health and Medical Education department, attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

CM Omar extends greetings on Ambedkar Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his warm greetings to the people on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, paying rich tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution.

In his message, the Chief Minister said that Dr. Ambedkar devoted his entire life to the upliftment of the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society.

He noted that Dr. Ambedkar believed an ideal society can only be built on the foundation of social justice, and his monumental contributions to humanity shall always be remembered with reverence.

Highlighting Dr. Ambedkar's pivotal role in shaping modern India, Omar Abdullah stated that he not only played a leading role in drafting the Indian Constitution and abolishing untouchability, but also left a lasting impact on the country's socio-economic and educational policies.

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Indian Army downs Pakistan drone along LoC in Jammu using indigenous Anti-Drone system

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 13

The Indian Army recently brought down a Pakistan Army drone using the indigenously designed and developed 'Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System' while it was trying to carry out surveillance along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region.

According to defence sources, the drone – of Chinese origin – was brought down by Army Air Defence units deployed in the 16 Corps area, located south of the Pir Panjal ranges in the Jammu region.

The incident occurred when the hostile drone was detected operating close to Indian territory along the LoC, they said.

Sources said that the drone was brought down using the indigenously designed and developed 'Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System,' which is capable of jamming, spoofing, and bringing down enemy drones across a variety of ranges and scenarios.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system has been

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Voting first step towards serving nation: CEC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, APR 13

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said the first step towards serving the nation



is voting. He said eligible citizens must exercise their franchise whenever election takes place.

"The first step towards serving the nation is voting. To cast a vote,

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Security forces recover huge cache of Arms, Ammunition from slain terrorists in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 13

The joint security forces have recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from the three terrorists killed during the three-day anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Officials said, "The joint forces recovered 1 M4 Rifle, 2 AK 47 Rifles, 11 Magazines, 65 Bullets M4 and 56 bullets AK 47 along with caps, medicines, first aid material and socks.

This is the arms and ammunition that was recovered from three terrorists killed by the Army in the Chatroo Naidgam Kishtwar encounter on Saturday."

The security forces had started an intelligence-backed operation in the Chatroo area of the Kishtwar district.

On the second day of the operation, one terrorist was killed, while on the third day, two more terrorists were killed, including the top

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Zanskar delegation meets Dr Jitendra, thanks PM for granting district status

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL

A high-level delegation from Zanskar, led by Sh. Stanzin Lakpa, Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, called on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dept. of Space, Dept. of Atomic Energy.

The primary objective of the visit was to express heart-



felt gratitude on behalf of the people of Zanskar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the historic and transforma-

tive initiatives in the region which include granting district status to Zanskar - fulfilling

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Andhra man found wandering near IB in Jammu; reunited with family

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 13

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday said that a 50-year-old man, who was recently found wandering near the International Border (IB) in Akhnoor sector here, was reunited with his family.

Venkata Rao, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, was missing from home for the last three months and his safe return brought immense relief and

joy to his family, the BSF said, reaffirming its commitment to both border security and social responsibility.

"On 11 April 2025, #BSF Akhnoor reunited Venkata Rao, aged 50 years, native of VPO - Nelaturu, Post - Nehaturu, District - East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh missing from home for last 03 months; He was questioned during a routine check near border area of Akhnoor, District Jammu on

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Natrang Stages Hilarious Comedy 'Kabab Mein Haddi'

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13

Natrang presented Balwant Gargi's famous comedy play 'Kabab Mein Haddi' today in Sunday Theatre series at its studio theatre. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant. The hilarious situations in the play made laughter irresistible for the audience which responded with applause throughout the play.

'Kabab Mein Haddi' as the name suggests is a story of one intruder between two lovers. Naseem and Safdar are two college friends. Naseem is in love with Jameela. Both are post-graduate students studying in a University. Jameela is putting-up in the girls hostel whereas Naseem and Safdar are living in a rented accommodation. Despite having engaged they hardly find any space and avenue to



meet each other to share their feelings. Jameela's hostel warden is very strict and hardly allows her to move out and this side, Naseem's sticky friend Safdar hardly leaves him alone. Both have been shown making attempts to meet each other but in vain. Mustering courage and pulling in all resources they plan their outing on Friendship day. The movement they step-out, Safdar makes his unwanted

entry and offers them to escort them throughout their outing. Both try to convince him that they can move on their own but this foolish friend is not ready to buy their arguments and forcefully accompanies them. The real comedy unveils here when Safdar spoils their every precious moment by intruding between them by creating funny situations. His intrusions irritate them and the

moment he sees that they are irritated; he tries to be closer to them with the intention to ease out tension and conflict between them. Finally they get an opportunity to meet but the same is spoiled by their sincere friend. In fact Safdar sincerely wants to help both but his overwhelming concern creates dramatic turns in the story. Wherever he is not required he will suddenly make his entry and would turn the whole situation.

This play was presented in a very beautiful manner by the young actors of Natrang. Aryan Sharma as 'Naseem', Kartik Kumar as 'Safdar' and Manvi Devi as 'Jameela' played their respective characters with full confidence and professional ease. Neeraj Kant executed the lights of the play and Adaksh Bagal rendered the music. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

NYC's 'Jai Bhim Pad-Yatra' flagged off & led by Dr Darakhshan on eve of Ambedkar Jayanti at Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 13

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, under the aegis of MY Bharat organised "Jai Bhim Padyatra" from Hokersar Wetland, Zainakote to Narbal Crossing to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar. The Padyatra was flagged off & led by Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of JK Waqf Board. The padyatra aimed at propagating the teachings of Dr. Ambedkar witnessed the participation of more than 600 youth belonging to different districts. In her presidential address, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi lauded the efforts of MY Bharat J&K for organising



this graceful event and spreading the teachings & messages of Dr. Ambedkar among the youth. "The contribution of Bhim Rai Ambedkar is immense in building a powerful, progressive, visionary & democratically strong nation. We have paid heavy prices forignoring and humiliating the intellectual & political legacy of Baba Sahib for decades in Congress rule

but now PM Modi taking numerous initiatives to strengthen constitutional values among the citizens and focused on the role of youth to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047 adhering to the Constitution of Bharat", said Andrabi. She said that Prime Minister's 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas' is in tune with the doctrines of Ambedkar Ji. Youth leaders Bilal Ah

Parry and Khalid Baqal were also present. At the outset, District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta presented welcome address Naseer Ahmed (Range Officer, Hokersar), Sh. Rameez Ahmed (SHO Shalteng), Sh. Rabi Reyaz Ahmed (Ahsan Foundation), APA NYK Srinagar Sh. Gulzar Ahmed Ganaie, Civil Society Members Sh. Abdul Khaliq Ahanger, Sh. Bashir Irfan, Sh. Mohd Yousuf, Sh. Muraza Ali, Sh. Mehboob Hussain and many youth clubs. The event culminated at Nagbal Crossing. The UT level as well district level programmes in this connection are being organised by Nisar Ahmed Butt, State Director, NYKS, J&K Ladakh.

Yudhvir, Arun inaugurate vibrant Baisakhi Mela at Canal Road

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi along with Jammu Chamber President Arun Gupta and Mahant Rajesh Bittu today inaugurated the grand Baisakhi Mela at Canal Road, Jammu amidst a vibrant and festive atmosphere. The event, organized to mark the harvest festival of Baisakhi, drew huge participation from locals and visitors alike, turning the venue into a colourful celebration of culture, tradition, and community bonding.

On the occasion, Priya Sethi, senior BJP leader and former Minister, CCI office bearers namely Anil Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, Rajesh Gupta and Rinku; Ex-Corporator Anil Gupta, members of Mela Committee, Vishal Malhatra, Parvez Malik, Kaztar



Chand, Suraj Sharma, Vinod Gupta, Rajesh Dogra, Sawarn Singh, Sunil Gupta and Vinay Basan were present.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the mela, Yudhvir Sethi extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the people and emphasized the importance of preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. He said that festivals like Baisakhi are not only integral to our traditions but also play a vital role in bring-

ing communities together, promoting unity, and spreading joy.

"This Mela is a true reflection of the vibrant spirit of Jammu and its people. It provides a platform for our artisans, local vendors, and performers to showcase their talent and heritage," said Sethi. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers for putting together a wonderful event and ensuring representation of local crafts, cuisines, and folk art.

The Mela featured vari-

ous stalls offering traditional Punjabi and Dogri food, handicrafts, and games, while the cultural stage was lit up with energetic folk dance and music performances by local artists. Children and elders alike participated in fun-filled activities, adding to the cheerful ambience of the festival.

Yudhvir Sethi further stated that the BJP remains committed to promoting cultural events across Jammu and Kashmir, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. He reaffirmed that such festivals not only enrich the social fabric but also provide economic opportunities to local entrepreneurs and artists.

The event was attended by a large number of people including party workers, local leaders, civil society members, and tourists.

KCC&I hosts customs official to discuss export challenges

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 13

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) Saturday hosted an interactive session with Mr. Purushottam Kumar Gupta, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Jammu and Kashmir at the Chamber Office on Residency Road. The meeting, which saw active participation from KCCI executive committee members and exporters from the region, addressed several pressing issues confronting the export community of Kashmir.

KCC&I President, Mr. Javid Tenga, welcomed the distinguished guest and highlighted the importance of customs-related infrastructural developments for boosting the region's



export potential.

During the detailed interaction, KCCI representatives raised the long-standing demand for an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Kashmir. In response, Mr. Gupta informed the gathering that the ICD in Samba is nearing completion, which would partially address logistics challenges. However, the Chamber empha-

sized that a dedicated ICD in Kashmir remains essential and urged for its expeditious development.

Another critical issue raised during the session was regarding air cargo facilities from Srinagar airport. The KCCI urged that more airlines should be permitted to offer cargo services to exporters from the region, which

would enhance connectivity, reduce logistical bottlenecks, and improve the competitiveness of Kashmir's exports in both domestic and international markets.

The interactive session provided a valuable platform for direct dialogue between the customs authorities and the business community, fostering better understanding of procedural challenges and exploring potential solutions.

The KCC&I expressed gratitude to Mr. Gupta for his attentive consideration of the issues raised and looked forward to continued engagement with customs authorities for facilitating smoother export operations from the Kashmir Valley.

Police organises awareness programme on New Criminal Laws in Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, APR 13

Police in Budgam have organized an awareness programme on new criminal laws at District Police Lines Budgam. This program aimed to publicize and enable a better understanding of the three laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam) among the youth and general masses. The programme was chaired by Addl. SP Budgam accompanied by DySP DAR Budgam. The event was attended by the students of various institu-



tions of district Budgam and police officers/officials of district Budgam also participated in the event.

While addressing the participants chairing officer explained the nuances of the new laws, clarifying their implications and stressing the importance of adherence to legal statutes for maintaining societal order and provisions that ensure justice for the victims of crime and the society at large.

At the conclusion, participants were awarded with certificate of participation and the participants thanked J&K Police for conducting such events.

Declare April 13 as Rajouri Holiday: Vibodh

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APRIL 13

Former MLC and General Secretary of BJP, J&K, Advocate Vibodh Gupta paid homage to the martyrs of the 1947 Rajouri massacre at Balidan Stambh, Rajouri, and demanded that April 13 be officially declared as a public holiday in Rajouri district in honor of "Rajouri Day."

Speaking on the occasion, Vibodh Gupta said, "After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, armed Pakistani soldiers disguised as tribal invaders (Kabalis) attacked and captured Rajouri on November 7, 1947. This was followed by a brutal onslaught on November 11, 1947, coinciding with the eve of Diwali. Almost 10,000 civilians including 3000-3500 women lost their lives battling for motherland."

Vibodh further highlighted the significance



of April 13, 1948, stating, "Due to the bravery and valiant efforts of the Indian Army, aided by the courageous citizens of Rajouri, the town was liberated from the intruders. Since then, April 13 is observed as Rajouri Day to commemorate the sacrifice and valor of those who laid down their lives for the liberation of Rajouri."

Vibodh strongly asserted that the historical and

emotional significance of this day must be acknowledged by the government by declaring April 13 as an official holiday in Rajouri district.

"Pakistan has yet to reconcile with the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and continues to make attempts to disturb peace in the Union Territory. However, under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government has effectively isolated Pakistan on the international stage, leading to a significant decline in militancy in Kashmir" maintained Vibodh Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP leader Varun Chandan said that the liberation of Rajouri on April 13, 1948, is a golden chapter in our history. Radish Sharma added that honoring this day with an official holiday will instill a deeper sense of pride and patriotism among the people of Rajouri. Ex-Corporator Sanjay Sharma added that we owe our freedom and peace to the supreme sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Rajouri's liberation.

General Secretary SDS Rajouri Nishu Gupta said, "Rajouri Day is not just a day of remembrance but a powerful reminder of the bravery and sacrifice that led to the liberation of our land."

Police organizes sensitisation program for awareness Yodhas in Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, APRIL 13

Police in Pulwama organized a sensitisation program for the Awareness Yodhas of District Pulwa-

ma. The initiative focused on educating participants about the newly introduced criminal laws, cybercrime, and the menace of drug abuse.

The program was pre-

sided over by SSP Pulwama Ms. PD Nitya, along with other senior officers of District Police Pulwama.

Selected Awareness Yodhas from three



colleges—Government Degree College Pulwama, Women's Degree College Pulwama, and Degree College Rajpora—actively participated in the event,

accompanied by their faculty members. The Yodhas were briefed on their crucial role and responsibilities in spreading awareness among fellow students, peer groups, and the wider

community. This initiative aims to empower youth ambassadors with knowledge and responsibility to foster a safer and more informed society.

Three-day National Conference of IAPSMCON-2025 concludes

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 13

The 52nd Annual National Conference of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSMCON 2025) concluded today here, marking the successful culmination of a three-day event.

The conference, organized by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine of Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar brought together public health experts and professionals from across India.

The event, held from April 11 to 13, saw enthusiastic participation from more than 1,270 delegates, along with 32 co-delegates from all 32 states and Union Territories, including remote regions such as the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The national level conference was inaugurated by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah in a ceremonial opening that set the tone for an enriching academic discourse.

He was joined by several key dignitaries, including Dr. Annarao Kulkarni, National President of IAPSM; Dr. Purushottam Giri, Secretary General of IAPSM; Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal of GMC Srinagar and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Medical Specialties, University of Kashmir; Prof. (Dr.) S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine and Conference Chairman; and Dr. Inaamul Haq, Associate Professor and Organizing Secretary of IAPSMCON 2025.

In his keynote address, Dr. Shah emphasized the importance of integrative healthcare approaches,



spanning award papers, oral presentations, and posters. These sessions unfolded across six parallel venues—five physical halls and one virtual—with select hybrid sessions held in the main auditorium.

Among the many highlights was the presence of Prof. B.N. Gangadhar, President of the National Medical Commission (NMC), who engaged in critical discussions with health professionals and shared insights on much-needed reforms in the healthcare system and medical education landscape.

The closing ceremony, held on today, was graced by Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, Executive Director of AIIMS Awantipora, who served as the chief guest. In his address, he reaffirmed the indispensable role of public health in nation-building and called for sustained investment in community health and preventive strategies.

Joining him at the valedictory function were Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmad, Director General of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, as guest of honour, along with senior faculty members, department heads, and administrative officers from GMC Srinagar and IAPSM.

As IAPSMCON 2025 came to a close, it left behind a strong message of collaboration, innovation, and a unified commitment to fortifying the future of preventive and social medicine in India. The conference not only celebrated the achievements of the past but also laid a firm foundation for addressing the emerging challenges of healthcare through integrative and inclusive solutions.

advocating for the convergence of preventive and curative strategies to build resilient and inclusive health systems. His remarks highlighted the evolving nature of healthcare, calling for a unified vision that places public health at the heart of national development.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat underlined the critical role played by public health in guiding policy and ensuring community welfare. She commended the efforts of GMC Srinagar in advancing the cause of preventive medicine and fostering a culture of academic excellence and community service.

A poignant moment of the conference came with the posthumous conferment of the Lifetime Achievement Award to the late Prof. Muneer Ahmad Masoodi, a former Head of the Department of Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar. His legacy

was honored through the presence of Ms. Zeenat Masoodi, who accepted the award on his behalf.

The academic program commenced with six intensive pre-conference workshops on April 10 at GMC Srinagar, setting the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the conference's central theme, "Integrative Approaches for Comprehensive Care in One Health", resonating with the slogan "One Nation, One Health, One World."

Over the subsequent days, the event transformed into a vibrant academic forum featuring a remarkable range of sessions, including 11 plenary discussions and 11 keynote addresses from distinguished national and international public health leaders.

Scientific engagement was at the forefront of the conference, with a total of 561 presentations

Baisakhi Celebrations at Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 13

The festival of Baisakhi, symbolizing the dawn of the new Bikrami Year and the anniversary of the 326 Khalsa Sajna Diwas was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch.

The festivities, held under the supervision of Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji, attracted a significant gathering of pilgrims and visitors, affirming a strong sense of community and faith.

Joining devotees at the celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed and Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid visited Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib to pay their respects and greet the gathering on this auspicious occasion of the Baisakhi Festival. Their presence underscored the unity and reverence associated with this important day.



The event featured a touching religious sermon attended by thousands of pilgrims from diverse regions, including Jammu, Srinagar, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and visitors from abroad including England and USA.

During the Smagam, the esteemed Ragi Jathas performed soulful gurbani kirtan, captivating the audience and enhancing

the spiritual atmosphere.

The congregation witnessed spirited recitations by Bhai Surinderpal Singh Ji from DGPC Jammu, Bhai Chhinder Singh from Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib New Delhi and Bhai Harcharan Singh Hazuri Ragi DGPC Poonch.

The district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner ensured the successful execution of the

festival with comprehensive support from various departments.

JPDC, Jal Shakti, Health Department, Ayush Unit Poonch, JK Police, PWD, and the Rural Development Department worked collaboratively to facilitate this grand celebration.

Jathedar Nanak Singh from Nepal contributed significantly by shedding light on Gurbani Vichar and elaborating on the significance of Khalsa Sajna Diwas, offering insightful reflections that resonated with the audience.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by S. Harcharan Singh, General Secretary of DGPC Poonch, who ensured a seamless flow of events throughout the evening.

The festivities culminated in an exhilarating Gatka performance. The festival concluded on a heart-warming note with the serving of Guru Ka langer, reinforcing the bond of love and unity among the devotees.

Chairperson DDC, MLA Udhampur West, DC inaugurate 3-Day historic Devika Baisakhi Mela at Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13

Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur, Lal Chand alongside Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today inaugurated the three-day Baisakhi mela on the banks of the holy Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, District Information Officer Rajinder Digra, Tehsildar Udhampur Jai Singh along with officers from other departments, representatives of political and social organizations and prominent citizens were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson DDC extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi. He expressed hope that the festival would bring peace, prosperity and harmony to the Union Territory.



Highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of the Mela, he said that the sacred Devika Ghat holds a special place in the hearts of the people, drawing devotees from all walks of life to take a holy dip in the Devika rivulet during the Mela.

The Chairperson DDC emphasized that such traditional Melas foster communal harmony by bringing together people from diverse religions, communities and regions, thereby strengthening the social fabric.

The DDC Chairperson, MLA Udhampur West and DC Udhampur also inau-

gurated a water cooler and participated in a tree plantation drive within the premises of Devika Ghat.

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the Mela, the district administration has made elaborate arrangements including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, sanitation, medicare, a joint control room, assistance booths and comprehensive security arrangements. Several departments have also set up stalls to create awareness among the public about different government welfare schemes and initiatives.

Adding to the festive spirit, numerous temporary sweet shops, toy stalls and food corners set up by local as well as outside vendors have become a major attraction for the visitors.

The Chairperson DDC, accompanied by MLA Udhampur West and DC, took a detailed tour of the venue and inspected the departmental stalls set up for public awareness.

In the evening, the District Information Centre Udhampur organized a vibrant cultural programme to mark the first day of the historic Mela.

The Chairperson DDC Udhampur was the chief guest at the event. A large number of people enjoyed the cultural extravaganza, which included enthralling Dogri music and folk dance performances by local artists and students from various educational institutions.

Later, the chief guest presented appreciation certificates to the participants in recognition of their contributions to the event.

Baisakhi festival celebrated with cultural zeal, Strong Social Message at Samba Fort

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 13

The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and the Civil Society Samba, organized a grand Baisakhi Mela at the historic Samba Fort. The event was celebrated under the impactful theme "Say No to Drugs", promoting a message of a healthy, drug-free, and clean society.

The celebrations saw enthusiastic participation from children amid vibrant cultural performances including traditional dances and folk music.

Local artists added to the energy of the event through engaging nukkad natak (street plays) and soulful singing, all focused



in their performances, encouraging the public to keep their surroundings clean and avoid littering.

The Mela was graced by the presence of several dignitaries from the District Administration including Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Information Officer, and other officers. Representatives from Civil Society Samba, including retired ZEO Shiv Charan Singh, President Amardeep Singh, General Secretary Dr. Jagdeep Singh, and a large number of local residents also attended the event, enjoying the festivities and appreciating the meaningful cultural showcase.

on the central theme of Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India). The performances convey powerful messages on drug prevention, cleanliness, and civic responsibility.

In addition to promoting cultural heritage, the event also emphasized the importance of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness. The artists incorporated these themes

Gaiety marks Baisakhi Mela at Bounta Nag Temple Bhaderwah

JINNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APRIL 13

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh visited the Baisakhi Mela organized at Bounta Nag Temple in Gutassa, Bhaderwah and took part in the festive cel-

ebrations with local residents.

He was accompanied by DDC West Yudhveer Singh and several government functionaries. Their presence added great significance to the event and reflected the administra-

tion's commitment to connect with the public on important occasions.

The DC paid his obeisance at the revered Bounta Nag Temple and interacted with devotees and locals who had gathered at the Mela to celebrate Baisakhi

festival.

On the sidelines of the event, the DC listened to the public grievances, seeking improvement in power and water supply to the area. He assured the gathering to meet the demands with prompt action.

Baisakhi festival celebrated with gaiety, traditional fervour in District Kishtwar

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 13

The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and cultural spirit in District Kishtwar.

A traditional Dangal at the scenic Chowgan Grounds was one of the highlights of the celebrations. The event drew huge crowds from across the region, reaffirming the district's commitment to preserving its vibrant heritage.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, who led the celebrations along with senior officers and local dignitaries.

The DC extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the people of the district and



lauded the organizers for their commendable efforts in upholding the legacy of this iconic event.

The Dangal saw enthusiastic participation from wrestlers and spectators, highlighting the region's

deep-rooted love for traditional sports and its cultural richness. The event not only entertained but also served as a platform for communal harmony and social unity.

The Deputy Commissioner also distributed prizes among the participants, acknowledging their enthusiastic participation and commendable participation.

Apart from this, the DC also visited the revered Neel Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple at Bhandarkoot, where he reviewed the arrangements made for the convenience of devotees and offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and collective well-being.

Thannamandi celebrates Rajouri Day with enthusiastic Bike Rally

JNEWS SERVICE

THANNAMANDI, APRIL 13

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism Rajouri/Poonch, proudly organized a vibrant bike rally in celebration of Rajouri Day. This exciting event took place under the esteemed direction of the District Development Commissioner of Rajouri on the morning of April 13, 2025.

The rally began at 9 am launching from the Tehsil office in Thannamandi and was officially flagged off by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Syed Abad Hussain Shah. He was accompanied by notable dignitaries, including Mazhar Ali, Tehsildar Thannamandi; Muzam-



mil Hussain Choudhary, Assistant Director Tourism Rajouri/Poonch; Mumtaz Ahmed, Tourist Officer Rajouri; Mehmood Azam, Naib Tehsildar and Saleem

Noushad Raina, Zonal Physical Education Officer Thannamandi.

Thirty-five enthusiastic bikers participated in the rally, showcasing

their commitment to promoting health and wellness through cycling. The event received valuable support from the local Police Department,

which ensured a safe route throughout the Sub-Division. Additionally, the Health Department played a crucial role by providing an ambulance escort to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, alongside officials from the Thannamandi Zone, effectively managed all arrangements for the event, contributing to its seamless execution.

This bike rally not only commemorates Rajouri Day but also underscores the importance of community engagement and physical fitness while raising awareness about drug abuse, traffic safety, and the rich cultural heritage of the Thannamandi region.

Dozens of National Conference and other regional party workers join BJP at Zadibal, Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13, 2025:

In a major political development, dozens of political workers, primarily from the National Conference and other regional parties, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today in a function at Nigeen Lake Zadibal area in Srinagar. The joining took place in the presence of senior BJP leader Hilal Jan, who welcomed the new members into the party fold.

The new entrants expressed deep dissatisfaction with their previous affiliations, stating that leaders of the National Conference and other regional parties have consistently prioritized the interests of their families, relatives, and close associates over the genuine aspirations of the people. They emphasized that their



decision to join the BJP was driven by the party's commitment to inclusive development, good governance, and a transparent political culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Hilal Ahmad Jan said, "The BJP stands for justice, equality, and true representation. People across Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly reposing faith in the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and the vision of the BJP. We welcome all those who wish to contribute to the betterment of the Union Territory with open arms."

The joining of political workers at Zadibal marks yet another step in BJP's growing grassroots presence in the Kashmir Valley and reflects the changing political landscape of the region.

ADM Jammu conducts extensive tour of Akhnoor, Khour Subdivisions

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 13

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Jammu, Rakesh Kumar, today undertook comprehensive tour of Akhnoor, Jourian, Khour, and Pargwal tehsils to assess the functioning of the Revenue Department and review the ongoing Girdawari (crop inspection) updation process.

During the visit, the ADM conducted thorough inspections of the

revenue offices and examined records pertaining to land, crop assessments, and mutation registers in various villages. He identified several discrepancies and shortfalls in record maintenance and service delivery.

Taking serious note of these issues, he gave clear instructions to revenue officials to enhance transparency, adhere strictly to standard protocols,

and improve efficiency in public service delivery.



The ADM was accompanied by SDM Akhnoor, SDM Khour, Tehsildars of Akhnoor, Jourian, Khour, and Pargwal, who briefed

him on the local challenges and ongoing administrative measures.

In addition to inspecting departmental functioning, ADM Rakesh Kumar also interacted with local residents at multiple locations and listened to their concerns. He gave a patient hearing to grievances related not only to the Revenue depart-

ment but also to PDD, Agriculture, and Health Departments. He assured the public that all issues raised would be taken up on priority with the concerned departments for early redressal. The ADM reiterated the administration's commitment to proactive governance and responsive public service and urged all officers to work in close coordination to address the issues faced by the public at the grassroots level.

Poshan Pakhwada Camp organised at Anganwadi Centre Akramabad-C, Doda

JNEWS SERVICE

DODA, APRIL 13

A Poshan Pakhwada Camp was organized at Anganwadi Centre Akramabad-C (Doda) under the Poshan Project Bhagwah. The camp witnessed active participation from Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers,

Helpers, children along with their families and members of the general public.

The camp aimed to spread awareness about various schemes under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), including the objectives and benefits of Poshan Pakhwada,

and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

Refreshments were served to all beneficiaries during the camp. The participants appreciated the arrangements and expressed satisfaction with the informative sessions conducted as part of the programme.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Rajouri Day : Join...

This is also an occasion to imbibe the life values of all those heroes who sacrificed their lives to protect the citizens. Today's occasion is also to inculcate in the minds of the youth of the new generation the values of those brave men who bravely faced the crisis that befell Rajouri," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Rajouri Day is a symbol of the invincible strength of the Indian Army and it reminds us that we will never allow our unity and cultural flow to be fragmented.

"Guru Gobind Singh Ji had established Khalsa Panth on this day. His immortal teachings are constantly guiding our brave soldiers. His philosophy and values shape brave soldiers of the Indian Army and inspire them to renunciation, dedication, valour and sacrifice," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon all the sections of society to identify and isolate the elements trying to disrupt peace and development.

Emphasizing the need for unifying efforts against terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor called upon all sections of society to identify and isolate divisive forces and join the fight against the terror ecosystem.

"Today we need to be more vigilant. The enemy is continuously trying to disturb our peace by sending terrorists. Indian Army, Central Armed Police Forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the public should work together to completely eliminate the terrorists and their sympathisers. Our collective strength will successfully neutralise terrorism and enemy threats and paving the way for peace and development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

A special postal cover commemorating the 77 glorious years of liberation of Rajouri was released on the occasion. Impressive Motorcycle Acrobatic display and cultural pageantry based on the different themes demonstrated the prowess of the Security forces and the Jammu Kashmir Police.

Ch. Naseem Liaqat, Chairman, District Development Council Rajouri; Shri Iftikhar Ahmed, Thakur Randhir Singh and Ch. Javed Iqbal- Members of Legislative Assembly; Shri Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; family members of the martyrs and people in large number were also present on the occasion and paid homage to the heroes of Rajouri.

Ruhullah rejects...

with my siblings, received a nominal share – about Rs 80,000 each – transferred through my uncle's account," he said, adding that his role was merely that of a legal heir.

He said that he had no role in negotiations or dealings related to compensation. "My eldest uncle is the custodian of the land. He handled all discussions with the authorities. I got the money through his account not from the government."

Ruhullah said he was shocked to learn about the chargesheet as he was never questioned by the authorities nor served any legal notice regarding the matter. "This case has no substance. It is built on baseless grounds. If I had been involved in any wrongdoing, I should have been formally informed and given a chance to respond," he said.

Calling it a politically motivated move, Ruhullah accused the administration of attempting to suppress dissenting voices. "This is a deliberate effort to intimidate me using agencies like the ACB. I suggest they also involve the NIA, so that real corrupt individuals can be exposed," he said.

He added defiantly, "I will not be silenced. I will only become silent till the day Article 370 is restored, atrocities against Muslims and minorities are stopped, and constitutional rights of J&K are reinstated."

Referring to his spiritual and cultural upbringing, Ruhullah said, "I come from a darsgah where we are taught to endure pain with patience, even to sacrifice our lives for our rights. If they want to fight with me over Rs 80,000, I am ready for it."

He apologized to his family members for being dragged into the controversy and expressed hope they would stand by him during this time.

Ruhullah also criticized the central government's control over religious institutions and said the NC would approach the Supreme Court against the Waqf Act.

Ruhullah, as per KNO, said that he could not speak on the Waqf Bill in the Parliament as the party's floor leader Mian Altaf chose to speak instead.

He questioned why no resolution was brought in the J&K Legislative Assembly against the Waqf Bill. "Even if the matter is sub-judice, the Assembly could have expressed its opinion. A resolution is not lawmaking – it's just an opinion."

On the restoration of statehood, he said, "Statehood won't be handed back easily. We should not have waited passively. We should have mobilized politically – 50 MLAs should have camped outside the residences of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. We are running away from the people's sentiments."

Thanking the people of Budgam for ensuring victory of the National Conference vice-president (Omar Abdullah) in 2024 assembly elections, Ruhullah said, "The NC vice-president has vacated the seat. Now the people want that someone from Budgam to represent them again. I respect their aspirations."

Ruhullah reaffirmed his commitment to public service and principled politics. "We should not limit our politics to elections. We must keep the people's trust and fulfill our promises."

Ruhullah said that he has represented Budgam for 18-years but this time around he didn't want to become a part of "J&K's downgraded assembly" that's why he contested parliament elections – (KNO)

LG attends the...

various zones have been revitalized into vibrant, accessible, and people-friendly spaces, he added.

"We have also seen a deep commitment to the environment. Over five hectares of green spaces have been developed at locations like Panama Chowk, Balidan Stambh, near Jammu University, and across Ranbir Canal from BSF Paloura up to Pawan Ice Cream, among others. Public art like 3D murals, wall paintings, sculptures, etc. – is adding color and life to our cityscape, giving Jammu a personality that's unique and proud.

Our public transport has taken a big leap too – with 100 electric AC buses now running within and between major towns of Jammu province. These buses are

equipped with live tracking, CCTV cameras, and digital payment options, making commuting cleaner, safer, and more convenient for everyone. Our Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) and Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) are ensuring that the city runs more efficiently and with safety regularly on a daily basis, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the vital role of common citizens in the smooth operation of the city and to the creation of clean and vibrant public spaces.

"Smart City is not just about technology; it's about people. It's about improving daily life, creating opportunities, and building a city we are all proud to live in. I want to take a moment to appreciate the incredible efforts of the JSCL team including the engineers, planners, workers on the ground, and most importantly, you – the people of Jammu. Your support, patience, and faith in this mission have made all this possible.

I assure you, the government will continue to stand firmly behind such development efforts. Our vision is clear – to make Jammu not just smart, but safe, green, inclusive, and future-ready.

Let's keep working together. Let's keep moving forward. Because the Jammu we are building today is the legacy we will leave for generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma and Er. Gulam Ali Khatana - Members of Parliament; Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited; Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly; Administrative Secretaries; Deputy Commissioner Jammu and senior officials of Civil and Police Administration and people from all walks of life also took part in the Tawi Aarti.

CM Omar extends...

The Chief Minister urged the people, particularly the youth, to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and teachings. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's vision remains profoundly relevant in today's times, and called upon everyone to contribute towards building a society rooted in equality, justice and inclusivity.

Voting first step...

one must register as a voter by enrolling on the voter list. No eligible citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should be left out," Kumar said while addressing media persons in Ranchi.

The CEC arrived in Ranchi on Friday for a three-day visit to Jharkhand.

"Whenever an election takes place, electors must ensure to vote," he said.

The Election Commission has always stood by voters and will continue to do so, Kumar added.

Earlier, he held a discussion with booth-level officers (BLO) on Ranchi outskirts Dasam fall.

The BLOs shared their experiences and efforts in

remote and difficult areas during polling.

The CEC also learnt about the BLOs' experiences with household surveys, the BLO app, polling time management, and other related matters during the elections.

Kumar interacted with election officials and volunteers in Ramgarh on Saturday. (Agencies)

Indian Army downs...

deployed in significant numbers along India's borders, they said. They added that it is also equipped with a 2-kilowatt laser beam that can strike down enemy drones from an effective range of 800 to 1,000 metres.

The DRDO-developed system is actively used by the India Army and the other security forces for counter drone operations. (Agencies)

Security forces...

commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, Saifullah. (Agencies)

Zanskar delegation...

a long-pending and emotional demand of the people.

The Delegation also expressed gratitude for connecting the Defense Strategic Nimo-Padum-Darcha Road – a crucial lifeline for connectivity and defense logistics and near Completion of NH-301 (Kargil-Zanskar Highway) – significantly reducing travel time and boosting tourism and trade.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also referred to the sanctioning of the Shinkun La Tunnel – a strategic defense tunnel, with its first ground blast inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Kargil Vijay Divas (26th July), a moment etched in history by the locals who now reverently call it the "Modi Tunnel."

The Minister also observed that once marginalized and long neglected by previous regimes, Zanskar is today witnessing an era of transformation – from isolation to integration, from neglect to development. It is emerging as a new economic and tourism destination in the Himalayas, he said.

The people of Zanskar, said Lakpa, have no words to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, except with folded hands and heartfelt prayers for his long life and continued leadership. He said, the people of the region always look upto PM Modi as their saviour.

The delegation also appreciated Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC), for being the torchbearer of these transformative initiatives and for his consistent, personal commitment to the cause of Zanskar and the people of Zanskar.

Andhra man found...

31 March 2025," the BSF Jammu said in a post on X. "He was unable to provide complete details, BSF officers put in extra efforts to trace his family in Andhra Pradesh. His safe return brought immense relief and joy to his family. BSF officers reaffirmed BSF's commitment to both border security and social responsibility," the post added. (Agencies)

BJP Launches 'Gaon/Basti Chalo Abhiyan' in Sainik Colony's Ward No. 69

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 13

The BJP's Gaon/Basti Chalo Abhiyan was launched in Ward No. 69, Sainik Colony, Jammu with full enthusiasm and strong public support. Senior Leader BJP J&K Ajay Pargal, who is the incharge of this campaign for Ward No. 69, led the entire programme, spending the day connecting with local residents and listening to their issues.

He was accompanied by Advocate Ishant Gupta, BJP J&K State IT Head, and former Corporator of Ward No. 69, Gurmeet Kour Randhawa. They received a warm welcome from Kunjwani Mandal President Ajay Pratap Singh, his Mandal team, and booth-level BJP workers. Many party karyakartas and residents also actively participated, including Vishal Dasgotra (Mandal General Secretary), Santosh Sharma, Kamalpreet Singh, Shastruj Singh, Shivnandan Singh Charak, Sahil Sagar, Ishan Choudhary, Puneet Slathia, KS Manhas and others.

The programme included several meaningful activities. A Swachhata Abhiyan (cleanliness drive) was held at key public and religious places, including cleaning the statue of Shaheed



Major Ajay Singh Jasrotia and nearby water bodies and parks. The team interacted with beneficiaries of various central government schemes and understood how these schemes are helping in their lives. They also inspected public services like schools, parks, and tube wells to review infrastructure conditions.

An open Chaupal was organised where local people spoke about their concerns and shared suggestions directly with the BJP leaders. Dedicated party workers and booth committee members were honoured for their continuous service. The team also visited the homes of senior community members to strengthen personal connections.

While Speaking, Ajay Pargal said, "This cam-

paign helps us connect with the people directly. It boosts the morale of our workers and helps us understand ground realities better. Every small step taken today will lead to a better tomorrow." He also spoke about the BJP's guiding principle under Prime Minister Narendra Modi - "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas," and highlighted Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision of Antyodaya - serving the last person in line. Pargal said that the BJP's Gaon/Basti Chalo Abhiyan continues to serve as a beacon of grassroots democracy and commitment to public service, reaffirming the party's dedication to building a stronger nation.

Advocate Ishant Gupta said that this Abhiyan is happening across the

country to reach out to citizens, and spread awareness about the big changes brought by the BJP government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said "Such initiatives are vital to energize our karyakartas and build a stronger emotional bond between the party and the people. Gurmeet Kour Randhawa encouraged party workers to become ambassadors of development and thanked Prime Minister Modi for his dedicated efforts to empower women through various schemes.

Ajay Singh, who organised the event, thanked everyone for their participation and said such initiatives are important to energize the party workers and build strong bonds with the public at the grassroots level.

Baisakhi Mela at Devika Ghat, Udhampur Celebrated with Fervour

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 13:

The vibrant spirit of Baisakhi came alive at Devika Ghat, Nainsoo, as the historic Navarash Baisakhi Mela was celebrated with great enthusiasm and community participation. MLA Udhampur-East, Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, graced the occasion and underscored the festival's profound religious, cultural, and historiographical significance, particularly in Northern India.

Addressing a large gathering at the mela, Mr. Pathania said, "Baisakhi is not just a festival, but the fulcrum of our collective spiritual heritage, cultural traditions, and historical legacy. It is a celebration of the undying spirit and unity of the people of Jammu."

The ancient Aap Shambhu Mandir at Nainsoo, situated on the sacred banks of Devika, has been a traditional host of the Baisakhi mela since time immemorial. Mr. Pathania praised the



Shiva Mandir Committee Nainsoo for upholding this age-old tradition and for organizing the event with devotion and diligence.

Commending the efforts of the local community and stakeholders, Mr. Pathania assured continued support and emphasized his commitment to promoting cultural tourism and heritage festivals in the region. He also expressed gratitude to various departments whose coordination made the successful execution

of the event possible and announced that he had formally taken up the issue of infrastructural support and development of the mela site with concerned authorities.

The stalls set up by various departments, along with local craftsmen and cuisine, truly added vibrant new colour to the entire show. Mr. Pathania was at the peak of his lung power, passionately stating that these thoughtful additions brought a fresh taste and tinge that is deeply attached to the

daily lives of the people.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from people across Udhampur and surrounding areas, showcasing local art, culture, music, and traditional food stalls. It served as a platform to promote unity, tourism, and cultural pride.

Mr. Pathania concluded by reaffirming his vision for preserving and celebrating local festivals as a means to strengthen regional identity and foster inclusive development.

Rajkumar Goyal meets DIG JKS range, discussed Amarnath Yatra arrangements

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13:

National working president of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society Rajkumar Goyal met with DIG Jammu kathua samba range Shiv kumar Sharma and discussed the arrangements of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra. He was accompanied by social worker Lokesh Goyal from Ganganagar in Rajasthan. During the meeting, Goyal discussed important issues like infrastructure, security, medical services, cleanliness and logistics for the Amarnath Yatra with DIG. He informed that the registration for Shri Amarnath Yatra will start from April 15 and the yatra will run from 3 July to 9 August 2025. He said that as soon as the yatra enters Jammu and Kashmir, all the necessary arrangements should



medical care facilities, weather forecasting infrastructure and security were also discussed in detail. Goyal said that the journey requires collective efforts of all departments to walk smoothly. Apart from the country, people from abroad also reach for darshan of Baba in the yatra, in such a situation, there is a big responsibility on the shoulders of the Jammu and Kashmir police and administration. Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society is always ready to cooperate with the police administration in every way. DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma said that it is the responsibility of every Jammu and Kashmir to make this important journey successful. Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society is doing commendable work by helping the devotees participating in the yatra.

be completed for the convenience of devotees from Lakhapur to the holy cave. Shri Amarnath ji Yatra Welfare Society also organised langar for devotees and apart from this, they have been assist-

ed in every possible way. In addition, other issues including measures to reduce congestion in the cave area, preparation of disaster management, adequate arrangements for helicopter services,

AICC General Secretary to visit Jammu on 17th & 18th April

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

The JK PCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra said that Centre has failed to control the deteriorating security situation in Jammu Region which is a matter of great concern for all citizens who feel in secured especially in the rural and remote areas because of increased terror activities and infiltrations.

Addressing a meeting of senior party leaders, PCC, DCC and Frontal Organizations leaders to take stock of the current political and security scenario besides discussing the arrangements for the three days visit of newly appointed General Secretary AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain (MP) from April 17th in Jammu, Shri Karra said that our security forces are bravely fighting terrorism and infiltration attempts from Pakistan but the deterioration in the situation is vis-

ible especially in Jammu Region for the last several months. This is a matter of great concern as the innocent people in the rural and remote areas are feeling insecure due to numerous incidents and presence of terrorists being spotted. The Centre must adopt more effective measures to contain the militancy with the cooperation of people.

The meeting was chaired by President PCC Shri Tariq Hameed Karra which was attended by Working Presidents Shri Tara Chand & Shri Raman Bhalla and Senior Congress leaders including Ch. Lal Singh, Shri Neeraj Kundan, Ravinder Sharma, Th. Balwan Singh, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Th. Manmohan Singh, Th. Balbir Singh, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma, Haji Rashid, S.S. Channi, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Indu Pawar, Kanta Bhan, Yash Pal Kundal, Zahida Khan, Shri Narinder Sharma, Smt. Namrata Sharma,

Krishan Chander Bhagat, Rajesh Sadotra, Balbir Singh, Subash Bhagat, Suresh Dogra, Sanjeev Panda, Sumit Mangotra, Babal Gupta, Hussain Ali Waffa, Bharat Priya, Madan Lal Chalotra, Ashok Bhagat, K.D. Singh, Hira Lal Pandita, Vijay Shastri, Sunny Parihar, Bhavishya Sudan, Jatin K Raina, Vijay Tagotra, Ricky Dalotra, Annirudh Sawhney, Ravi Sharma, Jatinder Singh, Firdos Mangnoo, Rajinder Kumar (Happy), Th. Hoshiar Singh, Ch. Babu Khan, Bodh Raj and several others.

The PCC President disclosed that newly appointed AICC General Secretary shall be Arriving here on 17th April in the morning flight and shall be accorded rousing reception at the Airport and later address a workers convention at AFSAR Guest House Shaktinagar, Jammu. He shall have a meeting with the prominent PCC leaders, Dist Presidents and former legislators and frontal heads in the after-

noon while he will meet different delegations from all districts of Jammu province and different block presidents to take stock of the organizational activities during his stay and he will be back on 19th.

He said that the party shall further gear up its activities in all parts of Jammu and Kashmir to intensify the struggle for statehood besides to high light the issues being faced by the people due to non fulfillment of various promises by the BJP dispensation for the last 10 years leading to compounding of the problems of unemployment, price rise, huge taxations and exploitation of natural resources.

The prominent leaders spoke in the meeting and gave their valuable inputs for strengthening the party and to fight for the rights of the people and against the politics of division AND Hatred by the BJP in order to divert the attention of people from the real issues faced by the common man.

J&K wins 3 medals in Thangta; emerges runners-up in 68th National School Games

JINNEWS SERVICE
MANIPUR, APR 13

Adding another feather to the already colourful cap of the Department of Youth Services and Sports by keeping J&K's flag high at the national scene, J&K's Thangta athletes bagged three medals including a gold in the prestigious 68th National School Games in the discipline of Thangta U-19 boys and girls at Imphal in Manipur today.

Hammad Bashir of District Pulwama bagged Gold medal, while Ajaz Ahmad Sofi of District Kupwara and Murieza Iqbal Lone of District Pulwama claimed Bronze medals.

Commissioner/Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sh Sarmad Hafeez and Director General Youth Services and Sports, Sh Rajinder Singh Tara congratulated the medals winners and the support staff for this brilliant achievement.



They said the young talent of Jammu and Kashmir has made us proud, adding the Department of Youth Services and Sports is inching closer to making J&K a sporting hub.

"The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is leaving no stone unturned in carving a space on the country's sports map, is all set to win a record haul of medals in the National School Games (NSG) this season, as a total of 52 medals have already been clinched by our athletes in various sports disciplines, while around 30

medals are expected to be secured in the remaining events, which include the medal winning sports disciplines like Roller Skating, Thang-ta, Football and Gatka etc," said Tara.

He further said that 1800 athletes drawn from various districts of the Union Territory have already taken part in the National School Games (NSG) so far in this season, while 400 more athletes are expected to rub their shoulders with their counterparts from the other States/UTs in various disciplines of sports at the

national scene. "Jammu and Kashmir has so far won 16 medals in Fencing with 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze; 15 medals in Wushu with 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze; 7 medals in Judo with 4 Silver and 3 Bronze; 4 medals in Taekwondo with 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Soft Tennis with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Thangta with 1 Gold and 2 Bronze; 2 medals in Gymnastics with 2 Bronze and 2 medals in Weightlifting with 1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal," Tara added.

Indian Army Organizes Friendly Volleyball Match in Doda Under 'Khelo India'

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA: 13 APR 2025

On popular demand of locals of Bhatt, Indian Army organised a friendly volleyball match between two local teams of Doda on 12 Apr 2025 in alignment with "Khelo India". Both the teams

consisted of players from various caste, creed and religion & displayed very high degree of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit. It was a thrilling and exciting match till the end. A total number of 11 pers participated in the event. The Volleyball match was aimed

at developing a competitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent. The match was witnessed with keen interest by one and all, thus generating bonhomie amongst the players as well as locals. An officer from Indian Army wit-

nessed the match and he also congratulated both the teams for the sterling performance and distributed prizes to both the teams. Team members and locals expressed their heartfelt gratitude for organizing the event and requested for more such sporting events in the future.

EDITORIAL

Statehood for J&K: A People's Aspiration

The call for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is no longer just a political demand—it is an urgent reflection of the people's growing desire for dignity, democratic empowerment, and administrative clarity. As statehood takes center stage in the political discourse of the region, the debate has been marred by partisanship, accusations, and theatrics that threaten to overshadow the core issue: governance and representation. The National Conference, currently in power, has renewed its demand for immediate restoration of statehood, claiming that the dual control between the Union Government and local administration is choking development and undermining bureaucratic coherence. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's assertion taps into a widespread public sentiment—that Jammu and Kashmir, once a full-fledged state, has been reduced to a Union Territory with diluted political identity. On the other side, the BJP—which spearheaded the revocation of Article 370 and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories in 2019—is now insisting that statehood remains part of its broader plan, but "will be restored at an appropriate time." The party maintains that peace, stability, and development are preconditions for the return of full statehood. However, this promise remains vague and conditional, creating a vacuum of trust among the populace. What is troubling is not the ideological disagreement itself—democracy thrives on debate—but the tone and tenor in which this debate is being carried out. The BJP's accusations against the National Conference for "raising religious slogans" inside the Assembly, branding it as a space for "legislative jihad," marks a slide in political discourse. Such language not only undermines the dignity of democratic institutions but also communalizes a constitutional demand. The real issue at stake is self-governance. Whether it is the delivery of public services, law and order, or policy planning, local governments need autonomy and constitutional authority to function effectively. The current dual-control system—where key decisions are either delayed or diluted by central oversight—has led to administrative confusion and growing alienation on the ground. It is equally important to hold the ruling National Conference accountable for governance. The opposition has rightly pointed out that simply invoking statehood cannot be a substitute for fulfilling promises made in the party's manifesto. From rising transport fares to public discontent over bills like the Waqf Amendment, the government must answer for its performance. Statehood, while crucial, cannot be used as a political shield to deflect criticism. What Jammu and Kashmir needs is not a battle of egos but a roadmap. A clear, time-bound, and consultative process for restoring statehood—one that includes all political parties, civil society stakeholders, and community voices—must be initiated. This should be accompanied by guarantees that administrative reforms, security concerns, and development initiatives will continue seamlessly. Restoring statehood is not a matter of political favour—it is a democratic necessity.

Time to look beyond 'dukandaari'

SIDHARTH MISHRA

It's not very often that an important Union Minister makes a statement of honest introspection as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal did recently at the conclave of the start-ups. Unfortunately, given the nature of social media debates, a serious economic issue has come to be embroiled in fisticuffs between pro-government and anti-government troll creatures.

First, it's important to know what the Minister said in his very candid interaction with the business community. Goyal showed a slide comparing start-ups in India and China, and said that Indian start-ups are busy making food delivery apps, fancy ice cream and cookies, instant grocery delivery, betting and fantasy sports apps and reels and influencer economy, whereas businesses in China are working on "EV and battery tech, semiconductors and AI, robotics and automation, global logistics & trade and deep tech & infrastructure."

Those who thought that the Minister was deriding his own government's policy should not be under any illusion that Piyush Goyal would have spoken these words without the approval of his boss.

He set aside the talking points given by the Ministry and brought out his text, probably with the approval of the Prime Minister's Office. Goyal must have been chosen for the task because he belongs to the busi-

ness community and his chartered accountancy firm audits accounts of some of the biggest business houses. Through his message, he delivered the Prime Minister's angst at India's business not meeting the government's expectations.

He was ruthless in saying, "What are India's start-ups of today? We are focused on food delivery apps, turning unemployed youths into cheap labour so the rich can get their meals without moving out of their house." After Goyal's address, the industry has been rallying to assure the government. Instead of drowning it in the cacophony caused by social media, it's important to understand what the Minister said.

India's start-up ecosystem is the third largest in the world after the United States and China — however, the first two, to use words from the Minister's lexicon, are not in the business of creating mere 'dukandaars' (shopkeepers).

After all, the success stories

of Indian start-ups like Flipkart, Zomato, Swiggy, Myntra, Blinkit and Zepto are all in end shops — 'dukes' with a delivery army largely of men and a few women.

It's important to understand what the expected contributions from start-ups is. While there could be a long list, there are a few points to focus on. First and foremost, job creation — provide employment opportunities, especially for skilled youth. Contribute to reducing unemployment rates.

Next is innovation and R&D — drive research, innovation, and technological advancement. Influence larger industries to innovate. Third, boost to entrepreneurship, inspire entrepreneurial culture and spirit, encourage risk-taking and creativity.

And of course, GDP growth — that is, contribute to national income through new business activities and help boost exports and attract foreign investment. The Minister's angst is that our start-up ecosystem may not

have contributed on any of the four counts despite its founders making it big. The Minister's jibe of 'dukans' could also be understood from the fact that the Indian start-ups which have made it big are more geared towards domestic ingestion-focused segments. On the other hand, the Chinese are competing in the global market.

The technological competence of the Chinese companies has been displayed best in the launch of DeepSeek, its AI model created at a fraction of the budget estimated worldwide. The malaise lies in the lack of investment in research and development (R&D). While India compares unfavourably with the other economic powers it wants to compete with, the malady is deeper.

The private sector here has left the responsibility of research to the government. India spends just 0.64 per cent of GDP on research and development, considerably lower than that spent by China (2.41 per cent) and the US (3.47 per cent). Worse is the fact that the private sector in India contributes just 36.4 per cent of the spending on R&D.

On the other hand, in China 77 per cent of the total R&D expenses comes from the private sector; the US is just a notch below with 75 per cent.

At whose door do we blame? Shaadi.com founder Anupam Mittal said, "From AI & space tech to material science, Indian entrepreneurs are ready to take on the world. But capital

& the eco-system for growth & commercialisation are severely lacking. Founders can do most things but not everything."

This brings focus to the established corporations and how much has been spent on the R&D. Each of the answers would come with a question, but the fact is, as Goyal has said, our start-up ecosystem, despite a fancy name and garb in nature, has remained a traditional 'dukan' — a trading shop.

The Minister has started a debate; let's see what conclusion it brings. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's blunt critique of India's start-up ecosystem sparked necessary introspection. His comparison with China highlighted a stark contrast: while Indian start-ups thrive on convenience-based models, Chinese firms push deep-tech frontiers. Goyal's remarks reflect broader concerns about the lack of innovation, limited R&D investment, and insufficient private sector contribution.

Though India boasts the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem, its impact on job creation, technological advancement, and global competitiveness remains questionable. The Minister's comments should be seen as a call to action — not condemnation. The debate he triggered must now lead to meaningful policy shifts and corporate accountability in innovation.

(The author is President of the Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice. Views are personal)

Yunus's gambit with China

BHOPINDER SINGH

Yunus faces mounting accusations of aligning with extremist forces, alienating traditional allies like India, and stoking regional tensions for political survival. Has the icon of empowerment become the architect of instability?

On 10th December 2006, accepting the Nobel Prize, Bangladeshi economist and businessman, Muhammad Yunus, said, "A human being is born into this world fully equipped not only to take care of him or herself, but also to contribute to enlarging the wellbeing of the world as a whole.

Some get the chance to explore their potential to some degree, but many others never get any opportunity, during their lifetime, to unwrap the wonderful gift they were born with." Less than twenty years later, Muhammad Yunus was to get that providential opportunity to walk the talk on a far larger canvas for his country and its citizens as the 'Chief Adviser of Bangladesh', following the bloody ouster of Sheikh Hasina. Immediately,

he faced many choices that would test the honesty of his words given at the same Nobel Prize acceptance speech like, "Terrorism must be condemned in the strongest language. We must stand solidly against it and find all the means to end it."

Sadly, as things soon unfolded, he sided with those who spoke in the language of religious extremism, supremacism and non-secularity — consequently, the Bangladeshi minorities were brazenly targeted, and the once relatively secular nation looked increasingly like its once-conjoined entity on the western side — i.e., Pakistan. Yunus had knowingly sided with the forces that had vandalised, demonised and weaponised the politics of bigotry. Tellingly, Yunus chose to 'normalise' relations with Pakistan (putting the genocidal history at the hands of Pakistanis on the back burner) with ease of visa restrictions, resumption of direct flights/maritime links etc., whilst retaining an accusatory tone with Delhi, knowing the dynamics of the hyphenated Indo-Pak equation in the region.

The dismantling of the spirit that premised '1971' was seemingly not restricted to just diminishing the legacy of Mujibur Rehman and his clan — but going as far as sleeping with the persecutor (Pakistan) on the rebound. A stark gap between his initial call for 'new youth leadership' (supposedly beyond vendetta politics) as opposed to overstaying himself, has exposed his ambitious and wily politics.

The youth leadership that got Yunus to power is slowly but surely getting disillusioned with unheeded calls for early elections. The 84-year-old Yunus, who had earlier toyed with the idea of starting a political party himself, seems to be disconcertingly comfortable with the idea of retaining power. His go-slow approach to honouring his word and retractions have made the student leaders and the shadowy Bangladeshi military — that had played a role in Yunus's political ascendancy in the first place — become increasingly twitchy.

Even socio-economically, if unemployment was the primary driver of societal dissonance, the situ-

ation on that front is getting neglected (more like deliberately distracted) and worsening by the day. Student leaders cannot afford to give Yunus the long rope — and they are already toying with the idea of starting their political party to further their agenda, beyond reposing faith in Yunus indefinitely.

This dark and brewing backdrop requires Yunus to sully the narrative with some 'manufactured distractions/emotions' that could offer a reprieve. What better option than to provoke India — to force reactions from Delhi to legitimise his manipulative politics and relevance? Besides stoking the Sheikh Hasina bogey, ping-pong India also panders to subliminal religious sentiments and additionally perpetuates India's 'big brother' storyline. Herein, knowing the regional undercurrents and sensitivities, Yunus has cunningly drawn China into the admixture. Yunus's Machiavellian allusion to the 22 km strip of land in North Bengal called the Siliguri Corridor or Chicken's Neck (without naming the same) whilst on Chinese soil, was designed to

rile India.

His loaded assertion to the Chinese that North-east India is "landlocked" and therefore "no way to reach out to the seas", along with the suggestions of "extension of Chinese economy" with seeming guarantees of Bangladesh as the "only guardian of the ocean for all this region", was hardly naïve. It perfectly complemented the expansionist instincts of the Chinese — and Delhi was outraged by the deliberate baiting done by Yunus.

While Delhi did well to not fall for the trap and feed Yunus with reciprocal indignities that he could have twisted towards his own political and domestic distractions, at least the future course of Yunus's politics stands fully exposed.

While all this diplomatic posturing and grandstanding does not take away from the building pressures by the student leaders, Bangladeshi military, or the distraught citizenry with the sliding economy — such distractions are from the play-book of undemocratic leaders who readily sacrifice the nation's long-

term, for the sake of their own political short-term.

Beyond Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, other national parties like the Bangladeshi National Party (BNP) or even the extremist Jamaat are getting nervous with the inordinate delay in the call for elections. Just how long will Muhammad Yunus be able to distract and manipulate emotions towards sustaining power will be tested in days to come — though Bangladeshi history is rife with coup d'etats and crippling protests that could oust Muhammad Yunus too.

In its 54 years of independence (since 1971), Bangladesh has faced 29 military coups — and the recent 'emergency meetings' called by the Bangladeshi Army Chief, General Wakar uz Zaman, do not make for reassuring optics as far as Yunus is concerned. Is the China gambit Yunus's desperate attempt, in an otherwise failing reality?

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. Views are personal)

Watch out for an overinflated human ego

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The first person we need to assess for ego isn't someone else — it's ourselves. But before identifying signs of an overinflated ego, let's understand what ego truly means. In the Bhagavad Gita, verse 7.4, Krishna describes eight components of His nature: "Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence, and ego."

The Sanskrit word used for ego is ahankara, meaning "I am the doer." This sense of being the doer is natural when performing our duties. However, it becomes problematic when one starts to believe that they alone are responsible for success.

In reality, the Gita (18.14) states that there are five factors behind every action: the place of action, the doer, the instruments used, the various efforts, and divine providence. So how does ahankara relate to the commonly used term "ego"? In modern language, ego often refers to self-esteem or self-importance.

Though not identical in meaning, we'll use the term "ego" here for convenience. What are the signs of an overinflated ego? The most obvious is a lack of humility. A person with a large ego constantly seeks attention, craves importance, and often justifies their actions — even when wrong. They rarely accept feedback or correc-

tion, thinking they are better than others. This mindset halts growth. While each of us is unique, we are not superior to others. Personally, I don't want to be such a person. I've realised the dangers of an overinflated ego, it isolates us, limits our ability to form genuine connections, and blinds us to wise counsel. Egoists often ignore sound advice and act without considering different perspectives.

This makes them prone to mistakes. In contrast, a humble person recognises their limitations, values input from others, and remains grounded. Humility enhances decision-making and fosters collaboration. So

how can we overcome this common weakness? Most of us, even if not outright egoistic, carry the subtle belief that we are solely responsible for our successes. It's not easy to limit ourselves to just our part and genuinely acknowledge the contributions of others — including God.

A devotee sees all five elements of success, including divine grace. Circumstances often align through no effort of our own. For instance, if rain holds off during an outdoor wedding or a skilled priest becomes available during the busy season — are these not signs of God's favour?

Even our physical ability

to perform duties, such as a father recovering in time for his daughter's wedding, is a blessing. Recognising these as God's arrangements helps curb ego. To keep ego in check, the first and most essential quality is humility. Second, we must avoid comparing ourselves to others. What's the point?

With over eight billion people on the planet, someone will always be more talented or successful. Instead, train yourself to sincerely appreciate others. Lord Krishna Himself praised Arjuna repeatedly to encourage him to follow the path of righteousness. Learning to see the good in others softens the ego.

It also helps to seek guidance — either from a genuine spiritual teacher or a wise friend. Personally, I've had a long-standing struggle with my own ego. Becoming aware of its harm was the first step, but changing was much harder. Our identity is often intertwined with our ego, and letting go can feel like losing ourselves.

Still, I persevered. I prayed sincerely for help and received support through divine intuition and a spiritual friend, who reminded me, "Humility brings God closer. When we feel superior, God distances Himself."

That truth struck me deeply. I need God's presence in every part of my life.

Prayer has been a powerful tool in reducing my ego. One cannot be both truly devoted and arrogantly self-centred.

Before closing, let's consider: how should we deal with egoistic individuals? After all, we encounter them often. The Gita advises in verse 3.26 that the wise should not disturb the minds of the ignorant, but rather inspire by example.

Don't try to correct them forcefully. Instead, remain calm, lead with conduct, and focus on your own growth. We are not responsible for fixing others — we're responsible for ourselves.

(The author is a spiritual teacher and wellness guide. Views are personal)

Criticized the previous BJP-led regime for grossly neglecting youth

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

The Omar Abdullah-led government has demonstrated unwavering commitment to youth empowerment and welfare through swift implementation of its electoral promises.

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

Addressing the gathering, the senior NC leader criticized the previous BJP-led regime for grossly neglecting youth welfare, which, he asserted, led to a sharp rise in unemployment and crime rates across the region. He said the lack of a coherent vision and youth-oriented policies during the BJP's tenure pushed the youth into a state of despair and disillusionment.

Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted that the National Conference leadership has always prioritized youth welfare, skill development, and employment generation. He emphasized that under Omar Abdullah's visionary leadership, the



government has initiated several schemes aimed at creating opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship among the youth. He highlighted that the Omar led government has initiated the process to fill 1 lakh government jobs on a fast-track basis, aiming to address the pressing issue of joblessness among the youth.

In view of the rising criminal activities, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that the law and order authorities should adopt proactive approach in tackling such crimes and ensuring public safety. He highlighted that about 2,900 individuals involved in drug peddling/drug abuse have been arrested, a clear testament and alarming situation for the authorities to combat substance abuse with strong hands and safeguarding the community from harmful activities." He demanded that rehabilitation centers should be opened in each districts for reforming the druggists.

"In just five months,

the Omar Abdullah-led government has taken decisive steps to restore democratic ethos and address the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he stated. He enumerated several pro-people initiatives, including 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.

Addressing the gathering Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President said that Omar Led- Govt is committed to focus for resolving the problems of SC, ST and depressed sections of society.

Sajjad Shaheen MLA Banihal addressed the gathering and said that previous Govt led by BJP regime

ignored the far flung areas of District Ramban especially Banihal Constituency and the people were facing great difficulties due to non availability of basic civic amenities. The Omar Led Govt focusing for the development of these undeveloped areas.

The Provincial Secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmad asked party cadre to actively engage with the youth, understand their concerns, and work collectively towards building a prosperous future. He emphasized that the National Conference under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah 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.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman in his address the active role of YNC in connecting with young people on the ground and convey-

ing their aspirations to the party leadership. He asked the youth cadre to maintain their dedication and enthusiasm, strengthening the party's presence at the grassroots level and fostering a more vibrant, engaged youth wing that plays an integral role in shaping the future of the region.

Earlier, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman nominated Mr Nitish Goswami and Dr. Vishal Parihar as Provincial Vice Presidents of YNC Jammu Province. Mr Sunil Sharma as Provincial Secretary YNC Jammu Province, after approval from the Provincial President Mr Rattan Lal Gupta with the aim of strengthening the party's organizational structure and enhancing youth participation at the gross root level.

Among those who were present included: Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Laxmi Datta Senior leader Zamir Quershi, Muzamil Malik, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Meed Choudhary, Jasen Malik, Majid Iqbal Naik, Anoop Gupta District President Kathua Urban, Adv Saqib, Bilal Malik, Attal Singh, Gourav Bhagat, Amit Sharma, Sachin Bhatti, Rohit Goswami, Yashpal Singh Chouhan, Lucky, Rahu, Akhil, Shan and others.

Police arrests 02 drug peddler; Contraband/psychotropic substances, cash recovered

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 13

Continuing its drive against the drug peddlers, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Awantipora & Sopore and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances & cash from their possession.

A police party of Police Post Reshipora headed by Incharge Police Post Reshipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora at a checkpoint established at Reshipora arrested a drug peddler identified as Towseef Ahmad Mir son of Mohammad Yousuf Mir

resident of Brawbandina. During search, 1.240 kg of Charas like substance (in shape of Sticks) was recovered from his possession.

Meanwhile, a Police party of Police Station Panzalla under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabad, at a checkpoint established at Tri-Junction Vuhlutra-Shutloo Panzalla, arrested a drug peddler identified as Basharat Ahmad Beigh son of Mohammad Afzal Beigh resident of Badam Bagh Sopore. During search, Police party recovered 312 tablets of Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus and cash amount of Rs 10,000 from

his possession. Accordingly, cases under relevant section of NDPS Act stands registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiate.

Police urge the common masses to share information regarding narcotics or any other crimes to the nearest police establishment or dial 112. General Public is requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per the law.

Police conducts Drug De-addiction awareness programme in Baramulla

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APR 13

Police in Baramulla, organized a Drug De-addiction Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School Mirgund. The initiative aimed to educate students about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and encourage responsible citizenship.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of SDPO Pattan Shri Shahjahan Choudary-JKPS and Incharge Police Post Mirgund SI Yasfeer Hussain. They addressed the gathering, emphasizing the severe consequences of drug addiction and the significance of maintaining a drug-free lifestyle. The officers urged students to remain vigilant and actively participate in spreading awareness about the dangers of drug abuse within their communities.



Police remains steadfast in its commitment to eradicating drug addiction and safeguarding the future of the youth through continuous awareness campaigns and stringent enforcement actions.

Three-Day Painting Exhibition on "Tribal Culture" Concludes at Kala Kendra, Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

A three-day painting exhibition highlighting tribal culture titled "Whispers of Hills" by renowned artist Muneer Ali Khan concluded today at Kala Kendra, Jammu with a special closing ceremony graced by Shri Alok Kumar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police and Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Jammu and Kashmir, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Organized by Kala Kendra Jammu, the exhibition showcased around 35 exquisite artworks by Muneer Ali Khan, offering a vibrant glimpse into the diverse and unique culture of the tribal Gujjar-Bakarwal communities of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra, emphasized that the exhibition aimed to promote Tribal Culture and provide a platform for eminent artist Muneer Ali Khan to connect with a wider audi-



ence through his art. He noted that the exhibition was inaugurated earlier by Minister Shri Satish Kumar Sharma, and witnessed visits by several prominent personalities and art lovers at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery of Kala Kendra. Speaking on the occasion, Alok Kumar, IPS, while praising the rich artistic heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and commended Muneer Ali Khan for his clarity of themes and expertise in portraiture. He lauded the artist's efforts in portraying the tribal ethos and emotions through his vivid brush-

work. He also appreciated the role of Kala Kendra in organizing such a purposeful and culturally enriching exhibition.

Muneer Ali Khan, in his address, provided insights into his artistic journey, stating that his inspiration is deeply rooted in the lives and traditions of the Gujjar-Bakarwal tribal communities. He shared that this exhibition is a tribute to his tribal identity, depicting the migratory lifestyle and cultural narratives of the community. He also spoke about his recently completed project on portraying the

martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir, undertaken for the J&K Police.

Recipient of the erstwhile State Award in 2018, Muneer Ali Khan has had the honour of presenting his portraits to President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Former J&K Governor Shri N.N. Vohra, and Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. The exhibition received an overwhelming response from art enthusiasts, tribal representatives, students, and the general public, making it a memorable celebration of tribal heritage and contemporary art.

Indian Army distributes sleeping bags to Gujjar and Bakarwal Communities in Songri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 13 APR 2025

As part of its ongoing commitment to social welfare and community outreach, the Indian Army distributed sleeping bags to members of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in the Songri area of Mathiyanihala. This initiative aims to provide much-needed warmth and improve living conditions for these nomadic groups, especially in the face of harsh weather during the winter months. The distribution is a reflection of the Indian Army's continued dedication to the welfare of all segments of society, particularly those residing in remote and underserved regions. The outreach also serves a broader purpose—strengthening bonds with the local population and fostering a spirit of trust, inclusivity, and empowerment.

Hanuman Jayanti celebrated with religious fervor at Hanuman Mandir, Maali (Plakh)

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APR 13

The auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervor at the Hanuman Mandir (Basuki Nag Dham) in Maali (Plakh). Devotees thronged the temple premises in large numbers, offering Laddu, sweets, fruits, and other offerings to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman for the fulfillment of their wishes.

A special Sundarkand Path was organized by Pt. Krishan Shastri, during which scores of devotees gathered to sing Hanuman Stuti in unison. The collective prayers and devotion filled the temple premises with an atmosphere of spiritual serenity and divine energy.

Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman, also took part in the Puja ceremony, offering his prayers for the well-being of the community. While addressing the gathering of devotees, Col. Singh spoke with great reverence about the immense significance of Lord Hanuman, describing him as Rudraavtar, an incarnation of Lord Shiva who embodies unparalleled strength and devotion. He emphasized that Lord



Hanuman's divine power is not only capable of riding us of our enemies but also protecting us from all forms of evil and misfortune. His divine abilities extend to healing ailments and providing relief from suffering, making him a symbol of hope and resilience for all.

Col. Singh further highlighted that Hanuman's unwavering devotion to Lord Rama, combined with his extraordinary strength, make him the ultimate conqueror of all adversities. His dedication and selfless service are a reminder that, through faith and perseverance, we

can overcome the greatest of challenges and emerge victorious in the face of hardships.

As a token of the divine blessings, Aarti Parshad was distributed to all those present at the temple. The picturesque location of the Hanuman Mandir added to the sacred atmosphere, enhancing the experience of chanting mantras and prayers amidst the tranquil surroundings. The celebration was a testament to the deep-rooted faith and devotion of the community, reinforcing the importance of Lord Hanuman's blessings in overcoming life's challenges.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol in Remote Border Areas

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 13 APR 2025

In its continued efforts to support local communities, the Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in the remote border areas of Devta and Khet. This initiative highlights the Indian Army's steadfast commitment to the welfare and well-being of citizens living in difficult and underserved regions, alongside its primary role of ensuring national security. The medical team provided essential health check-ups



and distributed medicines to villagers with limited access to healthcare. In addition, the team edu-

cated residents on health, hygiene, and safety measures to combat the challenges posed by harsh

weather conditions. The local population welcomed the Indian Army's efforts with warmth and apprecia-

tion. They also expressed the need for more frequent visits by such teams to address their ongoing healthcare requirements. Initiatives like this strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local population, fostering trust and mutual cooperation. By reaching out to remote communities, the Indian Army continues to bridge the gap between the Indian Army and the Awam, showcasing its commitment to building a healthier and more connected society.

AP: 8 workers dead, 6 injured in explosion at firecracker making unit in Anakapalli district

AGENCIES
ANAKAPALLI (ANDHRA PRADESH), APR 13

Eight workers died and six others injured in an explosion which took place in a firecracker making unit at Kailasapatnam village in Kotauratla Mandal of Anakapalli district on Sunday.

Police said that when the workers were making fire crackers, the explosive substance exploded accidentally following which eight workers died and six others injured.

The deceased workers were identified as Appikonda Tatabai (50), Sangarati Govind (45), Dadi Ramalakshmi (38), Devara Nirmala (36), Puram Papa (40), Gumpina Venubabu (40), Shenapalli Babu Rao (56) and Chadalavada Manohar (37). The injured were admitted to the Government General Hospital



(GGH) in Narsipatnam where the condition of three of them was said to be very critical. The workers who escaped unhurt told the media that the firecracker making unit had got huge orders as the marriage season began.

The management stocked huge explosive raw material to be used to make firecrackers which exploded accidentally when the workers were making firecrackers. The firecracker making unit located three kilometers away from the Kotaurat-

la. The entire structure was blown off into pieces under the impact of the explosion.

Most of the deceased and the injured belonged to Samarlakota town in Kakinada district. According to workers, over 15 workers were working in the unit when the explosion took place.

Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan visited the injured in the GGH and inquired with the doctors about their condition. She directed the doctors to shift critically

injured workers to GGH in Visakhapatnam for better treatment.

AP Governor Justice S Abdul Nazeer has expressed anguish and grief on the death of workers in the explosion at a fire crackers unit in Kotauratla in Anakapalli district. The Governor directed the district administration to provide better medical care to the injured persons and offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the explosion in a firecracker making unit. He spoke to the district Superintendent of police and ascertained the details. He expressed concern at the critical condition of many injured.

Meanwhile, Home Minister V Anita rushed to the place and visited the accident site.

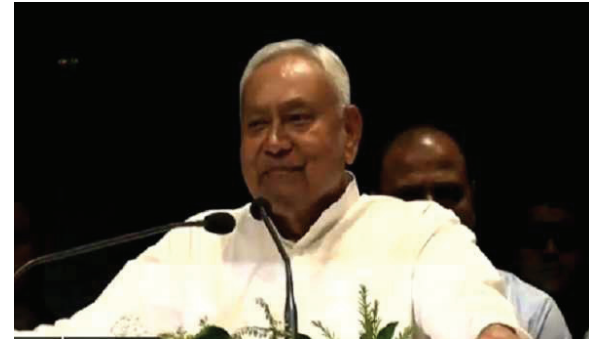
Our government committed to working for all sections of society: Nitish

AGENCIES
PATNA, APR 13

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday declared that his government was committed to working for all sections of society, and the scenario had changed in all spheres since he took over the reins of the state in 2005.

Kumar, while addressing "Bheem Samvad" organised here to pay tributes to the architect of the constitution, Baba Bheem Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, said that his contribution in preparing the constitution was immense, which could never be forgotten. Baba Saheb was the voice of all those who were deprived and oppressed, he added.

"In congruent with



vision and philosophy of Baba Saheb, our government has launched several schemes for upliftment of Dalits (oppressed) and Mahadalit (most oppressed) besides all other sections of the society", Chief Minister said adding that steps were taken to improve the conditions of Extremely Backwards, Backwards and also poor among upper

castes. Several schemes were also launched by his government to improve the condition of Muslims, he stressed amid much heat generated in political circles over his support for the Waqf Board Amendment Bill in parliament, which has now taken the shape of an Act.

Kumar said that the condition of women had also improved during the

tenure of his government, following sustained efforts made in this connection. He exhorted all stakeholders to work unitedly in changing the scenario in all sectors, particularly among those who lag behind the path of development.

"Bheem Samvad" was organised by the senior Minister of Nitish cabinet Ashok Choudhary, also an influential JD(U) leader from the oppressed section of society. Union Minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Bihar Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Education Minister Sunil Kumar, Excise and Prohibition Minister Ratnesh Sada and a host of JD(U) leaders were present on the occasion.

Last rites of martyr Subedar Kuldeep Chand performed with military honours in Hamirpur village

AGENCIES
HAMIRPUR (HIMACHAL P.), APR 13

The last rites of Subedar Kuldeep Chand of district Hamirpur, who died while fighting bravely with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, was performed with full military and state honours in his village Kohli in Galod tehsil of the district on Sunday. His son performed the last rites. Earlier, when the mortal remains of Kuldeep Chand reached village Kohli in an army vehicle with a military contingent on



Sunday morning, the wailing of his family members made everyone's eyes moist and the entire village echoed with the slogans of "Kuldeep Chand Amar Rahe". During the

last journey of the soldier, the youth of the area took out a rally of two-wheelers and four-wheelers and bid a last farewell to the brave son, with the slogans of "Kuldeep Chand Amar

Rahe" and "Hindustan Zindabad".

The contingent of Army and Himachal Pradesh Police also bade a last farewell to Subedar Kuldeep Chand by firing in the air and turning the weapons upside down.

On the occasion, on behalf of the Himachal Pradesh government and administration, Deputy Commissioner Amarjit Singh, SP Bhagat Singh Thakur and SDM Rakesh Sharma paid tribute to the soldier by offering a wreath on his mortal remains.

Mann dares Bajwa to prove his '50 bombs in Punjab' claim; LoP asks CM to wake up from slumber

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, APR 13

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday dared Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa to prove his "50 bombs in Punjab" claim, even as the senior Congress leader said he would not reveal his source and asked the CM to wake up from his "Kumbhakarni sleep" and handle the "deteriorating" security situation in Punjab.

Earlier, Mann, in a video message, questioned how could Bajwa claim that 50 bombs have been brought into the state and out of them 18 were used, and 32 remain to be exploded, when the state as well as Central Intelligence Agencies have no such information. Mann asked whether Bajwa's source of informa-



tion was from Pakistan? He said that Bajwa and his party Congress should come clean, adding that if the claim was intended to spread fear, then action would be taken against him.

Senior Punjab Police officials reached the Chandigarh residence of the LoP and questioned him about his claim.

After senior officials from Punjab Police counter intelligence wing ques-

tioned him, Bajwa told the media that he would not reveal his source.

Bajwa said that he was holding a constitutional post and in the past has been cabinet minister too, and he had sources in the state as well as the Central Agencies besides in the foreign ministry.

Bajwa said that his source asked him to be careful as the atmosphere in Punjab was "becoming sensitive" because his

(Bajwa's) own family was attacked during the terrorism period.

He claimed that he had cooperated with the police, maintaining that he would not reveal his source.

He said that by alerting about the bombs, he was only trying to assist the government, which was his duty as a Leader of Opposition.

Bajwa told Chief Minister Mann to wake up from "Kumbhakarni sleep" and handle the situation in Punjab which was "becoming out of control".

Notably, incidents of mild-intensity explosions have occurred in the recent past across Punjab, the last being outside former minister and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Manoranjan Kalia's house.

There is no guarantee the Sukhu government will complete its term: BJP leader Vipin Parmar

AGENCIES
DHARAMSHALA, APR 13

Senior Himachal Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, former Vidhan Sabha Speaker and party MLA from Sulha assembly constituency, Vipin Singh Parmar has once again attacked the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government and said there is no guarantee that it will complete its term.

Parmar told UNI that the whole country is seeing what has happened to Devbhoomi Himachal and the Congress-led Sukhu government has left no stone unturned to tarnish the image of Himachal Pradesh across the country.

He said that there is no politician in the Congress who has the morality to stand up to the BJP. The BJP leader claimed that every section of the society is frustrated and troubled by the Congress government in the state and that soon people would be out on the streets in protest.

He said the public has



come to know that the Congress has woven a web of false guarantees for attaining power, in which an attempt was made to trap them, "but now the false web of the Sukhu government has been torn, the public can throw the Sukhu government out of power anytime".

Vipin Parmar told UNI that the 10 guarantees given by the Congress during the assembly elections "have evaporated", due to which the Congress party has been exposed.

He said that in the tenure of two-and-a-half years, the Congress government has not worked

to implement any of the guarantees, and due to this the people of the state are now repenting.

Parmar said the Sukhu government has pushed the state back by 20 years, and alleged that it has proved to be "the most useless government in the history of the country".

He said that after the formation of the government, in the first cabinet meeting 300 units of electricity were not given free and instead 125 units of electricity was stopped; the promised Rs 1,500 was not given to women between 18 and 60 years of age, 1.5 lakh posts were abolished without provid-

ing employment to the youth, the cow dung and milk and startup fund was not provided for the youth.

Parmar said that the Congress party lies about fulfilling the guarantees in Himachal, due to which people have rejected the party across the country.

He said the condition of the Sukhu government has become such that they do not even know what decisions they are taking.

Parmar said that the tax on petrol and diesel, cess on water and now the attachment of the property of the people who follow the rules are becoming a topic of discussion every day.

He said that these decisions of the Himachal government are a cause of embarrassment to the state. The former speaker said that now every person of the state has started saying that "the water has gone above the heads" (it has become too much to bear).

Kishan Reddy pays tribute to Ambedkar ahead of Jayanti, slams Congress for historical neglect

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, APR 13

On the eve of Dr B R Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary, Union Minister and Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy paid a heartfelt tribute by cleaning and garlanding Ambedkar statues at GVK Circle in Banjara Hills (Khairatabad constituency) and at Sitaphal Mandi (Secunderabad constituency) on Sunday.

Speaking to the media during the event, Kishan Reddy said that the BJP government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to preserving and honouring the legacy of Dr Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice.

He highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the BJP-led government to commemorate Ambedkar's contributions. "We are inspired by Ambedkar's thoughts and ideals. His portrait has been placed in the Central Hall of Parliament, and we have



developed five key sites related to his life as 'Panchatirthas' - spiritual and cultural heritage sites that people from all over India have visited to pay their respects," he said.

Kishan Reddy stated that these Panchatirthas include Ambedkar's birthplace at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, which has been transformed into a memorial of national importance.

As part of the BJP's nationwide program, party workers across the country are cleaning and decorating Ambedkar statues

and organizing grand celebrations to mark his birth anniversary. "These efforts reflect our commitment to celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti with pride and respect," Reddy added.

Lashing out at the Congress, Kishan Reddy accused the party of ignoring and undermining Dr Ambedkar during his lifetime. "Ambedkar was harassed by the Congress till his last breath. Nehru even campaigned to defeat him in elections. Despite his pivotal role in shaping India's Constitution,

he was not awarded the Bharat Ratna during Congress rule," he said.

He criticised the Congress for honoring others in Parliament ahead of Ambedkar, calling it a grave injustice. "The BJP is correcting those historical wrongs. We are moving forward with Ambedkar's vision as our guiding light," Reddy asserted.

He appealed to citizens from all sections of society to participate enthusiastically in the Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations and make it a grand success.

Only thing US administration would like to see extinct is endangered species list, says Secretary of Interior

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, APR 13

After a genetic engineering firm claimed they have resurrected the long-extinct dire wolves species, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum from the new Trump administration said that what they would like to see go extinct is the list of endangered species.

Earlier this week, biotechnology and genetic engineering company Colossal Biosciences said it successfully created three dire wolf puppies.

Burman shared his thoughts on resurrecting other extinct animals – and is reconsidering the endangered species list.

The former North Dakota governor applauded the efforts of the gene-

editing technology on his X account and wrote: "The Department of the Interior is excited about the potential of 'de-extinction' technology and how it may serve broader purposes beyond the recovery of lost species, including strengthening biodiversity protection efforts and helping endangered or at-risk species," according to People.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, there are over 1,300 species listed as endangered or threatened to become extinct in the US under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The new Secretary of the Interior wants to override the entire list and remove the species from the list with the power of

genetic engineering.

"The only thing we'd like to see go extinct is the need for an endangered species list to exist," Burgum wrote in his post. "We need to continue improving recovery efforts to make that a reality, and the marvel of 'de-extinction' technology can help forge a future where populations are never at risk," he added.

With the US administration fully backing the company's 'de-extinction' program, Colossal Biosciences has said that it also aims to remove the red wolf from the list of critically endangered species through cloning, using the same technology it used to bring back the 10,000 year extinct dire wolf species from the grave.

In his post, Burman added: "Since the dawn of our nation, it has been innovation - not regulation - that has spawned American greatness. The revival of the Dire Wolf heralds the advent of a thrilling new era of scientific wonder, showcasing how the concept of 'de-extinction' can serve as a bedrock for modern species conservation."

Concluding his post, Burman wrote that "breakthroughs of this nature" have the potential to inspire scientists to push the limits of what's possible. "The Department of the Interior looks forward to a vibrant future full of innovation that advances core missions such as wildlife conserva-

Nepal PM Oli mocks pro-monarchy supporters, says monkeys of Pashupatinath will make better ministers

AGENCIES
KATHIMANDU, APR 13

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in a strong attack against pro-monarchist forces in the country, said that it would be better to have monkeys of Pashupatinath temple take over the leadership, instead of appointing monarchists as prime ministers and presidents.

Speaking at a UML awareness rally in Jhapa, Oli strongly criticised the recent pro-monarchy protests in the country, referencing the Tinkune incident where protest-



ers engaged in vandalism, arson, and looting.

Questioning their intentions, he said: "They set fires, vandalised, pelted stones, broke houses, set industries on fire, looted

other people's shops, and claimed they were bringing revolution and making big changes. Yet, they ran away while stealing bottles of liquor."

"They fled after stealing apples and setting fire to pharmaceutical factories. Is this how they will build the country?" he added, My Republica reported.

Mocking the pro-monarchy supporters, Oli claimed that in wanting to make the King the country's leader, they wanted themselves appointed as ministers. "They want to bring back the king, and after doing so, they aim to become the

prime minister and ministers," he said.

"Instead of them, it would be better to make the monkeys of Pashupatinath ministers."

Recently, Nepal has seen a massive increase in pro-monarchy protests, owing to frustrations among the people, due to the corruption levels, misgovernance, political instability, as well as the desire by a section of the populace to have the country be declared a Hindu Rashtra due to recent demographic changes, caused by the advent of Islamic preachers and Christian missionaries.

Tensions simmer as Pakistan once again accuses Afghanistan of harboring terrorists

AGENCIES
KABUL/ISLAMABAD, APR 13

As tensions continue to simmer between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has once again accused Kabul of harboring terrorists.

"We have been reiterating that it remains an important bilateral relationship for Pakistan, we are neighbours bound by layers of history, culture, language. We have been trying to improve relations; but the major roadblock, of course, remains the security situation and the sanctuaries enjoyed by terrorists," Shafiqat Ali Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a statement to reporters, according to Tolo News.

Previously, Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan's former special envoy for Afghanistan, had described the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as the primary stumbling block in the bilateral relations during a session in Islamabad, emphasising



that this issue must be resolved. He warned that if not addressed, all agreements between the two countries could be cancelled.

Islamabad has accused Kabul of harboring and supporting TTP terrorists, who use Afghan soil to carry out terror strikes in Pakistan, ranging from suicide bombings, killing army personnel, and destroying infrastructure.

Afghanistan has completely refuted the charges, saying that TTP is a

Pakistani group which was created by Islamabad, and their inability to handle them is entirely their fault.

Gul Mohammaddin Mohammadi, a political analyst, talking about bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, said "These two countries are neighbours. They need to solve their problems through dialogue and avoid creating further hardship for the people living on both sides of the Durand Line."

Relations between the

two countries have become increasingly tense and hostile, as Kabul has repeatedly refused to recognise the Durand Line, and its forces dismantle fences and infrastructure put up by the Pakistan Army on the border.

This has resulted in frequent cross-border firings between the two countries. In addition, Afghanistan has repeatedly complained about Pakistan's poor treatment of Pashtuns, and has been critical of Islamabad's mass deportation of Afghan migrants living in the country.

Pakistan has been forcefully deporting a large chunk of the migrants back to Afghanistan, even those Afghans who have been living in Pakistan for decades, and have established businesses in the country.

Despite the Afghan Taliban's complaints, Pakistani authorities have continued their mass deportation campaign, resulting in greater animosity between the two sides.

21 killed in Russian ballistic missile attack on Ukraine's Sumy

AGENCIES
KIEV, APR 13

At least 21 people were killed on Sunday morning in a Russian ballistic missile attack on the north-eastern Ukrainian city of Sumy, Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office said in a statement.

The attack also left other 34 people injured, including five children, the statement added.

The Sumy Regional



Military Administration said that two ballistic missiles launched by Russian forces struck the city center, damaging residential and non-residential buildings.

Rescue operations were still underway as of midday local time (0900 GMT).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the international community to deliver a "firm" response to the attack.

At least 10 killed in Israeli strikes on central Gaza's Deir al-Balah: Civil defence

AGENCIES
GAZA, APR 13

At least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes on the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah on Sunday, according to Gaza's Civil Defence.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence, said seven people died in an Israeli strike on a civilian vehicle, six of them from the same family. Several others

were wounded and taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, he said.

Eyewitnesses reported that an Israeli aircraft fired at least one missile at the vehicle, igniting it and causing multiple casualties.

The Israeli military has not issued a statement regarding the incident.

In a separate attack, Basal said an Israeli airstrike on the Deir al-Balah municipality building

killed three more Palestinians. The Israeli military confirmed the strike.

IDF spokesperson Avichay Adraee said in a statement that Israeli forces, in coordination with the Shin Bet security agency, had targeted a " Hamas command and control centre" operating from the area. He said a large number of Hamas operatives involved in attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians were

present at the site during the operation. Meanwhile, Gaza's health authorities said on Sunday that 1,574 Palestinians have been killed and 4,115 wounded since Israel resumed its military operations in the enclave on March 18.

They added that the total death toll since the conflict began on Oct. 7, 2023, has risen to 50,944, with 116,156 others injured.

Mohd Yunus attends Buddhist event, urges citizens to celebrate Pohela Boishakh as per their customs

AGENCIES
DHAKA, APR 13

Amid allegations of a rise in Islamic radicalism under the Interim Government, Chief Advisor Mohd Yunus attended a function at the International Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka today, and urged the people of Bangladesh to celebrate the Pohela Boishakh festivities tomorrow as per their traditional customs.

Chief Advisor Yunus laid the foundation stone of the Sampriti Bhaban at the International Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka as Chief Guest, at the function organised by the Bangladesh Buddhist Federation.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Sangharaja Venerable Shrimat Dharmapriya Mahathera, with Religious Affairs Advisor Dr AFM Khalid Hossain and Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Advisor Supradip Chakma in attendance,



along with others, according to The Daily Star.

The CA later visited the main prayer hall and the monastery.

In a message, Yunus urged everyone to follow the Pohela Boishakh festivities in accordance with their traditional religious-cultural customs and beliefs, in a display of the country's diversity and spirit of unity.

"Tomorrow, Pohela Baishakh. It's one of

the symbols of our harmony. Everyone will celebrate tomorrow (Pohela Baishakh) in their own way, following their own customs. Everyone will participate in this universal festival," he said in a nationwide address, according to The Daily Star.

"I have always said that despite our different beliefs, religions, and customs, we are all members of one family.

"The Hindus, Muslims,

Buddhists, Christians, various communities and the peoples of the hills and plains of this country - all together, the people of this country have diverse languages, cultures and traditions," he said.

Yunus' attending the Buddhist event comes as a welcome move for the religious minorities, especially Hindus, of Bangladesh who have been facing targeted attacks by Islamic funda-

mentalists.

The Chakma people are predominantly located in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and have been adherents of Buddhism. Several instances of discrimination and violence against the Chakmas by Islamic radicals have been reported.

There have been allegations that Islamic extremism has been allowed to grow unchecked under the army-backed Interim Government led by CA Yunus, following ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024.

The upcoming Bangla New Year celebrations have not been without controversy, as Dhaka University renamed the annual 'Mongol Shobhajatra' ceremony, which marks the beginning of the Pohela Boishakh festivities, as 'Anondo Shobhajatra' under pressure from the radical Hefazate-Islam outfit, which called the term 'Mongol' part of a "Hindu ritual".

No interim govt can stay in power for five years, says senior BNP leader

AGENCIES
DHAKA, APR 13

Urging the Interim Government to honour its promise of holding national polls in December, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) senior leader Selima Rahman stated that no interim government has the right to stay in power for five years.

"We want fair elections. The home affairs adviser has said the country wants this government to stay for five years. But we know what the people really want," the BNP Standing Committee leader said at a special council session of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association in Dhaka.

"This is an interim government, and it is not meant to take on long-term responsibilities," she added, The Daily Star reported.

She went on to criticise the Home Affairs Advisor Jahangir Alam Choudhary



for suggesting that people want the army-backed Interim Government to remain in power for five years.

"The Home Affairs Advisor has claimed that the people of this country want the current government to remain in power for five years, but we know what the people truly want," the BNP leader said.

Stating that the BNP remains committed to restoring the people's right to vote, she said "That is why the BNP has never craved power. Despite oppression and persecution, not a single activist has fled. The people still have confidence in us."

She also stressed that

the BNP does not fear elections. "Even in opposition, we have never been afraid. Our goal is to restore people's fundamental rights, and the first step is to hold an election."

The BNP has been one of Chief Advisor Mohd Yunus' biggest political allies, openly giving him support during the July uprising in 2024 as well as after his cabinet came into power. However, the issue of elections has been a contentious one as the Yunus regime has continuously delayed them by not presenting a roadmap, leading the BNP to accuse Yunus of holding on to power.

Most recently, the country's Election Commission outlined a 10-step roadmap to holding polls in December 2025 or in the first half of 2026. However, the lack of any clear government directives, socio-political instability, and a falling economy along with a lack of consensus could delay the holding of elections even further.

5 of India's top 10 firms add Rs 84,559 crore in market value during holiday-shortened week

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, APRIL 13

In a holiday-shortened trading week, the combined market valuation of five of the top-10 valued companies in India increased by Rs 84,559.01 crore.



Hindustan Unilever emerged as the biggest winner, with its market valuation soaring by Rs 28,700.26 crore. However, the broader market faced a decline during the week amid global uncertainty. The Sensex dropped by 207.43 points, or 0.27 per cent, while the Nifty fell by 75.9 points, or 0.33 per cent. Indian stock markets were closed on Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti, which further shortened the trading week. Among the top gainers, Hindustan Unilever

saw the largest surge in its market valuation, which reached Rs 5,56,054.27 crore. ITC's market value grew by Rs 15,329.79 crore, reaching Rs 5,27,845.57 crore, while Bajaj Finance gained Rs 12,760.23 crore, with a market value of Rs 5,53,348.28 crore. Bharti Airtel's market valuation climbed by Rs 8,011.46 crore, bringing it to Rs 10,02,030.97 crore.

On the other hand, some top companies saw a drop in their market valuations. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) experienced a decline of Rs 24,295.46 crore, bringing its market value down to Rs 11,69,474.43 crore. Infosys also faced a dip, with its valuation eroding by Rs 17,319.11 crore, resulting in a market cap of Rs 5,85,859.34 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation dropped by Rs 12,271.36 crore, while ICICI Bank's market cap fell by Rs 8,913.09 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation also declined by Rs 7,958.31 crore. Meanwhile, the combined market value of eight out of the top ten most-valued Indian companies rose by Rs 88,085.89 crore on the week ended March 30, which was driven by a strong performance in the domestic stock market. During the same week, the Sensex climbed by 509.41 points, or 0.66 per cent, which helped boost the overall market capitalisation of major companies. During the full financial year 2024-25, both the Sensex and Nifty have posted gains. The Sensex rose by 5.11 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 5.34 per cent during the fiscal.

Piyush Goyal urges construction industry to adopt best practices

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday urged the construction industry to adopt best practices in sustainability, focus on clean and green construction, and work towards earthquake-resistant and modular infrastructure.

Addressing the CAPEX-IL's Vibrant Buildcon 2025 event here, he said, "We must aim for audacious goals, ensure our labour force receives fair wages, and innovate continuously. Let there be no doubt - India will lead the world in growth, innovation, and inclusive development." He said that Vibrant Buildcon exemplifies the country's ability to support rapid urbanisation, housing for all, and logistics transformation. "This platform showcases our manufacturing and infrastructure strength, which is crucial to attract global investments and reduce logistics cost," the Union Minister added. He highlighted India's growing strength in the construction ecosystem - from Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to domestic manufacturing under 'Make in India'.

He underlined the importance of key sectors



such as housing, infrastructure, commercial real estate, railways, airports, highways, and energy. "Every element, from cement and electrical equipment to security systems and automation, plays a part in this ecosystem," the minister remarked. He further stated that rapid infrastructure development has taken place under Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the conceptualisation of

world-class convention centres like Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi, both of which were built during the pandemic. "These state-of-the-art venues have hosted global events such as the G20 Summit, Bharat-Text, Bharat Mobility and Startup Mahakumbh," he pointed out. The Minister listed several major government initiatives, including 20 new smart industrial cities, improved tour-

ism infrastructure across 50 destinations, and 100 new industrial plug-and-play hubs.

"If we are to move from a \$4 trillion economy today to a \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047, every citizen must contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047," he said. He noted that today India is breaking silos, fostering collaboration, and reimagining the future with a convergence of minds. "Vibrant Buildcon is only the beginning of our construction ecosystem under one umbrella," Union Minister Goyal said.

Greeting the gathering on the occasion of Baisakhi, the Union Minister talked about the role of farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that despite global disruptions, India ensured uninterrupted food distribution, month after month. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, even during the peak of the pandemic, India continued its mission of feeding the poor and bringing millions out of deprivation," he added.

India looking to lead the global AI race, says IT Secretary S Krishnan

AGENCIES
New Delhi, April 13

India is not just participating in the global artificial intelligence (AI) movement - it wants to lead it, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), said. Speaking

to media on the sidelines of the Global Technology Summit in the national capital, he said this is a defining time for India to deploy AI at scale across government and businesses. "We are doing what we can to make sure that we stay up to date and don't fall behind. India should

stay at the front end of the effort we are making," Krishnan said.

Gold prices hit record high amid global uncertainty



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

Gold prices jumped over 6.5 per cent this week, reaching a record high of \$3,237 per troy ounce.

This marks the metal's strongest weekly performance since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, as global investors react to growing economic uncertainty following a new wave of US tariffs introduced by President Donald Trump.

The sharp rise in gold prices comes as traditional safe-haven assets like US stocks and Treasury bonds are experiencing a sell-off.

At the same time, the US dollar has weakened significantly, dropping to a three-year low against the euro. These developments have made gold more attractive to investors looking for stability. Tensions escalated further on Friday when China responded to the US tariffs by slapping a 125 per cent tariff on American imports.

This move has increased fears of a full-blown trade war, which prompted investors to seek protection in gold - a metal known to perform well in times of economic and geopolitical stress.

Market analysts say that concerns over recession

risks, rising bond yields, and financial instability are driving investors towards gold.

In addition to individual investors, demand from institutions and central banks is also rising. Gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw their largest inflows since 2020 in the first quarter of this year.

Central banks, especially in emerging markets, are also buying more gold as they try to reduce their reliance on the dollar.

In China, domestic demand has become so strong that buyers are paying a premium over international gold prices - a clear signal of growing anxiety in Asian markets over financial instability.

Reflecting the shift in market sentiment, global financial services company Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) has raised its 12-month gold price forecast to \$3,500 per ounce.

This is the second time this year that the bank has revised its forecast upwards - showing how quickly the investment landscape is changing.

As doubts over Trump's aggressive trade policies continue to grow, experts believe investors will likely keep pouring money into gold in the months ahead.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: EXTREME HEAT/HEATWAVE

Do's

For General Population;

Stay hydrated:

- * Drink sufficient water whenever possible, even if you are not thirsty. Thirst is not a good indicator of dehydration.
- * Carry drinking water when traveling.
- * Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, butter milk/lassi, fruit juices with some added salt.
- * Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like water melon, musk melon, orange, grapes, pineapple, cucumber, lettuce or other locally available fruits and vegetables.

Stay covered:

- * Wear thin loose, cotton garments preferably light coloured.
- * Cover your head. Use umbrella, hat, cap, towel and other traditional head gears during exposure to direct sunlight.
- * Wear shoes or chappals while going out in sun.

Stay alert:

- * Listen to Radio; watch TV, read Newspaper for local weather news. Get the latest update of weather on India Meteorological Department (IMD) website at mausam.imd.gov.in/

Stay indoors/in shade as much as possible:

- * In well ventilated and cool places.
- * Block direct sunlight and heat waves: Keep windows and curtains closed during the day, especially on the sunny side of your house. Open them up at night to let cooler air in.
- * If going outdoor, limit your outdoor activity to cooler times of the day i.e. morning and evening. Reschedule or plan outdoor activities during cooler parts of the day.

For vulnerable population;

Although anyone at any time can suffer from the heat stress & heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others and should be given additional attention. These include:

- * Infants and young children.
- * People working outdoors.
- * Pregnant women.
- * People who have a mental illness.
- * Physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure.
- * Travelers from colder climate to a hot climate should allow one week's time for their bodies to acclimatized to heat, avoid overexertion, and should drink plenty of water. Acclimatization is achieved by gradual increase (over 10-15days) in exposure/physical activity in hot environment.

Other precautions;

- * Elderly or sick people living alone should be supervised and their health monitored on a daily basis.
- * Keep your home cool, use curtains, shutters or sunshade and open windows at night.
- * Try to remain on lower floors during the day.
- * Use fan, spray bottles, damp cloths, ice towels to cool down body.
- * Immersing feet in 20°C water above ankle provides rapid cooling by reducing Dehydration and thermal discomfort.

Don'ts

- * Avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12:00 noon and 03:00 pm.
- * Avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon.
- * Do not go out barefoot.
- * Avoid cooking during peak summer hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately.
- * Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks or drinks with large amount of sugar as these actually, lead to loss of more body fluid or may cause stomach cramps.
- * Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food.
- * Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicle. Temperature inside a vehicle could get dangerous.

DIP/J-300/25 Date: 13-4-25

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 02of 2025-26 Dated 11-04-2025

TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLE

e-Tenders(Online)areinvitedfromReputedparties/ Agencies forsupplyingvehicle One Number Scorpio on MonthlyHire-basis for official use Superintending Engineer PWD Circle ReasiInterestedparties/agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to thisnotice, may submit their bids, online, as given in the instructions for online bidssubmission(Annexure-D).

ThereshouldbeattachmentforTechnicalBid(Annexure-A),andTenderAcceptanceLetter (Annexure-C).TheFinancialBid/Bidswillbetakenupononlyifthetechnicalspecificationsarefound satisfactory;otherwise the Tenderwill bestraightwayrejected.

Details of tender notice are available on the website:-<https://iktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

The details of the Vehicle to be hired are under:

Sr. No.	Category	No. of Vehicles required	Usage
1.	Hiring of vehicle (Scorpio) on monthly rental basis for Chief Account Officer PW(R&B) Department PirPanjal (without Driver& fuel) Mahindra Scorpio	01(One)	Tobused on daily basis 24 hours.

A. This office may surrender the vehicle, if not needed by Chief Account Officer PW(R&B) Department PirPanjalissuing 10 Days notice.

B. Rates are to be quoted inclusive of all taxes for the vehicle which may be diesel version for an amount Rs. 3,0000 PM.

Position of funds :- contingency

Item	Description
Name of the Hirer	Chief Account Officer PWD(R&B) Department PirPanjal
Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Tender Name	Hiring of Vehicle
Method of Selection	Open e-Tender
Availability of Tender Documents	To be downloaded from https://iktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
Date and time of Tender notice issuance	11.04.2025 at
Period of availability of Bidding Documents on website https://iktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app	11.04.2025 to 26 .04.2025 at 04:00 PM
Bid Submission start date	11 .04.2025
EMD :-7000/-	EMD Pledge to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Cost Of Tender Document:- 600/-	Rupees Six Hundred (non-refundable) only in the form of e-challan/treasury challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue)
Last date and time for Bid/Proposal submission (On or before)	26.04.2025 at 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Time, Date & Venue	12:00 PM on 28-04-2025 in the office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
Language of Bid Submission	ENGLISH
Currency	Indian Rupees (INR)
Period of Hiring	365 days.

No:-231-35
Dated:- 11.04.2025

Sd/-
(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Reasi

**DIP/J-292/25
Date: 12-4-25**

IPL 2025: RCB outclass Rajasthan Royals in style

AGENCIES
JAIPUR, APR 13

A masterclass in white-ball batting from Phil Salt, Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal saw Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) cruise to a commanding nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Match 28 of the Indian Premier League, played at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Chasing 174, RCB made a mockery of the target, finishing at 175/1 in just 17.3 overs, thanks to a whirlwind 65 off 33 balls from Salt, an elegant 62* off 45 from Kohli, and a blistering 40* from 28 balls by Padikkal.

The innings began with Salt setting the tone in breathtaking fashion. Facing Jofra Archer in the very first over, he got lucky with an inside edge that missed the stumps and ran to the boundary. But there was no luck involved a few balls later when he muscled a 144 kph bouncer from Archer over fine-leg for six. Salt was soon toying with every bowler - smashing Maheesh Theekshana for a flat six over long-on, heaving Sandeep Sharma over long-off, and even hammering a half-tracker from Wanindu Hasaranga over midwicket.

Salt reached his fifty in just 28 balls, his third of the season, as RR's bowling and fielding unraveled. He survived dropped chances from Jaiswal and Sandeep Sharma, and was nearly run out after a misfield at cover, but Salt



rode his luck. He finally fell for 65 after top-edging a pull straight to Jaiswal at deep midwicket in the ninth over, but by then the damage was done, RCB were 92 for 1.

Enter Padikkal, who delighted the Jaipur spectators with a boundary-laden knock. His intent was clear from the outset: he got going with a sweetly timed four off Hasaranga, then pierced short cover with a crisp drive. When Riyan Parag strayed down leg, Padikkal nudged it fine for another four.

Padikkal's most authoritative shot came in the 15th over - a brutal hook over fine leg for six off Tushar Deshpande. He followed that with a straight drive for four and almost fell next ball, but was dropped by Theekshana at third man.

Kohli, meanwhile, was at his silken best. He caressed Sandeep through cover for four, punished Theekshana's short ball with a whiplash pull, and danced down the track to loft Hasaranga for a majestic six over long-on - bringing up his third fifty of the season. He also stitched a fluent 50-run partnership with Padikkal as RR's attack wilted.

displayed through inventive shots like a reverse sweep and a scoop over fine leg - kept the innings moving forward.

Riyan Parag's 30 off 22 balls added spark through the middle overs, and his 56-run stand with Jaiswal looked promising until both batters fell in quick succession. Jaiswal was trapped leg-before by Hazlewood, while Parag mistimed a slower one to Kohli. That threatened to slow RR's momentum, but Dhruv Jurel stepped up under pressure in the death overs with clean hitting.

Jurel's unbeaten 35 off 23 balls included a towering six down the ground and some smart placement through the leg side. He, along with brief contributions from Hetmyer and Nitish Rana, ensured RR scored 44 runs in the final four overs. For RCB, Krunal and Bhuvneshwar were economical, while Hazlewood and Yash Dayal picked timely wickets. Suyash Sharma had an off day, leaking 39 runs, which RR capitalised on to finish with a total that seemed competitive on a flat deck.

RCB's clinical chase not only earned them a crucial win but also lifted their net run rate significantly, tightening the mid-table race.

Brief Scores:
RR 173/4 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 75, Dhruv Jurel 35*; Hazlewood 1/26, Krunal 1/29)

RCB 175/1 in 17.3 overs (Phil Salt 65, Virat Kohli 62*, Devdutt Padikkal 40*)
RCB won by 9 wickets.

The match ended in the 18th over when Padikkal steered a wide slower ball from Sandeep past backward point for four. RCB had completed a royal rout, winning by nine wickets with 15 balls to spare.

None of RR's bowlers escaped punishment, and their fielding was equally culpable, with as many as four chances going down, including two off Salt and one apiece off Kohli and Padikkal.

Earlier, a classy 75 from Yashasvi Jaiswal and a brisk unbeaten 35 by Dhruv Jurel powered Rajasthan Royals to a competitive 173/4.

After being put into bat, RR rode on Jaiswal's fluent strokeplay as the young left-hander held the innings together with a composed knock filled with elegant boundaries and well-placed shots.

Jaiswal provided early momentum despite the fall of Sanju Samson, who laboured to 15 off 19 balls before being stumped off Krunal Pandya. The dismissal ended a 49-run opening stand and exposed RR's vulnerability in the middle.

However, Jaiswal's ability to manipulate the field-

CSK look to rewrite 'chokers' narrative

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, APR 13

Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings are enduring a nightmarish campaign, having suffered five consecutive defeats to slip to ninth in the standings, as they prepare to face an upbeat Lucknow Super Giants in the 30th match of the Indian Premier League at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Monday.

Once synonymous with consistency and late-season surges, CSK find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Their latest defeat, an 8-wicket drubbing at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders, exposed their frailties in both departments.

Batting first, CSK managed just 103/9, a target KKR hunted down with ease in 10.1 overs. The absence of injured captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has further compounded their woes, with the top order struggling and the bowling unit lacking bite.

Meanwhile, Lucknow have defied expectations, racking up four wins in six matches to occupy third place on the points table.



They come into this game on the back of a composed six-wicket win against Gujarat Titans, chasing 181 with three balls to spare. Star batsman Nicholas Pooran led the charge with a 34-ball 61, ably supported by Aiden Markram, who struck 58 off 31.

Pooran has been in blistering form this season, topping the run charts with 349 runs at an astonishing strike rate of 215.43. Digvesh Rathi has been equally vital with the ball, proving hard to score off in the middle overs with his crafty variations. His economy rate of 7.70 across six matches stands out amid an otherwise expensive bowling attack.

For Chennai, Shivam Dube has been the lone bright spot in the middle order, scoring consistently

under pressure. But the likes of Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi and Vijay Shankar have failed to provide meaningful support. With the ball, Noor Ahmad has led the charts with 12 wickets, while Khaleel Ahmed has been effective with the new ball, but the spin duo of Jadeja and Ashwin have yet to make significant impact.

The Vajpayee Ekana surface has produced moderate scoring matches so far in the tournament, with an average first innings total of 166. However, chasing sides have won two of the three games played at the venue this season. The pitch tends to get slower as the match progresses, which may bring spinners into play. Fast bowlers are expected to rely on cutters and slower balls to keep

batsmen in check. Given CSK's dwindling confidence and the home support for LSG, the momentum seems to favour the hosts. A return for Mitchell Marsh could further bolster their top order. However, LSG's overdependence on Pooran and Marsh is a potential concern.

Probable XI:
Lucknow Super Giants: Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Mitchell Marsh/Himmat Singh, David Miller, Abdul Samad, Shardul Thakur, Akash Deep, Digvesh Rathi, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi. Impact Player: Ayush Badoni.

Chennai Super Kings: Rachin Ravindra, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, MS Dhoni (c & wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Noor Ahmad, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed. *Impact Player:* Matheesha Pathirana.

With both sides heading in opposite directions, CSK will need something extraordinary to arrest their slide. On current form, the Super Giants appear well poised to continue their winning run.

PL: Spurs beaten 4-2 by ruthless Wolves at Molineux

AGENCIES
LONDON, APRIL 13

Tottenham Hotspur endured a tough afternoon as Wolverhampton Wanderers ran out 4-2 winners at Molineux, extending their unbeaten run against Spurs to five matches and closing the gap to just two points in the Premier League table.

A nightmare start saw Wolves take the lead just 85 seconds in, with Rayan Ait-Nouri lashing home a half-volley after Spurs failed to clear a wide free-kick. VAR checked for offside but the goal stood. Ange Postecoglou's side looked rattled early on, and despite some signs of attacking intent - including a blocked volley from Mathys Tel and a long-range strike from Yves Bis-



souma - the hosts struck again before half-time. Guglielmo Vicario pushed a header away under pressure, but the ball struck Djed Spence and bounced into his own net to make it 2-0 at the break.

Spurs pulled one back shortly before the hour mark through Tel, who finished off a slick move started by Lucas Bergvall

and assisted by Brennan Johnson's low cross. However, Wolves responded almost immediately, capitalising on defensive indecision. Cristian Romero appeared to have the situation under control, but Ait-Nouri pounced, setting up Jorgen Strand Larsen for a simple tap-in to restore Wolves' two-goal cushion. The closing stages

brought more drama. Spurs clawed their way back into the contest in the 85th minute when Richarlison reacted quickest after Romero's header was tipped onto the bar by Jose Sa, reducing the deficit to 3-2.

Yet any hope of a late comeback was short-lived. Just a minute later, Bergvall was caught in possession in midfield, and Wolves made Spurs pay. Matheus Cunha danced past Ben Davies and slotted home a composed finish to seal the 4-2 win for Vitor Pereira's side. The result marked the first time Wolves had scored four goals against Spurs since 1957, and leaves the North London club languishing in 15th, with pressure mounting ahead of the season's final stretch.

ICC announces dedicated task force for Displaced Afghan Women Cricketers

AGENCIES
DUBAI, APRIL 13

The International Cricket Council (ICC), on Sunday, announced the formation of a dedicated task force to support displaced Afghan women cricketers.

In a landmark initiative, the ICC has joined hands with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), and Cricket Australia (CA) to assist these talented athletes in both their cricketing and personal development journeys.

As part of the initiative, the ICC will establish a dedicated fund to provide direct monetary assistance, ensuring these cricketers have the resources they need to continue pursuing the game they love.

This will be complemented by a robust high-performance programme offering advanced coach-



ing, world-class facilities, and tailored mentorship to help them reach their full potential.

Commenting on the initiative, ICC Chairman Mr. Jay Shah said, "At the International Cricket Council, we are deeply committed to fostering inclusivity and ensuring every cricketer has the opportunity to shine, regardless of their circumstances. In collaboration with our valued partners, we are proud to launch this task force and support fund, complemented by a comprehensive

high-performance programme, to ensure displaced Afghan women cricketers can continue their journey in the sport.

"This initiative reflects our steadfast dedication to cricket's global growth and its power to inspire unity, resilience, and hope."

The ICC believes this initiative will not only help preserve the sporting careers of Afghan women cricketers but also reinforce the sport's role as a unifying force that transcends borders and adversity.

Following the recommendations from the Chief Executives Committee, the Board also confirmed the following appointments:

ICC Women's Cricket Committee: Catherine Campbell (re-appointed), Avril Fahey and Pholetsii Moseki.

ICC Men's Cricket Committee: Sourav Ganguly was re-appointed as Chair and Hamid Hassan, Desmond Haynes, Temba Bavuma, VVS Laxman (re-appointment) and Jonathan Trott were appointed to the Committee.

Madhya Pradesh to face Punjab in Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 finals

AGENCIES
JHANSI, APRIL 13

Hockey Madhya Pradesh and Hockey Punjab won their Semi-Final matches in the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and are one step away from lifting the coveted title.

In the first Semi-Final match, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Manipur Hockey 5-3 to seal their spot in the grand finale. Captain Yousuf Affan (5', 34') and Ali Ahmad (7', 15') scored braces for Hockey Madhya Pradesh, while Mohammad Zaid Khan (49') also contributed with a goal. Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh (47'), Captain Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (50') and Laishram Dipu Singh (53') scored for Manipur Hockey.

In the other Semi-Final match, Hockey Punjab emerged victorious over Hockey Maharashtra 4-2 in shootout. Pratap Lakra (6') converted a penalty corner and opened the scoring for Hockey Madhya Pradesh



Jasjit Singh Kular (14', 40') registered a brace for Hockey Punjab along with goals from Harjeet Singh (22') and Jugraj Singh (45'). For Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Sharda Nand Tiwari (41', 43') added two goals to his tally and Pawan Rajbhar also recorded a goal to his name, but unfortunately for them, they couldn't find an equaliser in time.

Earlier in the quarter-finals Hockey Madhya Pradesh emerged victorious over Hockey Maharashtra 3-2 to seal their spot in the Semi-Finals. Arajeet Singh Hundal (15') scored the only goal of the first-half to give Hockey Punjab

early in the game. Three minutes later, Hockey Maharashtra promptly replied courtesy of a field goal from Aakib Rahim (9').

Defences were on top in the second Quarter-Final match as Manipur Hockey and Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu played out a goalless draw and battled it out in the shootout, which the former won 4-1.

In the third match, Hockey Punjab defeated Hockey Haryana 3-2 to seal their spot in the Semi-Finals. Arajeet Singh Hundal (15') scored the only goal of the first-half to give Hockey Punjab

the lead. Sanjay (32') scored the equaliser for Hockey Haryana, but Hockey Punjab scored two goals in quick succession thanks to Jugraj Singh (33') and Pardeep Singh (34') to reclaim the lead. Kuldeep (56') got one goal back in the dying minutes of the game however, Hockey Punjab prevailed over the four quarters.

In the last Quarter-Final match, Uttar Pradesh Hockey enjoyed a 3-1 win over Hockey Karnataka. Although Rahul C.J (24') scored the first goal to take the lead in the second quarter for Hockey Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh Hockey made a strong comeback. Manish Yadav (45') successfully converted a penalty corner to level the score in the third quarter. They then scored two goals in the fourth quarter courtesy of Pawan Rajbhar (52') and Sharda Nand Tiwari (59') to seal their spot in the Semi-Final.

Virat Kohli completes 100 half-centuries in T20s

AGENCIES
JAIPUR, APRIL 13

Star batter Virat Kohli, on Sunday, added another record to his illustrious career as he became the first Asian batter to complete 100 half-centuries in T20s.

Kohli achieved the feat in the IPL 2025 clash against Rajasthan Royals at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

He reached the milestone in style with a six off Wanindu Hasaranga to complete his third fifty of the season in 39 balls while chasing 174. He remained unbeaten at 62 as his side completed the chase in 17.3 overs with nine wickets in hand.

Former Australian opener David Warner became the first cricketer to notch up 100 half-centuries in T20 cricket.

Kohli registered his 58th IPL fifty, bringing his tally of 50-plus scores in the league to 66 - matching Warner's record for the most 50+ scores in IPL history.

Warner, who represented Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad during his IPL career, scored 62 fifties and 4 centuries in 184 matches. In comparison, Kohli has amassed 58 fifties and eight centuries in

258 IPL appearances.

Earlier this week, Kohli became the first Indian batter to cross the 13,000-run mark in T20 cricket during the match against the Mumbai Indians. With this milestone, the former India captain joined an elite list, becoming the fifth player overall to achieve the feat - following Chris Gayle, Alex Hales, Shoaib Malik and Kieron Pollard.

CS assesses reach, impact of social security schemes in J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Social Welfare Department to review the impact and reach of several beneficiary oriented schemes being run by the department across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department was attended by all the HoDs of the department and other concerned officers.

During comprehensive review of the schemes, the Chief Secretary took stock of the achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at bolstering child development, nutrition and welfare of marginal sections of the society. He had specific review of schemes tailored for empowerment of specially-abled, widows, old-aged persons and reserved categories of the society.

Dulloo also took appraisal of efficiency of the legal framework aimed at ensuring social justice, protection and welfare of vulnerable groups. These included Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, Transgender Persons Act, 2019 and other crucial acts like POCSO (2012), Child Marriage Prohibition Act (2006) and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act



(1989), etc.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to enhance the capacity of the staff to impart quality education to the children enrolled in Anganwadi Centers as envisaged under NEP-2020. He also enjoined upon them to extend different pre/post-matric scholarships to the students of marginalized communities to give them access to modern education thereby empowering the communities in the real sense.

The Chief Secretary asked the concerned department to monitor the growth indicators of both the young children and adolescent girls in all the AWCs. He directed them to make special intervention to provide them supplementary nutrition on the recommendations of medical practitioners.

Presenting an overview of functioning of the department, Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sanjeev Verma, laid out that during 2024-25, funds to the tune of Rs 2,496.25 crore were available under different schemes against which an expenditure of Rs 2,147.24 crore (86% utilization) was

made. For the year 2025-26, a budget allocation of Rs 4,361.14 crore (68% increase from 2024-25) was made in favour of the department, he added.

As far as the welfare schemes run by the department are concerned, he informed the meeting that Mission Vatsalya caters to child protection and welfare, Mission Shakti ensures empowerment and safety of women while PM-AJAY aims at holistic development of the SC communities.

Verma informed the meeting that scholarships for minorities, SCs and OBCs are being given by the department besides providing prosthetic aids (ALIMCO) as a support for persons with disabilities.

It was given out that financial support for girl children and marriage assistance for economically weaker sections is being given by the department under the Ladli Beti Scheme. Besides, the department ensures pensions and scholarships for the militancy affected families.

The meeting was informed that the department runs Pahari hostels for the tribal communi-

ties along with proactive enforcement of more than 14 social justice laws in the length and breadth of J&K. It was revealed that the department manages 28,183 Anganwadi Centers, of these, the department had upgraded 136 AWCs into "Saksham Anganwadis" with modern facilities during 2023-24. These Saksham Anganwadis have special features in the shape of Poshan Vatikas, Rainwater Harvesting units, LED Screens, RO Water Purifier, WIFI/Pen Drive and RO maintenance and provision for ECCE activities.

Regarding the beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition, it was added that a total of 914,031 persons are being covered in the UT. The Aadhar verification of 909,762 (99% of total beneficiaries) has been achieved thereby plugging any chances of pilferage or malpractice.

About the specialized interventions taken by the department, the meeting was apprised that 22,76,067 home visits were conducted (96% of 23,64,938 targeted) to reach out the beneficiaries. These efforts lead to identification of malnutri-

tion cases including 24,261 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, 69,177 Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 20,978 anaemic cases for making special interventions to improve their situation.

As far as the child welfare is concerned, it was divulged that 116 Homes and Child Care Institutions have been established under Mission Vatsalya, ensuring care for vulnerable children.

With respect to pension coverage, it was said that social security is being provided to 955,958 beneficiaries under different schemes. In addition, marriage assistance to the tune of Rs. 130 crore was utilized to support 26,000 marriages during the year 2024-25. While highlighting the future roadmap, the meeting was informed that 11 Shakti Sadans (women's shelter homes) would be fully operationalized. Besides, 5 additional Shakti Sadans are going to commence operations, providing safety, skill development and legal aid to women in distress.

The Department also envisages upgrading 500 more AWCs to Saksham AWCs by 2025-26, enhancing service quality for 50,000+ beneficiaries. Besides, two residential schools as Abhinanda Home (a rehabilitation and education center) are also going to be established in both the divisions for marginalised children, the meeting was informed.

Sakeena Itoo visits SKIMS, SMHS Hospital in Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 13

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura and SMHS Hospital Srinagar to enquire about the condition of students injured in the tragic Handwara road accident.

During her visit to SMHS Hospital, Sakeena Itoo interacted with the family members of injured student undergoing treatment at the facility.

Interacting with the Principal GMC, Medical Superintendent and other doctors on the occasion, the Minister asked them for constant monitoring of injured student's recovery process. She directed the hospital authorities to ensure that the best possible treatment is provided to her.

Later, Sakeena Itoo also visited SKIMS Soura and



enquired about the well-being of another injured student undergoing treatment at the facility.

Interacting with the attendants of injured girl student, the Minister assured them all possible support from the government.

While interacting with the Director SKIMS, Medical Superintendent and other doctors, Sakeena directed them to prioritize the medical care of the injured student and

offer all necessary support to her family. She further asked the Director SKIMS to personally monitor the treatment facilities of the injured student.

While speaking on the well-being of both these students, Sakeena said that the wellbeing of these young students is of utmost importance. "I have directed the hospital authorities to prioritize their recovery with dedicated attention and compassionate medical care", she said.

Grand cultural extravaganza at Badamwari garden marks Baisakhi Celebrations in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APRIL 13: A vibrant cultural event celebrating the spirit of Baisakhi was held today at the picturesque Badamwari garden, Srinagar, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Kashmir.

The program commenced with a warm welcome by Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Ideel Saleem, who greeted the enthusiastic audience and extended his heartfelt appreciation to the participating artists. The event drew an overwhelming crowd, with thousands from the general public gathering in the lush gardens to witness the rich cultural spectacle.

The mesmerizing performances by legendary artists Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Ustaad Mohammad Yaqoob Shaikh, Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, Waheed Jeelani, Ajaz Rah, and Assad Anjum created a magical ambiance, celebrating the cultural heritage of the region. Their soulful ren-



ditions left the audience spellbound, turning the springtime garden into a hub of festivity and joy.

Renowned anchor Rashi Nizami conducted the event with grace and elegance, adding charm to the memorable occasion.

The program beautifully reflected the cultural harmony and artistic excellence of Jammu and

Kashmir, making it a truly unforgettable celebration of Baisakhi.

JKAACL in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Kashmir will be organizing more such events in future, wherein, the general public and tourists alike will enjoy the rich cultural diversity amongst beautiful gardens and parks of Kashmir.

Dy CM flags off bus service from Jammu to Nowshera via Seri



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 13

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today flagged off a bus service from Jammu to Nowshera via Seri.

While speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister said that this daily bus service from Jammu to Nowshera will benefit thousands of people who faced many difficulties in up-down travel from the designated area earlier.

He said it was a long pending demand of the locals and expressed his satisfaction that government is proficient to fulfill their aspirations.

Deputy Chief Minister exhorted that the government is committed to

improve transportation in J&K, especially far flung and remote areas with the aim to enhance mass mobility, providing increased safety and sustainability, along with greater access and convenience for commuters. Surinder Choudhary said that women are already taking benefit of free travel facility in J&K which was one of their promises during election and it proves that present government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to fulfill all its promises providing benefit to the people.

He emphasized that J&K government will establish a sustainable public transportation system in J&K, benefiting all sections of the society.

Dy. CM visits Gurudwaras at Nariyan, Tanda on occasion of Baisakhi

JAMMU, APRIL 13: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today visited Gurudwaras at Nariyan and Tanda here on the occasion of Baisakhi.

While speaking on the occasion, Surinder Choudhary extended his greeting to the citizens and said that the festival brings new hope and happiness into everyone's life.

He said that Baisakhi, one of the biggest festivals, marks the foundation day of the Khalsa Panth (Sikh order) by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru and it is the first day of the month of Vaisakh which is seen as a celebration of



spring harvest, primarily in Northern India.

He added that the festival celebrates the spirit of togetherness, gratitude and renewal and motivates people to work with commitment and dedication for the J&Ks development.

Surinder Choudhary cautioned the anti social elements who always try

to disturb friendly environment of J&K, adding that they will never succeed in their intentions as people of J&K have strong bonding and harmony in society.

Deputy CM also prayed for peace, prosperity, and the overall well-being of the people of J&K.

Srinagar admin organizes awareness programme on drug addiction

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 12

Continuing its endeavour to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, an awareness programme on Drug De-Addiction was conducted here today at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Khonmoh on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

The event was organized by District Administration Srinagar aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to lead



a healthy, drug-free life. The event featured informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse.

The anti-drug awareness programme was a part of an ongoing initiative of the Government to educate school children,

staff members, and local residents about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it.

The programme was also aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to lead a healthy,

drug-free society. The event featured informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse.

The program witnessed active participation from school faculty, students, local community members, and officials from various Departments.

Block Development Officer Khonmoh was present on the occasion and emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness, and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

Inter-School Girls Chess competition concludes at Sopore

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 13

In continuation to the ongoing inter-school sports competitions being organized by the Youth Services and Sports Department, an inter-school chess competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls was organized today by Zone Sopore at Subhana Stadium Sopore.

Following the successful conduct of the Under-14 and Under-17 boys' events, this two-day boys and girls' chess competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 105 students representing various educational institutions across the education zone Sopore.

The event highlighted the growing interest and talent indoor sports among young boys and girls of the region. The competition concluded on a high note, with the winners and runners-up participants being felicitated with trophies in recognition of their performance and sportsmanship.