

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or stool

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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PM Modi's vision changed landscape of country's criminal justice system: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 14 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision changed the entire landscape of the country's criminal justice system.

Shah, who was the chief guest at the All India Forensic Science Summit 2025 organized by the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) here, as per the news agency said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, we are striving to make the justice system people-centric and scientific. Efforts are also being made to ensure that those seeking justice get justice



on time and also have the satisfaction of getting justice. Through this, our aim is to create a safe, capable and competent India."

To strengthen the criminal justice system, the Government of India has

brought three new criminal laws in the form of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), he added.

The conference on the theme of 'Role of Forensic Science in Effective Implementation of New Criminal Laws and Combating Terrorism' was attended by many dignitaries including Justice V Ramasubramani-

an, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Attorney General R Venkataramani, Rajya Sabha MP and Chairman, Bar Council of India Manan Kumar Mishra, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Vice Chancellor, NFSU Dr. J. M. Vyas.

Shah said, "Forensics is not a new idea in our country. Its detailed description is found in Charak Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Kautilya's Arthashastra. Acharya Kautilya has guided the world in detail on topics like toxicology, identification of poison, body language of suspects, and

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Waqf Amendment Act targeted one particular religion: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 14 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that the Waqf Amendment Act has targeted one particular religion and his party National Conference has moved the Supreme Court against it.

Talking to reporters here, Omar Abdullah, according to the news agency said, "My party has already filed a petition in front of the Supreme Court. Now leave it to the judges. We are amongst a number of organisations that have approached the Supreme Court to look at this. Let them take a look at it."

He said, "We believe that this piece of legislation has targeted one particular religion. We are supposed to be a secular state. All religions are supposed to be treated equal-



ly. We believe that we have a right to be treated equally. We want the Supreme Court to adjudicate this. Now we will wait..."

Earlier addressing ICC Aviation & Tourism Conference 2025 -hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here, the Chief Minister flagged the high air fares for Srinagar-bound domestic flights, especially if booked a day or two before travel. "I hope the new Vande

Bharat train connecting Jammu with Srinagar will bring some relief for the travellers."

He said that J&K has again become a pre-eminent tourist destination and called for choosing the path of "value-based tourism" instead of chasing volumes.

The Chief Minister said the tourism is something that Jammu and Kashmir is famous for.

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LG inaugurates Manufacturing Unit at Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday virtually inaugurated the Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymer India Private Limited at Kathua.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Superior Group of Industries and the members of Superior Polymer India Private Limited on their new venture and conveyed his best wishes.

He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important



milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy and employment generation, and a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

"UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing and

today's project dedicated to the industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, under the guidance of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, we are committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have ensured a workforce prepared

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Kashmir's pilgrims left in limbo as Saudi Arabia cuts Hajj quota by 80%

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 14 (KNO)

A sharp 80 per cent cut in India's private Hajj quota by Saudi Arabia has left many Kashmiris uncertain about their pilgrim plans with the decision affecting over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, including hundreds from the valley. The move has sparked widespread concern among hopefuls, their families and political

leaders alike.

A group of Kashmir applicants selected for Hajj 2025, speaking to the news agency, expressed their uncertainty about their status, saying that while they were initially overjoyed with the confirmation, they are now in limbo and unsure if they will make it onto the final list.

"We don't know if we'll make it or if we're even

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Country dedicated to social justice due to Ambedkar's inspiration: PM Modi



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 14

Paying tributes to Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that it is due to his inspiration that the country is today dedicated to realising the dream of social justice.

His principles and ideas will strengthen and speed up the building of an 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) and developed India, Modi said on X.

Later, Modi joined a number of other dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla and leaders of opposition in both Houses Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, among others, in Parliament to pay homage to Ambedkar.

Ambedkar is recognised for his lifelong struggle for the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and his key role in drafting the Constitution.

Born in a Dalit family in 1891, he was a brilliant student who went on to study in foreign countries. The discrimination he suffered in Indian society turned him into a committed social reformer. He was India's first law minister. He died in 1956.

TRAIN TO KASHMIR DGP chairs security review meeting ahead of PM' Katra visit

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14 (KNO)

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jammu and Kashmir visit to inaugurate train to Kashmir from Katra, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday chaired a high-level meeting here to review the security scenario in Jammu region.

According to the details available with the news agency the DGP took a detailed review and directed the officers to ensure fool proof security.

Meanwhile, the Special Protection Group (SPG), tasked with the Prime Minister's security, has taken over the control of the security at the venue in Katra, where the

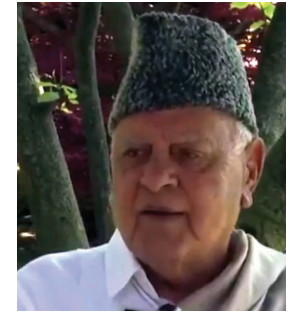
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Dr Farooq seeks PM Modi's intervention to prevent reductions in Hajj pilgrim quotas

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 14 (KNO)

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas.

Dr Abdullah, according to the news agency said, "Saudi Arabia's recent suspension of new short-term visas to citizens of 14 countries, including India



ahead of Hajj pilgrimage is a matter of concern."

Appealing to PM Modi to intervene, he said, "I urge the Prime Minister

to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas."

He said that I also appeal to the Prime Minister to speak with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and urge them not to reduce our quota (of Hajj pilgrims). There is also the question of jobs here. I will ask Omar (Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister) to write to the PM on this."

Meanwhile, the NC President criticized the

Waqf Amendment Act but backed the J&K Assembly Speaker's decision against its discussion, pending Supreme Court review.

Dr Farooq, as per KNO, commended the J&K Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather for disallowing a debate on the newly amended law, on grounds that the matter awaits resolution in the Supreme Court.

"This Bill is against the Constitution. The

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Machail Mata temple reopens for pilgrims after winter in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

The revered shrine of Shree Machail Mata in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district has been reopened for pilgrims after winter, heralding the commencement of the annual Yatra season, officials said on Monday.



thrown open on the occasion of Baisakhi on Sunday with Jammu divisional commissioner

Ramesh Kumar reviewing the arrangements for the annual pilgrimage, the officials said.

The event marked the shifting of the idol of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local priest Pehalwan Singh to the temple amid religious rituals and a grand fair. The reopening of the temple

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One killed, 10 injured as mini truck falls into ditch in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANIHAL, JAMMU, APR 14

A 75-year-old woman was killed and 10 of her relatives were injured after a mini-load carrier fell into a ditch in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district early Monday, police said.

The members of the extended family belonging to the

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J&K road accidents claim four lives, leave 30 injured in 24 hours

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 14 (KNO)

At least four people lost their lives while over 30 persons were injured in multiple road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours, officials said.

In Ramban, a pre-dawn accident on Monday near Banihal claimed the life of one person and left nine others injured.

The accident, as per the news agency, occurred

when a Tata Mobile vehicle carrying members of two Bakarwal families from Rajouri's Teryath area overturned and crashed into a railway bridge wall.

A baby girl among the passengers, however, was unharmed, the officials said.

The injured were taken to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for further treatment.

A minor tourist lost her life after being struck by an unknown vehicle in Pahalgam area of Anantnag district. According to an official, the accident occurred near the self-spot in Pahalgam, where the vehicle hit and injured the young girl.

In Anantnag, a separate road accident took place in Sinthan Top area involving an Intra-v (chota hathi) vehicle, resulting in injuries to eight people.

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BJP remembers Dr. Ambedkar's legacy in Ladakh, pays tributes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
LEH, APR 14

BJP Ladakh led by Phunchok Stanzin, President Ladakh, in presence of Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and others paid floral tributes on the portrait Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar at Leh.

Tashi Gyalson, CEC Leh, Jangyap Tsering Namgyal, Former MP, Padma Shri Mutup Namgyal were among the prominent who paid rich tributes to the Baba Saheb on the occasion. Gyal Wangyal, Vice President was the programme incharge for the tributes programme.

P.T Kunzang State General Secretary, Nawang Samstan State Vice President, State General Secretary / Haj Committee Incharge Mohd Ali Majaz, Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, District Leh President Stanzin Chospel, Nominated Councillor/ State Vice President Dr Yangchan Dolma, State Mahila Morcha President Rinchen Dolkar, State Yuva Morcha President Thinless Nurboo, State



Kisan Morcha President Tsering Mutup, Program co Convener Phuntsok Nurboo, State and Districts Awardees were among other prominent present.

Ashok Koul, while remembering the invaluable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, said that he was far ahead of his time. "We are deeply grateful for his efforts in eliminating social evils and emphasizing the importance of education," he stated. Koul added that Dr. Ambedkar's nationalist thinking and ideology remain highly relevant even today, and that following the path he laid out will lead to the upliftment of the nation and society as a whole.

He further noted that

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has officially recognized and acknowledged the monumental contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, especially under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In contrast, he pointed out that the Congress party had historically neglected Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. "Over time, the BJP has made consistent and sincere efforts to honour his work and take his vision to the grassroots, particularly for the benefit of the deprived and oppressed sections of society," he said.

Koul emphasized that the true tribute to Baba Saheb on his birth anniversary would be to uphold and promote the spirit of Samrasta (social equality) and ensure justice

for all.

Phunchok Stanzin said that Baba Sahib, was a prominent figure in India's struggle for independence. He was a lawyer, economist, and social reformer. He said that Ambedkar ji always stood by the poor and down-trodden people and was a real social worker.

Tashi Gyalson said that Baba Sahib will remain as a source of inspiration to all of us for centuries and India can never forget his great contributions. He said that Baba Sahib was the chief architect of the Constitution of India, which is the best in the world.

Motup Namgyal shared his contentment on development of nation. He also retrospect the struggles

made by Dr. Ambedkar despite huge discrimination.

Phuntsog Norbu and Abass Abidi talked about the roles of Dr. Ambedkar in the reshaping society of India along with the creation of the constitution of India.

PT Kunzang and Gyal P Wangyal talked about Dr Bim Rao Ramji Ambedkar life and historical landmark contributions and carried the pledge of Indian Preamble.

Himalayan Cranes Dance Institute presented a dance performance with the kaleidoscopic of classical music and modern music with mixtures of Ladakhi, Hindi and English.

Vote of thanks was given by Rinchen Dolkar.

Modi govt weakening constitution everyday: Karra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, APRIL 14:

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has cautioned the people against attempts to weaken the constitution by the Modi govt and said it's time to fight for safeguarding the constitution and constitutional values in the country.

Addressing a party gathering at Suchetgarh today along with AICC General Secretary & CLP leader G A Mir besides several other senior leaders of the party including Working Presidents Tara Chand and Raman Bhalla, AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan, Former MP T S Bajwa, Balwan Singh, Ved Mahajan Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, Yashpal Kundal, Th Hari Singh Chhib, S S Channi, M K Bhardwaj and others

Shri Karra lashed out at BJP & Modi govt weakening the constitution and its soul everyday by multiple ways.

The congress function was organised by Bhushan Dogra, contesting candidate in connection with the birth anniversary of father of constitution Dr B R Ambedkar.

Karra further elaborated on the pressing challenges that confront these core values, noting that various forces are currently at work, actively undermining and attacking the principles of equality and justice that have been painstakingly established



throughout India's history. He expressed concern that these efforts threaten to weaken the very foundation of the Constitution, which was designed to protect and promote the rights of all citizens, irrespective of their background.

In light of these challenges, Karra urged the people to rise to the occasion and take proactive measures to defend the Constitution and uphold the democratic institutions that underpin the nation.

G A Mir conveyed a call to action, emphasizing that it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect the democratic framework and the rights it guarantees, thereby ensuring that the vision and values laid out by Dr. Ambedkar continue to thrive in Indian society.

He underscored that Dr. Ambedkar's tireless and selfless dedication to the principles of social justice, equality, and human rights serves as a powerful source of inspiration for present and future generations.

Tara Chand added that he was the father of Indian Constitution Dr. Ambedkar was Godfather of Dalit's and down-trodden, who led the millions of oppressed people to self-respect

and dignified life. Further added and said even after braving the brunt of social stigma and oppression Babasaheb remained committed to fight against inequality and equal rights to down trodden and oppressed people in India.

Raman Bhalla hailed the great contributions of Dr. Ambedkar to Nation and said the selfless services of the latter are bound to inspire the generations, leading them at the path of social justice and equality which is guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Neeraj Kundan said that Ambedkar's efforts to bring the deprived sections of society into the mainstream will remain an example for every generation. Kundan added that adhering to the principles of the Constitution and ensuring the fruits of democracy to reach all would be best and befitting tribute to the great luminary.

Prominent those who participated Suresh Dogra, Amrit Bali, Sanjeev Sharma, Shameema Raina, Ziyda Khan, Jatin K Raina, Ajay Lakhotra, Vijay Shashtri, Ricky Dalotra, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Jasmeet Singh Raina, Varun Mago-tri beside others.

Dy CM convenes public darbar at Lam Nowshera



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today held a public darbar in village Lam Nowshera to listen to the grievances and genuine concerns of the general public.

The interactive session witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life, highlighting issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities.

The Dy CM patiently heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them of swift redressal.

While emphasising the unwavering commitment of the government to address the pressing issues faced by the common people, Surinder Choudhary remarked that the government has always been at the forefront of championing the cause of the people. He asserted that under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, the government is dedicated to deliver effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority.

Surinder Choudhary also highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government,

including measures to improve road connectivity, strengthen the healthcare system and promote educational opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Dy CM exhorted that public darbar is not just a platform to voice grievances but a reflection of our commitment to participatory governance. "We believe in creating direct channels of communication between the government and the public to foster trust and accountability," he added.

Earlier, reaffirming government's commitment towards hassle free connectivity to the public, the Dy CM flagged off a bus service from Kalakot to Jammu via Nowshera.

He said that it was long pending demand of local residents and expressed satisfaction that Government is proficient to fulfil their aspirations.

Surinder Choudhary exhorted that the government is committed to improve transportation in J&K, especially far flung and border areas with the aim to enhance mass mobility, providing increased safety and sustainability along with greater access and convenience for commuters.

Interactive Session held in Kupwara to boost Floriculture Sector

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APR 14

In a strategic move to promote commercial floriculture and enhance sustainable livelihoods, the District Floriculture Office, Kupwara, organized an interactive session with floriculture growers, entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders at Children's Park, Handwara.

The event was presided over by the District Floriculture Officer (DFO), Kupwara, alongside the Assistant Floriculture Officer (AFO), under the aegis of the Department of Floriculture, Jammu & Kashmir.

The DFO, Kupwara, emphasized the department's commitment to transforming floriculture into a major contributor to economic development and rural employment. He highlighted the government's vision of making Jammu & Kashmir a hub for high-quality floriculture through technological innovation and supportive policies.

Participants were informed about various flagship schemes under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the Agri-

culture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). These include subsidies for setting up infrastructure such as greenhouses, nurseries, and facilities for cut flower production. Detailed information was provided on eligibility criteria, application processes, and financial support available under these schemes.

Growers and entrepreneurs shared challenges they face, including limited access to quality planting material, market uncertainties, and inadequate post-harvest infrastructure. The department responded by assuring swift grievance redressal through district-level committees.

Speaking on the occasion, the DFO, Kupwara, said, This dialogue reaf-



irms our resolve to institutionalize stakeholder engagement. Moving forward, we will prioritize regular capacity-building workshops, exposure visits to successful floriculture units, and collaborations with e-commerce platforms to ensure holistic sectoral growth.

The District Floriculture Office, Kupwara, functions under the Directorate of Floriculture, Jammu & Kashmir. Its mandate includes promoting commercial floriculture through technical support and financial assistance to growers and entrepreneurs.

The session concluded with a collective commitment to building a vibrant floriculture ecosystem in the district.

MLA Gurez declares open 10th Inter Zonal National Softball Championship

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 14

The 10th Inter Zonal National Softball Championship (Men & Women) kicked off today at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar with MLA, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), declaring the tournament open.

In all, athletes from across the country are taking part in the championship. All the arrangements for the visiting players and officials have been made by the J&K Sports Council and J&K Softball Association.

The championship is being organised by J&K Softball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the aegis of Softball Association of India. The championship will continue for 3 days and



will witness tremendous competition. The championship will conclude on 16th of April, 2025.

The MLA welcomed the participating teams and expressed hope that all the players will exhibit their sports skills to the fullest. J&K, being considered as one of the favourite venues for the National Camps and Championship for different sports, will definitely give a

unique experience to the visiting players, said the MLA.

Prominent present on the inaugural ceremony were Dr. Praveen Anaokar, Secretary General Softball Association of India and other office bearers and member units of the SBAL. The championship is being sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Arvind slams JSD over water crisis in Mazdoor Basti, Top Sherkhania

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today conducted a tour of Mazdoor Basti in the Top Sherkhania area, where he met with local residents to take stock of their day-to-day civic issues.

The most glaring concern that echoed throughout the area was acute water scarcity, with people being forced to survive on water supply provided just once a week.

Expressing serious concern over water scarcity, Arvind Gupta said, "It is shocking and shameful that despite crores of rupees being sanctioned under the Centre's flagship Jal Jeevan Mission, the Jal Shakti Department



has utterly failed in ensuring even basic drinking water supply to the people of Mazdoor Basti. This is nothing short of criminal negligence."

The people of the area alleged that the officials of the Jal Shakti Department have adopted a careless

and indifferent attitude, making hollow excuses every time the water shortage is raised. Despite repeated complaints and pleas, there has been no concrete action on the ground. They have been highlighting the water crisis for years, yet the

department continues to look the other way.

The MLA Arvind strongly criticised the officials of the Jal Shakti Department for adopting a casual and indifferent approach towards the genuine issues of the people, especially concerning the persistent

water crisis. He said that instead of resolving the matter, the officials are busy making lame excuses and shifting responsibility, which clearly reflects their lack of seriousness and accountability.

"How can we talk about development and progress when people don't even have water to drink?" he asked, adding that the failure of the Jal Shakti Department has caused immense hardship to poor and marginalized families in the area.

The senior BJP leader warned the concerned officials of strict accountability if the situation is not addressed immediately. "No official will be spared if they continue to neglect their duties. Public suffering will not

be tolerated," he asserted. Arvind Gupta also asked the Minister of Jal Shakti Department to take serious note of this alarming issue as the summer area approaching fast and direct the department officials to act without delay. "Water is a basic human right. The people of Mazdoor Basti deserve better, and the BJP stands firmly with them in their fight for justice and dignity," he said.

The MLA was accompanied by Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, General Secretary Mohit Vaid, Vice President Karan Sharma, Sonu Manhas Rohit Kumar, Sham Mehra, Sunny Kumar, Lokinder Kohli, Chaman Lal, Sudershan Singh and many others.

NIT Srinagar observes Ambedkar Jayanti

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 14

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Monday observed the 135th birth anniversary of father of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar at Common Hall and paid rich tributes to the great leader.

The event was organized by the SC/ST Cell under the leadership of its Coordinator and Liaison Officer for SCs/STs, Dr. Kurella Swamy, with the active support of the student organizing committee and under the esteemed guidance of Director Prof. (Dr.) Binod Kumar Kanaujia.

The commemorative event was presided over by Prof. Atikur Rahman, Incharge Registrar, alongside Dr. Yeshwant Mehta, Dean Planning and Development (P&D).

In his presidential



address, Prof. Atikur Rahman paid tributes to BR Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary. He emphasized Babasaheb's powerful call to "Pay Back to Society."

Prof. Rehman urged faculty and students to revisit their alma maters and contribute in all possible ways for their upliftment. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness among underprivileged communities about various government welfare schemes.

Dr. Yeshwant Mehta elaborated on the economic foresight of Babasaheb's doctoral thesis, "The

Problem of the Rupee", explaining its relevance in shaping modern economic policies.

He highlighted how Babasaheb's economic vision continues to inspire contemporary discourse on financial justice.

Dr. Kurella Swamy underlined the transformative power of education, drawing inspiration from Babasaheb's vast literary contributions. "Babasaheb not only diagnosed the roots of social evils but also proposed sustainable solutions. We must delve into his writings to understand and eradicate societal

issues," he said.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students.

Earlier the program commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and garlanding of portraits of Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Phule, and Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, followed by Buddhavandana—a tribute of peace and reflection.

Students passionately expressed their admiration and respect for Babasaheb's vision through speeches and poetry centered on his life, contributions, and ideology.

Notably, Mr. Ashutosh Pathak and Mr. Shubham received the Best Performance Awards in speech and poem recitation respectively. They were felicitated with mementos by the Registrar and Dean

as tokens of appreciation.

A vote of thanks by Dr. Shah Nawaz Ahmed, Member of the SC/ST Cell, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia and Incharge Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman for their unwavering support in making the event a success.

The student organizing committee for the event included: Lokeshwar, Deepak Thapa, Hitesh, Sunam, Nitin Kundal, Samiksha, Neha, Prajwal, Shubham, Sudhanshu, Mukesh, Nitin, Sunil, Raveena, Suchetan, Niti, Arun, Anushka, Manik Kundal, Aman Bhagat, Gagan, Ayush Kundal, Nikhil, Vardan, Sumit, Kartik Hans, Uhay Chadgal, Sujal Khalotra, Akarshit Attri, Sudhanshu Chaudhary, Prajwal Punwatar, Gurmeet, Rahul Meena, Tarun Attri, Sumit, and Ricky Bhagat.

Javed Rana holds public meeting at Udhampur

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held public meeting at Kotla Morh, Udhampur to get an appraisal of grievances of the locals.

The public meeting witnessed the participation of several deputations and representatives of the area who sought redressal of their issues.

A delegation of the area complained of irregular water supply saying that they are facing tough time due to absence of a sustainable water supply. They demanded corrective measures to be taken in view of the approaching summer season that raises additional demand for



water, both for domestic and agricultural purposes.

Another delegation demanded implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to empower the forest dwelling communities. They complained that implementation of FRA has been slow and uneven with various challenges hindering its full potential.

Similarly another delegation demanded upgradation of infrastructure under Tribal Sub Plan for accelerating the socio-

economic development of Scheduled Tribes. They demanded that development funds should be allocated to ST populations in proportion to their size, covering various aspects of tribal life.

Rana gave a patient hearing to the issues raised during the event saying that the government is committed to the welfare of people. He assured the locals that all their genuine demands will be resolved in a phased manner.

DDC Suresh Sharma inaugurates Waiting Hall at Guru Ravidas Mandir, Tacharwan

JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APR 14

BJP Senior leader and District Development Council (DDC) member, Pandit Suresh Sharma, today inaugurated a newly constructed waiting hall at Guru Ravidas Sabha in Tacharwan, Panchayat Nardi, Block Maira Mandrian. The hall, built at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs, was funded through Sharma's DDC allocation.

The construction of the waiting hall was a long-standing demand voiced by the public during last year's Guru Ravidas Jayanti celebrations. Responding to the community's appeal, Sharma had immediately committed funds for the project. One year later, the promise has been honored with the successful completion and



inauguration of the hall.

Addressing a gathering of local residents and dignitaries, Sharma emphasized his dedication to grassroots development. "Our mission is to respond to the genuine needs of the people," he said. "Development works are being undertaken with your concerns as our priority." The event coincided

with the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Awardee Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Sharma paid tribute to the architect of India's Constitution and said that he played a pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution and envisioned a nation rooted in liberty, equality, and fraternity. Apart from this, he said that we get a lot of inspi-

ration from his life and we all should live together in the society.

Members of the Sant Guru Ravidas Sabha extended their heartfelt thanks to Sharma for his swift action and continued support. They lauded his commitment to public welfare. The event was marked by the presence of several prominent personalities including BJP leader Ram Lal Sharma, Mandal President Gulshan Kumar Sharma, Mandal General Secretary Akshay Magotra, Subedar Satyapal, Rashpal Das, Rita Verma, Gurpal Singh, Subedar Mayer Singh, bishan Lal, Subedar Sukhdev Raj, Sanjay Kumar, Ranjit Malhotra, Sita Ram, Jagaram, Madanlal, Ashok Kumar, Maniram, Gyan Chand, and other esteemed community members.

Thousands throng Devika Baisakhi Mela on Day 2

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14

A vibrant cultural celebration marked the second day of the historic Devika Baisakhi Mela, held on the sacred banks of the Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

The District Centre of Department of Information and Public Relations organized a mega cultural programme that enthralled the audience with scintillating performances showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

DDC Member Panchari Jasvir Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Rajinder Diga, District Information Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Udhampur was the guest of honour. Swatantra Dev Kotwal, a Civil Defence Volunteer and noted social activist, attended as the special guest.

A large number of people from all walks of life gathered to witness the cultural bonanza. The



audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances performed by local artists and enthusiastic students. The performances received thunderous applause and were highly appreciated by one and all.

Thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district

thronged the Devika Ghat to take a holy dip in the sacred river, continuing the age-old spiritual tradition associated with the Baisakhi festival.

Adding to the festive spirit, numerous temporary stalls offering sweets, toys and accessories witnessed heavy footfall, making the mela a lively

and joyful experience for visitors of all ages.

The event was attended by the Officer/Official of the Information Department which includes Jiwan Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Amit Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Abhishek Gupta, Aqib Hussain, Vijay Kumar besides a large number of prominent citizens.

Rekha Mahajan conducts 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Vill Chatha

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Rekha Mahajan, senior BJP leader today conducted a tour to the village Chatta under the ongoing 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan,' a significant initiative aimed at engaging with rural populations to promote government welfare programs and enhance community participation.

Interacting with people, Rekha Mahajan said that the aim of holding such programs is to bridge the gap between the government and the grassroots level, ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized the importance of awareness regarding Central Government initiatives, as they play a crucial role in improving the living standards of rural communities.

She said that every section of society is getting equal attention and opportunities under Modi's regime, highlighting how the government's policies are focused on the upliftment of all, including marginalized groups and rural populations.

Rekha Mahajan also assured the people that



the BJP is committed to bringing sustainable development to every village, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of progress.

During her visit, Rekha Mahajan kickstarted cleanliness drives at the local temples, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness not just in homes but also in religious places, which are central to the cultural fabric of the village. "Cleanliness is not just about hygiene; it's about fostering a sense of responsibility within the community. Today's initiative is a small step towards making our tem-

ples cleaner and more inviting for devotees," she stated.

After the cleanliness campaign, the senior BJP leader interacted with the local residents, discussing the various welfare schemes initiated by the Modi Government, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, all of which have had a transformative impact on the lives of rural families. She made sure to explain how these programs are designed to uplift rural communities by providing access to healthcare, financial inclusion, and sanitation, among

others.

Later, Rekha Mahajan held a meeting with the Booth President and Booth Committee members to discuss ways of strengthening the BJP's presence at the grassroots level. She urged them to work hard and ensure that their respective booths are better equipped to reach out to voters and convey the policies of the Modi Government effectively.

Rekha Mahajan urged the people of Chatta to remain engaged with Modi government's initiatives and continue to work towards building a cleaner, more prosperous community.

Javed Rana visits Press Club Udhampur; interacts with media persons

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Press Club Udhampur and had an exclusive interactive session with the media persons. The Minister, while talking to the media members, emphasised the crucial role of journalism in highlighting the genuine developmental and social issues affecting the people. He urged the media fraternity to uphold the ethics and principles of journalism, ensuring that the voices of the marginalised and underprivileged are heard.

He appreciated media's efforts in bringing attention to critical issues and encouraged them to continue their watchdog role in promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

Rana stressed the significance of adhering to journalistic ethics while reporting on sensitive issues. He



encouraged the media persons to focus on developmental and social issues that impact the lives of ordinary citizens. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards addressing the public grievances promptly and efficiently.

Sumit Sharma, President and Ashish Dutt, General Secretary, along with other members, thanked the Minister for accepting their invitation. They appreciated his insights and commitment towards transparency in governance.

The interaction served as a platform for meaningful dialogue between the Minister and the media fraternity, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting the welfare of the people.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
Sr. DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-02.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
11.04.2025	18.04.2025	02.05.2025 15:00	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	01-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT	Renovation of toilets at Railway station SDUA, KAPE, PMZE, MZMA, PTTN and HME U N D E R ADEN/BDGM & SVDK under ADEN-MCTM	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer
	4499466.19	90000	60 days
	Similar nature of work:- "Nil"		Period of Completion
			6 Months
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2024-25 Date: 13.04.2025			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

PM Modi's vision changed...

identification of accused on the basis of speech.” He said, “PM Modi's visionary leadership brought significant transformation to the country's criminal justice system. A system has been established where neither the accused nor the complainant is subjected to injustice. To ensure this balance, integrating forensic science into the criminal justice process is essential.”

NOT POSSIBLE TO DELIVER TIMELY JUSTICE WITHOUT FORENSIC SCIENCE

“Without forensic science, it is not possible to deliver timely justice and increase the rate of conviction. The entire scenario of crime has changed today. Now criminals use different means of technology, information and communication, due to which crime has now become borderless,” Shah said, as per KNO.

“Earlier, crime used to happen in a small part of a district, state or country, but now crime has become borderless. Modern crimes now transcend city, state, national, and even international boundaries,” the Home Minister added.

He said, “Seven campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University have been established in different states of the country. Nine more campuses will be established in the next 6 months.”

Apart from these, he said, the establishment of 10 more campuses is proposed. “There will be no state in the country where there is no campus of National Forensic Sciences University. We will work to make each campus the best unit in the world by giving it one subject. The students of the university will be helped in research and development so that they achieve heights in research and make the campus the best in the allotted subject.”

The Union Home Minister said that after its completion, every year 36000 diploma and degree holder youth will pass out from these campuses and strengthen our criminal justice system.

Shah said, “There is a need for 30,000 trained professionals to visit every crime scene where the punishment is more than seven years. Each year, around 36,000 students will graduate from the National Forensic Sciences University, many of whom will go on to work in private forensic laboratories as well. He further mentioned that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is working on an agreement between private and government Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs), allowing certain samples received by government FSLs to also be analyzed by private labs.”

Shah said that NFSU is advancing into several emerging fields, including drone forensics, smart city forensics, marine forensics, and corporate forensics.

He also highlighted the growing international presence of NFSU, stating that around 240 foreign students are currently enrolled, and that the university will continue to expand globally in the coming years.

GUJARAT FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Referring to the importance of Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Shah said, “When PM Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat and he himself was the Home Minister, the seed of Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, planted by PM Modi in 2009, has now grown into a banyan tree in the form of the National Forensic Sciences University – the first university of its kind in the world.”

He said, “It is a matter of joy for him that when the National Forensic Sciences University was established on 1 October 2020, Narendra Modi was the Prime Minister and I was the Home Minister of the country.”

Shah said that Forensic Science University is not only producing skilled professionals but is also paving the way for research across various fields. He noted that the university has become a trusted institution for forensic analysis in complex cases and has also evolved into a hub for equipping the country's forensic laboratories with modern technology.

He added that the university offers a wide range of programs, including degree, diploma, PhD, and research courses. Additionally, it has developed and adopted numerous indigenous technologies and has created toolkits to supply these innovations to police forces across the nation.

PAYS TRIBUTES TO DR BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR

Paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, Shah said that Babasaheb worked to finalize the Constitution of India. “It was a Herculean task to finalize the Constitution after thousands of hours of intense discussion on every subject, but Babasaheb composed the Constitution by incorporating all aspects keeping in mind the needs of the country and with the idea of maintaining the relevance of the Constitution for many years,” he said.

The Union Home Minister said, “Our Constitution is not just a book. It has a system for the protection of the body, property and honor of every citizen and forensic science is now playing a very useful role in strengthening the criminal justice system associated with the protection of these three.”

COUNTRY GOT RID OF COLONIAL ERA LAWS

Shah underlined that following the directive of PM Modi to get rid of the country of colonial-era laws, work on finalizing new criminal laws was carried out between 2019 and 2024.

He noted that extensive discussions during this period revealed the extent to which the outdated laws were harming India's criminal justice system.

He emphasized that if laws are not updated in accordance with changing times, they become obsolete and irrelevant.

He added that the original intent of the old criminal laws was not to deliver justice to Indian citizens but to uphold British rule.

In contrast, the three new criminal laws introduced under PM Modi's leadership have been crafted by Indians, for the protection and justice of Indian citizens.

The Union Home Minister said that this represents the most significant legal reform of the 21st century.

He explained that the new laws provide a legal foundation for the use of modern technology and have been designed with a forward-looking approach – incorporating not only current technologies but also anticipating technological developments for the next

100 years.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATED AT EVERY STAGE OF JUSTICE PROCESS

The Union Home Minister said that the new laws have formally defined e-documents and e-summons. He explained that the method of technology used is irrelevant as long as the law recognizes e-documents, and similarly, once people accept e-summons, the mode of delivery no longer matters.

He emphasized that technology has been integrated at every stage of the criminal justice process – from the crime scene to investigation, and through to the trial. Forensic investigation has been made mandatory for all crimes that carry a punishment of more than seven years.

He expressed confidence that these changes will lead to India achieving the highest conviction rate in the world in the coming decade.

CONVICTION RATE CURRENTLY STANDS AT 54%

Shah said that the conviction rate in the country currently stands at 54 per cent. He said that terrorism has been defined in the new laws. Voice logs and digital voice mail have also been given a place.

“Arrangements have also been made in BNSS to give legal basis to audio, video recordings, videography of forensic evidence and digital records in interrogation. Arrangements have been made to ensure justice within the stipulated period by setting time limits for the police, prosecution and judicial system. He said that its results have also started coming,” he said, adding,

“In some cases, the rapist was convicted in 23 days and within 100 days the triple murder case was solved and the culprit was punished.”

The Union Home Minister said that this was possible because technical evidence was recognized in the trial. He said that efforts have also been made to digitize the digital system of the entire country.

100% POLICE STATIONS COMPUTERIZED THROUGH CCTNS

Shah said that today 100 per cent police stations in the country have been computerized through Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS). “About 14 crore 19 lakh FIRs and their related documents have been made available online along with legacy data. 22 thousand courts have been equipped with the e-court facilities. Data of 2 crore 19 lakh is available through e-prison. Prosecution data of 1 crore 93 lakh cases is available through e-prosecution. 39 lakh forensic evidences are available online through e-forensics. He said that 16 lakh alerts have been generated from this. Fingerprints of 1 crore 53 lakh accused are available in the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). These fingerprints have been shared with every police station. National Database of Human Trafficking Offender is also available.

Shah added that this data is separate right now, but in the next few years, the Home Ministry will hand over this data to the investigating teams using Artificial Intelligence. He said that then it will become very easy to formulate a strategy to prevent crime and it will also be very beneficial in controlling crime.

CALLS FOR CATEGORIZING OFFENDERS

The Union Home Minister emphasized the need to categorize offenders into habitual criminals, those driven to crime by circumstances, and those who committed crimes out of necessity. He stressed the importance of providing psychological counseling to such individuals within jails, with the goal of encouraging them to become responsible citizens.

He expressed confidence that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India will be able to develop a robust forensic science-based system for prisoner rehabilitation within the next couple of years.

Shah also said that a Modus Operandi Bureau has been established, which will play a vital role in controlling crime by analyzing criminal behavior patterns.

The Union Home Minister acknowledged that the country faces numerous challenges, many of which can be addressed through the effective use of forensic science.

He called for close collaboration between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Forensic Sciences University to work toward building a crime-free society through scientific solutions. Union Home Minister said that, during the conference, young individuals were recognized for their outstanding performance in the hackathon and their efforts to promote the use of the Hindi language. KNO

Waqf Amendment...

“Long before we became famous for the troubles, we were famous for the beauty, and for the tourism. And this beauty is not something that is talked about in recent times,” Omar said, as per KNO.

He illustrated his point by citing a famous couplet inscribed on a wall of the Red Fort that describes Kashmir as a “heaven on earth”.

“These words were written centuries ago. From then to now, Jammu and Kashmir has attracted attention largely for good, but in recent years, somewhat for the bad as well,” the Chief Minister said.

“But, I can safely say that we have turned the corner, and Jammu and Kashmir today has once again become a pre-eminent destination for tourism in the country, increasingly for overseas tourists as well,” he said.

He said that when J&K was struggling with the after-effects of violent attacks and terror, “for us, tourism was a visible sign of a move towards normalcy.”

“Increase in the number of tourists added to its economic activity, and also gave us a sense that perhaps better days were ahead of us” Omar said, adding, “And, therefore, we chased volumes, we went out and tried to get as many tourists as possible to visit J&K, because the more the tourists, the more impact, and therefore it was a win-win for all of us.”

Emphasising the importance of “value-based tourism”, he said, “We have in mind nine new destinations that we hope to get funded through multilateral agency funding, which we hope will ease some of the pressure on Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg in the Valley, and also open up areas of Jammu hitherto undiscovered for tourism.” KNO

LG inaugurates...

for industrial jobs. We have empowered margin-

alized sections of the society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our Handloom and Handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

“We have been successful in creating a conducive environment for the growth of industries, enabling overall development. Our efforts are now yielding positive dividends with many industrial units starting their operations and many more investment proposals are in the pipeline,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The unit set up with an investment of Rs 75 crore will generate hundreds of employment opportunities.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department; Dr Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu; Pradeep Agrawal Chairman, Superior Group of Industries; Vishal Agrawal, Vice Chairman, Ashish Sethi, CEO, Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra, Chief Human Resource Officer, and other members of Superior Group of Industries and Superior Polymer India Private Limited were present.

Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua along with other officials also joined through virtual mode. KNO

Kashmir's pilgrims...

on the final list anymore. It's creating a lot of stress and confusion for us,” said one of the applicants.

He said the situation has left many in a state of anxiety, unsure about their chances of participating in the pilgrimage.

Arifa Bano, a resident of north Kashmir, said, “I have waited years to perform Hajj. This sudden change is heartbreaking. We hope the government does something.”

The decision by Saudi authorities, part of crowd-control measures, has left nearly 52,000 Indian pilgrims uncertain about their sacred journey many of whom had already made payments.

Even the visa suspension has disrupted travel plans for hundreds of Indian pilgrims, especially from Kashmir. Many had prepared for the Umrah pilgrimage, only to face cancellations due to visa denials.

A senior official at the Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee said that as of now, 550 pilgrims are scheduled to travel through private arrangements.

“It is essential that pilgrims confirm whether the HGO they are dealing with is officially listed and has been allotted a quota by the Ministry,” he said.

For Hajj 2025, a total of 4,100 people from J&K submitted applications. As per official details, 3,601 were selected in the first draw conducted by the Haj Committee of India, while an additional 21 women were approved under the Mahram quota bringing the total number of confirmed pilgrims from J&K to 3,622.

The move is part of a broader effort to manage crowds and logistical pressure during the pilgrimage.

Last year, J&K received a quota of 8,345 Hajj slots. The Hajj Committee received 8,147 applications and facilitated the pilgrimage of 7,008 individuals.

However, this year's quota reduction especially for private arrangements is expected to drastically lower the number of J&K pilgrims able to perform Hajj.

The sudden announcement has drawn criticism from several political leaders. Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah said, “I appeal to the Prime Minister to speak with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and urge them not to reduce our quota of Hajj pilgrims. There is also the question of jobs here.”

Dr Farooq said he would urge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to formally write to the Prime Minister to address the issue.

Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said the Ministry of External Affairs has taken up talks on this matter with the Saudi authorities

CM Omar, through his office's post on X, said: “The reported cancellation of Hajj slots for over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, many of whom have already completed payments, is deeply concerning. I urge Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs @DrSjaishankar to engage with the Saudi authorities at the earliest.”

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti echoed the concern, posting: “Disturbing news emerging from Saudi Arabia. Reports indicate that 80% of India's private Hajj quota has been cut abruptly. This sudden decision is causing immense distress for pilgrims and tour operators across the country.”. KNO

DGP chairs security...

Prime Minister is scheduled to flag off the first train to Kashmir on April 19.

Prime Minister Narendra is set to flag off the first train between Katra in Jammu and Srinagar in Kashmir. He will also inaugurate the Chenab bridge.

PM Modi had described the Chenab bridge as an “unparalleled” example of engineering. Moreover, the flagging off the commercial operation of the first train between Kashmir and Jammu will mark the beginning of full rail connectivity from the Valley to the rest of the country. To start with, the national transporter will operate one Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar, which will enable travelers to cover the stretch in just over three hours. Currently, it takes around 6 to 7 hours.

The Northern Railway has been conducting the trial run of trains between Kashmir and Jammu for more than two months. At present, train services in Kashmir are limited to the Sangaldan-Baramulla section, while long-distance trains terminate at Katra.

The bridge over the Chenab river is 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Officials said around 29,000 tonnes of steel has been used in the construction of the bridge. They added that construction of the bridge was challenging because the area falls in earthquake-prone region and so its design and construction were done in such a way that even if an eight-magnitude earthquake occurs it will not affect the bridge. KNO

PDP slams Centre, UT govt over rejection of key tunnel projects

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 14

The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has strongly criticized the Union Government and the administration of the Union Territory for rejecting two major infrastructure projects—the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels—proposed to enhance connectivity in the mountainous and underdeveloped districts of Doda and Kishtwar.

In a statement issued today, senior PDP leader and former legislator Advocate Firdous Tak said the decision by the Public Investment Board (PIB) to turn down the proposals was a “betrayal” of the aspirations of the people living in these remote areas.

“These tunnels are not just construction projects; they are essential for the socio-economic upliftment of Doda and Kishtwar. Without all-weather road access, the region remains cut off for months, isolating people and obstructing education, healthcare, and trade,” Tak said.

He recalled that the need for the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels was long recognized by previous PDP-led governments. “It was the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who first envisioned these tunnels as a transformative step to connect the Chenab Valley with the Kashmir Valley and rest of Jammu division. His government initiated key surveys and brought the issue to the national planning forum.”

Advocate Tak also highlighted that during Mehbooba Mufti's tenure as Chief Minister, the project proposals were taken forward with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, with detailed project reports prepared and environmental clearances sought. “Despite political instability, her government ensured that the voice of Chenab Valley reached New Delhi. But sadly, after 2018, all momentum was lost.”

The PIB recently rejected the tunnel proposals, citing their high cost (approximately Rs 8,900 crore), the presence of alternative roads, and lack of strategic significance. This, despite the fact that the region frequently suffers from landslides, road closures, and geographic isolation due to treacherous terrain and extreme weather.

Dr Farooq seeks...

Speaker (of the J&K Assembly) made a good decision of not allowing discussion on this, as the matter is in the Supreme Court. We can talk about this after the Supreme Court's decision. The Opposition here is only meant to oppose; it is not a healthy criticism.”. KNO

Machail Mata temple...

was also attended by BJP MLA from Padder-Nagseini Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar deputy commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the officials said.

During his visit, the divisional commissioner took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being made for the smooth and safe conduct of the annual Yatra.

The review included assessment of security protocols, provision of electricity, water supply, sanitation, accommodation, transportation, and healthcare facilities for the convenience of the visiting devotees, the officials said.

Deputy commissioner Shavan apprised the divisional commissioner about the arrangements being made by the civil and police administrations, besides the local stakeholders, to ensure a smooth and coordinated pilgrimage experience for the visiting devotees.

The Shree Machail Mata Yatra draws lakhs of devotees from across the country every year, the officials said.

The district administration has appealed to all the pilgrims to adhere to the guidelines and safety instructions issued in the interest of their health and well-being, the officials said.

One killed, 10...

Bakerwal nomadic community were heading for Kashmir from Teryath village in Rajouri district as part of their bi-annual migration in search of greener pastures for their animals, police said.

The accident took place near a railway bridge in Banihal along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway around 4 am, resulting in on-the-spot death of the woman identified as Fulla Begum and injuries to 10 of her relatives – seven men and three women.

The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital by the rescuers where the condition of two of them was stated to be serious, officials said.

J&K road accidents...

The injured were taken to PHC Larnoo, with some among them being referred to GMC Anantnag and SDH Kokernag. All the injured are stated to be stable, the officials said.

In Srinagar, two motorcyclists were critically injured in a collision near the All India Radio Kashmir flyover. They were quickly transported to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police team.

A three-year-old boy was killed in Ganderbal after being hit by a vehicle in the Kullan Gund area. The boy, identified as Mohammad Hussain, was declared dead on arrival at SDH Kangan.

In Bandipora, a tractor plunged into a gorge in the Duban area of Onagam, resulting in one fatality and leaving another injured.

The deceased, Mohammad Yaseen from Malangam, was confirmed dead at the scene, while the injured, Bilal Ahmad was taken to a District Hospital for further treatment.

Police have registered cases and launched investigations into these incidents.

Meanwhile, a senior traffic police official advised drivers to exercise extreme caution, obey speed limits, and remain alert at all times.

“It is crucial for all road users to exercise extra care to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Prioritize life over reckless, high-speed driving,” the officer said. KNO

Rahul Sahai felicitates CM Omar Abdullah at ICC Aviation & Tourism Conclave 2025 in New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2025:

Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu Chapter, felicitated Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Jenab Omar Abdullah, with a traditional shawl and a sapling, symbolizing respect and sustainability, at the prestigious ICC Aviation & Tourism Conclave 2025 held at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. Mr Sahai was joined by his counterpart from Kashmir, Sh. Khalid Wani, Chairman of ICC Kashmir Chapter, in extending the warm gesture.

The event witnessed participation from distinguished dignitaries including ICC National President Sh. Abhyuday Jindal and Sh. Subhash Goyal Chairman of the ICC National Tourism Committee, Sh V Vaulnam IAS Secretary Civil



Aviation Ministry of Civil Aviation GOI, Sh Suman Billa IAS Additional Secretary ministry of Tourism GOI with various heads of Airlines, tourism & travel associations of India. Mr. Sahai was part of the ceremonial lamp lighting during the inaugural session, marking the beginning of the conclave.

Issuing a press statement, Rahul Sahai thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister for gracing the occasion despite his busy schedule and commended

his charisma, popularity, and proactive promotion of Jammu & Kashmir tourism. Quoting the recent "Jab We Met" program by India Today, Mr. Sahai highlighted the CM's personal involvement in tourism promotion—whether skiing in Gulmarg, riding snow scooters, or engaging with tourists.

He remarked, "There could be no better ambassador for the tourism of J&K than the Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah himself. His dual

role as CM and Tourism Minister is a double bonus for the region."

Mr. Sahai also appreciated the recent budget announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, particularly the proposed Convention Centre, Water Park, and enhancement of Jamboo Zoo in Jammu, along with other tourism-focused initiatives in Kashmir.

In his concluding press statement, He also proposed that future ICC tourism conclaves be held in either Jammu or Gulmarg, further strengthening the tourism narrative of the Union Territory.

The Aviation & Tourism Conclave 2025 served as a robust platform for dialogue, collaboration, and promotion of tourism potential across regions, with J&K emerging as a focal point of discussion and opportunity in the presence of eminent national personalities.

Javed Dar pays tributes to B R Ambedker; describes him as greatest social reformer

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & PR, Cooperative and Election Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, today paid floral tributes to Dr. B R Ambedkar, describing him as one of India's greatest social reformers and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, during an event held at Bari Brahmana, Samba.

The function was organized by Dr. B R Ambedkar educational society which was attended by a huge gathering from Samba and adjoining areas.

While addressing on the occasion, the Minister said that Ambedkar jayanti is being celebrated as "equality day, highlighting



the crucial role of Baba Saheb in fighting for the rights of Women, labour and oppressed communities of India.

He extolled that the celebration is a powerful reminder of high ethos of equality, fraternity and justice that continue to inspire the generations.

"The struggle of Baba Saheb's life was not only

for the welfare of a particular community but for the whole humanity, he added. The Minister emphasised the need of ensuring unity among all segments of the society so that a collective fight can be launched against the prevailing social evils. He also stressed that Omar Abdullah government is committed to uplift all sections of the society

and every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir is part of the government.

Professor Satnam Singh, from JNU, Rajni Bala and other prominent citizens also highlighted contribution of Baba Saheb in fighting for the rights of underprivileged especially the Dalits. He donned many hats but was above all a social reformer.

During the event, the Minister also awarded the meritorious students who had excelled in academic as well as extracurricular activities. President Puran Chand, General Secretary Romesh Chander, Sansar Chand, Pushpa Raj, Jagdev Thappa, Chaman Khullar, Ashwani Gorkha, Manoj Kumar, Kasturi Lal, Darshan Thappa from the B R Educational Society were present on the occasion.

DISHA meeting

MP Mian Altaf reviews progress of developmental projects in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 14

Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi today chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here at Dak Bungalow to review the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and development works in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma briefed the MP about the status of the ongoing developmental initiatives across different sectors.

The MP took a comprehensive review of centrally sponsored schemes including MGNREGA, PMAY (Gramin & Urban), Tribal Welfare Schemes, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). He also reviewed the implementation of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Evaluating performance under the health sector, the MP took a detailed review of the functioning of Government Medical



College (GMC) Rajouri. The MP emphasized the need to improve patient care facilities and directed the Principal GMC to ensure the early functioning of the Child and Maternal Hospital. He also asked for timely estimation and construction of a Sarai in the hospital.

Expressing concern over the shortage of medical staff, he directed the concerned authorities to expedite the process of filling vacant posts of doctors across the district.

Mian Altaf also took stock of the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He directed the concerned officers to ensure that machinery

for all lift water schemes is installed by December 2025 and instructed for the early commissioning of the filtration plants.

While reviewing the Power Development Department (PDD), he called for necessary improvements to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the region.

The MP also issued strict directions to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to expedite work on the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road and on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway. He further directed the PWD to ensure proper maintenance of all roads across the district.

He also assessed the status of pension schemes for old-age beneficiaries, widows, and beneficiaries under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), and stressed on timely disbursement of benefits to the eligible persons.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Advocate Naseem Liaquat; MLA Rajouri Ifikhar Ahmed; MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary; MLA Kalakote, Thakur Randhir Singh and MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Khan.

Among the senior officers present were ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, ADC Kalakote Tanveer Ahmed, ADC Kotranka Dil Mir, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Rajouri Chander Parkash, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, ACP Sheraz Ahmed and other sectoral officers. The MP appreciated the efforts of the district administration and urged all departments to work in coordination to ensure effective implementation of development schemes and welfare programs for the benefit of the people of Rajouri.

Khour Dungal Committee hosts Dungal Tournament with 150 Bouts

JI NEWS SERVICE
KHOUR, APRIL 14

The Khour Dungal Committee organized a spectacular Dungal tournament that captivated the region, featuring approximately 150 electrifying bouts. The final bout saw Ravi Behra emerge victorious, defeating Biniya to claim the top prize of Rs 1.5 lakh.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Narinder Singh Bhau, President of All India Bhau Rajput Sabha, and



Special Guests Virender Gupta, SDPO Akhnoor, and Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Surgeon, G.M.C. and Other notable attendees. In a heartfelt gesture, Chief Guest Narinder Singh Bhau presented shawls to retired wrestlers of the region, honoring

their contributions to the sport. A major highlight of the tournament was the inclusion of around 10 bouts featuring talented women wrestlers, showcasing their strength and skill, and inspiring widespread admiration. Narinder Singh Bhau,

fondly known as the "Dungal King of Khour," was recognized for his unwavering support for sports in the region. His financial contributions have empowered youth to focus on athletics, steering them away from harmful habits like drug abuse and alcohol consumption. The Khour Dungal Committee expressed gratitude to all participants, guests, and supporters for making the event a resounding success, reinforcing the region's rich wrestling heritage.

MLA Udhampur West dedicates 2 transformers to residents of Jib, Kambal Danga

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14

Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta inaugurated two power transformers, each with a capacity of 30 KVA, involving a cost of around Rs. 10 Lakh.

The initiative aims to upgrade the power supply to the Jib and Kambal Danga localities, benefiting numerous households that have faced frequent power disruptions and low voltage issues for several years.



The project was prioritized with the intervention of the MLA and the pressing demands of the people, conveyed through DDC Ashu Sharma and former

PRI members. The upgradation of power supply was undertaken as a priority, fulfilling a promise made to people by the MLA. On the occasion, the

MLA assured the public that he would continue to strive to address all other long standing issues. He emphasized that after the release of funds for the current year, he would take all necessary steps to improve the sectors of education, water supply, and power, which remain his priorities. The event was attended by several notable individuals Raj Kumari (Ex-Panch), Shashi Bala (Ex-Panch) and Purshotam (Ex-Panch) and local residents.

Col Mahan celebrates Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti as 'Samarthata Diwas' in SC Bastis of Basohli

JI NEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI/KATHUA, APRIL 14

Colonel Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman DDC Kathua, today visited several Scheduled Caste (SC) bastis in the Basohli Sub-District to commemorate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti, celebrated as 'Samarthata Diwas'. The events took place at Jait (Ghagore Panchayat), Khudku (Pretha Panchayat), Khaloo (Plassi Panchayat), and Adan (Plakh Panchayat), where a large number of community members gathered to pay floral tributes to the great social reformer, jurist, and champion of the downtrodden—Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Sweets were distributed among the participants, and Col Mahan Singh



interacted closely with SC community members, including women, youth, and children. Short gothis (interactive sessions) were organized to reflect on the life, ideology, and monumental contributions of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Prominent local leaders who accompanied the DDC Chairman included Bhagat Ram, Capt Prem

Singh, Kishori Lal, Kisan leader Ajit Singh, Soma Devi, Lal Chand, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh described Dr. Ambedkar as a true son of the soil, a great nationalist who fortified the social fabric of India and played a pivotal role in drafting one of the most comprehensive and admired constitutions in

the world. He urged everyone to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and contribute wholeheartedly to nation-building.

Col Mahan Singh further emphasized that the BJP-led governments under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been committed to realizing Dr. Ambedkar's vision through the philosophy of Antyodaya—where

the poorest and most marginalized, including farmers, laborers, women, and youth, are prioritized through various national welfare schemes aimed at transforming their lives.

Later, the DDC Chairman also attended the Baisakhi Mela at Village Plassi, where he engaged with the Mela Committee and cultural artists, including Lekh Raj Verma, Bhule Shah, and their respective troupes. He lauded the efforts made to promote local culture and communal harmony.

In the evening, Col Mahan Singh attended a mega social event at Marheen (Hiranagar) organized by Karan Atri, DDC Member Marheen, in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti.

Ashwini Vaishnav pays Tribute to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Homage paid to Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Rail Bhawan

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 14

Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, Ashwini Vaishnav, paid floral tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution and Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his Jayanti at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi. On this occasion, Shri Vaishnav also sought blessings from Buddhist spiritual leaders



for the building of a stronger India. The Buddhist leaders honored Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav by presenting him with a portrait of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

During the event, Satish Kumar, Chairman

and CEO of the Railway Board, along with other members of the Railway Board, also paid their respects by offering flowers at the portrait of the Constitution maker, Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

EDITORIAL

Why India's First National Cooperative University Matters

Shadow of land scam

In a political corridor already brimming with tension, the recent chargesheet filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) involving Member of Parliament and senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has sparked sharp debate—raising serious questions not just about corruption, but about the health of “democratic dissent” in the Union Territory. Ruhullah, known for his straightforward criticism of the central government, particularly over the abrogation of Article 370 and the “erosion” of democratic rights in Jammu and Kashmir, now finds himself accused in a decades-old land compensation case. According to the ACB, he is among 22 individuals involved in an alleged fraudulent land scam concerning the acquisition of land at Durbal Bemina, an area tied to the Dal Lake rehabilitation project. Ruhullah, however, insists he has been wrongfully implicated, calling the entire move “a frivolous attempt” to muzzle him for his political views. His defense rests on a straightforward narrative: the land in question belonged to his grandfather; compensation was granted to his family more than 20 years ago; and his personal share amounted to a modest Rs 80,000, which he received through his uncle's account as a legal heir—not as a negotiator or beneficiary of any underhand deal. Importantly, Ruhullah states that he was never summoned, questioned, or even informed about the allegations prior to the filing of the chargesheet. If true, this glaring procedural gap raises red flags. Due process is not a luxury in a democracy—it is its foundation. Charging a sitting MP without prior notice or investigation undermines not only the credibility of the charges but also the impartiality of the institutions behind them. The timing, too, cannot be ignored. Ruhullah has been among the rare Kashmiri politicians who have persistently challenged the dominant narrative since the dilution of Article 370. He has spoken unapologetically on issues of identity, religious autonomy, and regional disenfranchisement. The sudden surfacing of a 20-year-old case against him is not just coincidental—it's deeply suspect. The situation draws uncomfortable parallels with the increasing weaponization of investigative agencies across India, where opposition leaders often find themselves facing scrutiny right when their voices grow inconvenient. Such patterns do more harm than good: they erode public trust, deepen polarization, and further alienate regions like Kashmir, where faith in institutional fairness is already brittle. That said, corruption—wherever it exists—must be probed and punished. But the pursuit of justice must be transparent, even-handed, and free from the stench of political vendetta. If Ruhullah is indeed guilty of misusing his position, let the facts bear it out in a court of law—not in headlines or under political pressure. Conversely, if the case against him is baseless, it sets a dangerous precedent: that dissent in India's democracy comes at a cost. This case is not merely about Rs 80,000 or 90 kanals of land. It triggers a fresh debate by opposition parties as whether our democratic institutions can still function independently—or whether they have become tools to silence the very voices they are meant to protect.



BY BALASUBRAMANIAN IYER
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE
ALLIANCE ASIA AND PACIFIC

The passage of the bill for India's first national cooperative university, Tribhuvan Sahkari University, in Parliament marks a historic milestone in the journey of the Indian cooperative movement. That this development comes during the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives only adds to its significance. As Union Minister for Cooperation Shri. Amit Shah noted, this university is poised to become a powerful vehicle in realizing the vision of “Sahkar Se Samridhhi” – “Prosperity Through Cooperation.”

India is home to the largest cooperative movement in the world, comprising over 800,000 cooperatives and 287 million members. Deeply embedded in the daily lives of people—from roti, kapda, to makan (food, clothing, and shelter)—cooperatives are more than just economic institutions; they represent an expression of community-

driven development, economic equity, and social justice. The establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) in 2021 signaled a renewed national commitment to this sector, aimed at expanding its reach, improving its efficiency, and integrating it as a cornerstone of inclusive development.

Ministry of Cooperation has taken commendable steps: allocating Rs 2,516 crore to computerize 67,390 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), introducing model byelaws adopted in 32 states to enable over 25 business activities, creating 2 lakh new multipurpose cooperatives, supporting 1,100 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and transforming 44,000 PACS into Common Service Centers. Tax incentives, easier access to credit, and decentralized storage solutions are enhancing cooperatives' operational capacities. The establishment of three new national federations for seeds, exports, and organic products further signal that cooperatives are being positioned as key agents of India's development.

Yet, for all its scale and reach, the cooperative sector's education and training infrastructure remains fragmented, underdeveloped, and unevenly distributed. The demand for qualified professionals—from managerial and administrative to technical and operational—is far outpacing the available supply. Equally critical is the need to invest in the capacity-building of existing employees and board members, many of whom lack access to

regular training or structured learning opportunities. Without standardized curricula, quality assurance, and institutional coherence, the sector cannot fully realize its potential or sustain its growth. There is also a pressing need to attract newer and younger generations to the cooperative movement—individuals who are not only professionally equipped but also inspired by cooperative values and driven to innovate within the sector. This is where Tribhuvan Sahkari University can play a transformative role: by serving as a hub for education, training, and research that builds capacity across all levels while fostering a new generation of cooperative leaders.

Named after Shri. Tribhuvanadas Patel, the visionary architect of the AMUL model, and based in Anand, the cradle of India's dairy cooperative revolution, the university is as much a symbolic tribute as it is a strategic intervention. The choice of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)—an institution that has pioneered cooperative management education for decades—as the foundation for this university is both practical and inspired. With IRMA designated as a Centre of Excellence, the university will build on a strong legacy of producing professionals equipped to address the challenges and opportunities of cooperative enterprises.

The vision of the university will go further, beyond just those seeking formal management degrees. It will extend its reach

to board members of primary and secondary cooperatives, employees across functional areas, and the new generation of youth interested in ethical, sustainable, and inclusive business models. The university will support this through flexible learning modules, certification programs, degree offerings, digital access, and field-based research—all rooted in cooperative values of self-help, democratic control, and mutual responsibility.

Importantly, the university can also serve as a national knowledge platform, facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, providing evidence-based policy insights, and supporting innovations tailored to rural realities. With India's diverse cooperative landscape—spanning dairy, credit, housing, fisheries, textiles, and more—the university has the potential to act as a converging space for multidisciplinary expertise, linking academia, practitioners, and policymakers.

Globally, cooperative education has been foundational to the success of cooperative movements. As far back as the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844, the original rules of conduct included allocating a portion of profits to education. The fifth Cooperative Principle—Education, Training and Information—remains a core pillar of the movement, ensuring that members, leaders, and the broader community understand and uphold the cooperative model. It is this deep-rooted educational tradition that sus-

tains cooperative governance, fosters innovation, and strengthens accountability.

In this context, Tribhuvan Sahkari University can be more than just an academic institution—it can become a national and global knowledge hub for cooperative development, a space where practice meets policy, and learning fuels leadership. At the ICA Global Cooperative Conference held in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi called on India to lead the Global South in uniting cooperatives to build shared platforms, tackle common challenges, and collectively chart a path forward. The national university offers just such a platform—capable of nurturing dialogue, sharing best practices, and strengthening south-south cooperation among cooperatives.

In a world that is increasingly seeking inclusive, democratic, and sustainable economic models, India's cooperative movement—and now its first cooperative university—offers not just inspiration but direction. The university must rise to this moment by being accessible, innovative, and impact-driven, fostering leadership at every level of the movement. The foundation has been laid; it is now time to build an institution worthy of the vision it represents—one that will educate, empower, and energize generations to come through the enduring power of cooperation—and ensure cooperatives build a better future for all.

Gen Z is not lost: They are evolving

SAKSHI SETHI

Every generation faces scepticism from the ones before it. “While the Silent Generation viewed the Baby Boomers as overly rebellious, the Boomers, in turn, criticised Millennials for being too entitled. Now, the torch has passed to Generation Z—and the narrative feels strikingly familiar. Some claim, ‘They're lost,’ while others remark, ‘They're addicted to their phones,’ or ‘They lack a strong work ethic.’ But as we dig deeper beyond the surface-level criticism and viral TikTok, a different picture begins to emerge—the one that reveals resilience, reimagined and evolution.

It is irrefutable that Gen Z is not lost—rather they are simply not following the traditional blueprint. They are adapting to the rapidly changing world, questioning outdated systems and are carving out new definitions of success, happiness and purpose. One of the most notice-

able shifts Gen Z is bringing is how they approach careers.

While earlier generations often defined success through stability, job security and upward mobility in traditional careers, Gen Z—on the other hand—is redefining it through flexibility, purpose and creative freedom. Consider the story of a young founder who, at just 19, made the bold decision to leave behind a world-class university to build a 10-minute grocery delivery startup in India with his friend. By their early twenties, they had turned their vision into a billion-dollar enterprise. This isn't just a tale of success—it's a powerful example of how this generation chooses innovation over tradition, ownership over conformity and purpose over prestige.

Today's young generation is redefining what success looks like. A popular educator and entrepreneur who connects with them regularly on social media has noticed a powerful shift—they're not chasing titles or just pay cheques.

They're searching for meaning. They crave impact. And they're not afraid to take risks—be it switching careers, freelancing or launching side hustles—all in pursuit of something greater.

This isn't aimlessness; it's evolution. In a world that's constantly changing, adaptability is a strength. Gen Z isn't lost—they're leading the way. They're daring to challenge the norm, break boundaries and build a future that reflects their values. And the world would be wise to pay attention.

Critics often blame Gen Z for being “glued to screens.” While it's true they spend significant time online, it's essential to understand how they use this digital fluency to their advantage. Across the world, young digital creators are doing more than entertaining—they're sparking conversations about mental health, self-awareness, and everyday struggles.

They're using platforms like YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Substack not

just to share content, but to build meaningful communities and careers. Gen Z is shattering the myth that digital spaces are shallow. They're showing us that influence can come from being real, that connection can be built through honesty, and that success doesn't need to follow the old rules. If Millennials were labelled “woke,” Gen Z is “fiercely awake.” They are more politically and socially active than any previous generation at their age. Whether it's climate change, gender rights, racial justice or digital privacy, Gen Z doesn't just talk—they organise, protest and innovate.

Today, many Gen Z learners are exploring alternative education through gap years, digital bootcamps and self-taught skills. The pandemic accelerated this trend, proving that knowledge is no longer confined to classrooms or textbooks. Gen Z is more open-minded and inclusive than any generation before them.

Conversations around

gender identity, sexuality, body image, caste and neurodiversity are far more visible and empathetic. Even within classrooms and friend circles, Gen Z is less judgemental and more accepting of differences. Schools and colleges are beginning to support LGBTQ+ clubs, mental health societies, and diversity campaigns—some of which are often led by the students themselves.

There is no denying that every generation redefines what it means to live a meaningful life. Gen Z is doing just that—be it climate crises, pandemics, automation or global upheavals. Instead of sticking to outdated systems, they are evolving to survive and thrive in a world that is rapidly changing. Yes, they challenge norms—because those norms are not always fair or inclusive. Gen Z may not be walking the path we expected—but they're building a new road. And the world would do well to follow their lead.

(The author is an educator. Views are personal)

The new rules of global trade

SANTHOSH MATHEW

In the world of economics and global finance, leaders are expected to act like chess grandmasters—calculating moves, predicting ripple effects, and maintaining balance. However, U.S. President Donald Trump has never played by the conventional rulebook. Instead, he behaves more like a quark—an unpredictable, elementary particle that defies classical physics—shaking the very structure of global trade. His recent tariff decisions, especially the 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs and the astonishing rise of Chinese levies to 125 per cent, have sent shockwaves through financial markets, policymaking corridors, and diplomatic tables across the globe. The question looming large: is Trump's tariff medicine a masterstroke or a global economic blunder?

Trump's announcement of a 90-day pause with a lowered

reciprocal tariff of 10 per cent might seem like a temporary balm, but beneath the surface lies a geopolitical earthquake. For China, the world's manufacturing powerhouse, the 125 per cent duty effectively turns its goods radioactive in the US market. While some may see this as economic retaliation, others view it as the opening salvo of a prolonged trade war—a war where missiles are replaced by levies and stock exchanges.

Global markets didn't wait long to respond. From Wall Street to Shanghai, red arrows flashed on trading screens. The tariff tremors were felt in every major economy as investors scrambled to assess the long-term damage. The Dow dipped, the yuan trembled, and crude prices jolted. It wasn't just about Chinese toys or American soybeans anymore; it was about trust, stability, and the very framework of globalisation.

Trump's economic doctrine rests on one core belief—America

First. His logic is straightforward: if other countries impose high tariffs on American goods, then America must mirror them with equal or greater force. Hence, the idea of a “reciprocal tariff” was born. India, for example, was slapped with a 26 per cent import duty, justified by Trump's claim that India imposes over 50 per cent in combined tariffs and non-tariff barriers on American products.

But here's where the irony becomes poetic. While the US believes such actions are punitive, countries like India may benefit from this economic standoff. As American companies shift supply chains out of China to avoid the tariff trap, India emerges as a natural alternative. Its young workforce, improving infrastructure, and digital readiness position it as a promising destination for industries fleeing the dragon's grasp. Moreover, the trade war forces China to seek alternate markets for its products

and technology, and India—with its 1.4 billion people—cannot be ignored. But India must tread carefully. While it gains bargaining power in bilateral trade negotiations, it must protect its domestic industries from being flooded by surplus Chinese goods at slashed prices.

Trump's tariff gambit also rattles the World Trade Organisation, whose authority has already been waning. His actions, unilateral and swift, undermine the consensus-based global trading order. The WTO, conceived to prevent such economic warfare, now risks being reduced to a ceremonial relic. With Trump rewriting the rules, institutions built post-World War II, from Bretton Woods to Geneva—appear helpless. History, however, is not on Trump's side. In 1930, the US Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act tried similar protectionist measures, raising import duties on over 20,000 goods. The result? A deeper, longer Great

Depression. Again, in the 1970s, Nixon's 10 per cent import tax combined with the oil crisis led to stagflation—a toxic cocktail of inflation and unemployment. The lesson is clear: tariffs may protect in the short term but often punish in the long run.

Trump may believe he's

reviving Rust Belt factories and reclaiming lost manufacturing glory, but the economic universe doesn't work in isolation anymore. In a hyper-connected world, supply chains snake across borders, and a tariff on one nation boomerangs through ten others. The iPhone in your hand, assembled in China and designed in California, uses rare-earth elements from Africa and chips from Taiwan. You cannot tariff your way into prosperity without igniting unintended consequences.

Still, Trump remains undeterred. On 2 April, standing in the White House Rose Garden, he proclaimed “Liberation Day”,

unveiling his 185-country reciprocal tariff list, ranging from 10 per cent for Afghanistan to 50 per cent for Lesotho. He branded 15 nations as the “Dirty Fifteen”, allegedly commercial threats to America. India, ominously, ranks 11th on this list.

But here lies the paradox. Trump's erratic style may yet yield an unexpected dividend for India. As China and the US lock horns, India gains manoeuvring space. New export opportunities arise, investment redirections follow, and global attention shifts. But only if India plays its cards with finesse—balancing its ties with both economic giants, while strengthening internal capacity. The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) warns that arbitrary tariff hikes—whether incoming or outgoing—can corrode economic health.

After all, trade is not war. It is negotiation. It is mutual gain. It is diplomacy in spreadsheets.

Trump's tariff storm is not just an economic event, it is a political statement. It says America will no longer be the generous superpower underwriting the global economy. It will be transactional, like its president—a businessman who sees countries not as allies but as clients. Whether this quark-like behaviour will collapse the atom or reshape it is still unfolding. But one thing is sure: the world cannot afford to ignore Trump's tariffs. For India, the chaos brings opportunity. For China, it signals the need for recalibration. For the world, it is a reminder that the global economic order is far more fragile than we think. And as Trump tweets his next move, stock markets hold their breath.

(The writer is Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences, Pondicherry Central University, India. Views are personal)

Ayush Ministry to hold two-day homeopathic convention in Gujarat

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Ayush Ministry is set to hold a two-day homeopathic convention in Gujarat that will endorse traditional and complementary systems of medicine.

The event, to be held on the occasion of World Homeopathy Day, will be inaugurated by Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge).

Organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush, the convention will be jointly hosted by the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), the National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH), and the National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH) on April 10-11, at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar.

The theme this year is 'Education, Practice, and Research'. It "highlights



the three foundational pillars for the growth of Homeopathy," said the Ministry.

The event is expected to witness participation from about 10,000 delegates from across the globe, making it the largest gathering in the history of homeopathy.

"The aim of World Homeopathy Day 2025 is to strengthen global access to homeopathic research advancements, its practical applications,

and its growing impact in both healthcare and industry," the Ministry said.

"The convention will not only cater to academics and researchers but will also bring together policymakers and industry experts on one unified platform," it added.

The event will also hold India's largest-ever "Live Materia Medica" competition and organise separate, thought-provoking sessions by the three col-

laborating organisations for exhaustive deliberations.

"This year's celebration will witness the largest representation from the education sector, paving the way for future generations of homeopathy professionals. We will also use the platform to sensitise the students about the new courses introduced by NCH," Dr. Pinakin N. Trivedi, Chairperson-in-Charge, NCH.

The event will provide a monumental platform for homeopathy to celebrate, collaborate, and chart the course for the future of traditional medicine.

With being home to the WHO's first Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, this large-scale event will further position Gujarat as a frontrunner in endorsing traditional and complementary systems of medicine, the Ministry said.

US researchers develop simple blood test to predict preeclampsia during pregnancy

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of US researchers has developed a simple blood test that can predict preeclampsia -- a serious pregnancy complication characterised by high blood pressure.

Preeclampsia, which occurs usually after 20 weeks of gestation, is a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality as well as preterm birth.

Despite the use of general maternal characteristics to identify pregnant women at increased risk for preeclampsia, rates of the disease have nearly doubled in the last decade.

The new blood test, which uses RNA signatures, showed that it can identify the risk of preeclampsia in 91 per cent of pregnancies.

"By the time a patient is symptomatic, it's a race against the clock to try to get the baby to term and not risk the mother's



truly at high risk and we need better tools. This preeclampsia risk prediction test can now improve risk assessment, helping women and their care teams be informed and take actions with the potential to delay the onset of or prevent the disease," Rood added.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, demonstrates that relying on molecular signals from the underlying biology is far more effective in determining whether the risk of preeclampsia is high or low.

To develop the blood test, the team used data from more than 9,000 pregnancies within the multi-centre prospective study to discover and validate RNA signatures capable of distinguishing between severe and mild hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia, months before symptoms occur.

health," said Dr. Kara Rood, a maternal-foetal medicine physician, one of the principal investigators of the study at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Centre.

The new test could identify the risk, months ahead of symptoms, in women aged over 35 and without pre-existing high-risk conditions.

It could predict preeclampsia early, at 17.5 to 22 weeks gestational age, in pregnancies without any pre-existing high-risk conditions.

Those with a low-risk result have a 99.7 per cent probability of not developing preterm preeclampsia.

"Current guidelines are not helping us identify which patients are

Eating only during daytime may prevent heart problems due to night shift: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

While shift work is a known risk factor for cardiovascular events, a new study on Tuesday showed that eating only during the daytime may prevent the risks.

Sleep timing has been a major area of focus, but researchers from Mass General Brigham, US, and the University of Southampton, UK, stated that food timing could be a bigger risk factor when it comes to cardiovascular health.

Previous studies have shown that working the night shift is associated with serious health risks, including to the heart, due to circadian misalignment -- the mistiming of our behavioural cycle relative to our internal body clock.

The researchers found that cardiovascular risk factors including autonomic nervous system markers, plasminogen



activator inhibitor-1 (which increases the risk of blood clots), and blood pressure increased after night work.

However, the risk factors stayed the same in the participants who only ate during the daytime.

"Avoiding or limiting eating during nighttime hours may benefit night workers, those who experience insomnia or sleep-wake disorders, individuals with variable sleep/wake cycles, and people who travel frequently across time zones," said the team, in the paper,

published in the journal Nature Communications.

The study included 20 healthy young participants. For two weeks they had no access to windows, watches, or electronics that would clue their body clocks into the time.

The participants followed a "constant routine protocol," a controlled laboratory setup that can tease apart the effects of circadian rhythms from those of the environment and behaviours (for example, sleep/wake, light/dark

patterns).

During this protocol, the participants stayed awake for 32 hours in a dimly lit environment, maintaining constant body posture and eating identical snacks every hour.

After that, they participated in simulated night work and were assigned to either eat during the nighttime (as most night workers do) or only during the daytime.

Importantly, both groups had an identical schedule of naps, and, thus, any differences between the groups were not due to differences in sleep schedule.

"Our study controlled for every factor that you could imagine that could affect the results, so we can say that it's the food timing effect that is driving these changes in the cardiovascular risk factors," said lead author Sarah Chellappa, an associate professor at the University of Southampton.

NITI Aayog to conduct workshop to boost assistive tech in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Tuesday said it will conduct a workshop to boost assistive technology in India.

The one-day workshop, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, will be held on the theme "Developing Ecosystem for Assistive Technology in India" on Wednesday in Pune.

Assistive technology includes devices, software, and equipment that are designed to help people with disabilities maintain, increase, or improve their functional capabilities.

"The requirement for assistive devices and products in India is becoming critical, given the rising number of persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons who have chronic health conditions. These assistive devices and products enhance their quality of life and help



develop a more equitable and inclusive society," Niti Aayog said.

The country has taken significant strides in making technological advancements and a vibrant start-up ecosystem, which promises an immense potential for India to become an assistive technology manufac-

turing hub not only for meeting domestic demand but also cater to other countries.

The workshop is expected to witness participation from around 200 delegates. It will provide a platform for different stakeholders, such as senior officials in the Central and State Governments, Inter-

national organisations, research organisations, and assistive technology industry or startups to deliberate upon the present and future scenario of assistive technology in India.

It will provide suggestions for developing an ecosystem for promoting assistive technology in the country.

The workshop will also have deliberations on the themes, of improving access to assistive technology in India, State initiatives in assistive technology, assistive technology manufacturing, and global collaborations.

The suggestions and deliberations of the workshop will contribute towards formulating a framework for developing an ecosystem for assistive technology in India and true implementation of 'leaving no one behind' and building an inclusive society, the Niti Aayog said.

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver: Causes, Symptoms & Ways to Prevent the Silent Epidemic

According to a report released on World Health Day, observed annually on April 7, fatty liver disease, once primarily associated with alcohol consumption, has emerged as a silent epidemic. Among 257,199 individuals screened, 65% were found to have the condition, with 85% of them being non-alcoholic.

What is Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)?

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) affects individuals who consume little to no alcohol. It is caused by the accumulation of fat in the liver. Obese or overweight individuals are most likely to be diagnosed with NAFLD.

NAFLD ranges in severity from hepatic steatosis, also known as fatty liver, to a more severe form called Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH). NASH leads to liver inflamma-



tion and damage due to fat deposits. Severe NASH may cause scarring of the liver, known as cirrhosis, and can even result in liver cancer.

According to a report released on World Health Day, observed annually on April 7, fatty liver disease, once primarily associated with alcohol consumption, has emerged as a silent epidemic. Among 257,199 individuals screened, 65% were found to have the condition, with 85% of

them being non-alcoholic.

Symptoms of NAFLD

NAFLD often presents with no obvious symptoms. The recent health report emphasized the need to move towards a preventive healthcare model, rather than seeking medical intervention only after symptoms appear.

Some symptoms to watch for include:

Fatigue
Pain and discomfort in the upper right side of the

abdomen

According to the Mayo Clinic, possible symptoms of NASH and cirrhosis (severe scarring) include:

Itchy skin
Abdominal swelling (ascites)
Shortness of breath
Swelling of the legs
Spider-like blood vessels just beneath the skin's surface
Enlarged spleen
Red palms
Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)

What Causes NAFLD?

While the exact cause of fat buildup in the liver is unknown, both NAFLD and NASH are linked to several factors:

Genetics
Overweight or obesity
Insulin resistance (when your cells don't take up sugar in response to insulin)
Type 2 diabetes (high blood sugar)
High levels of fats in the blood, especially triglycerides

Maternal diabetes may raise babies' risk of autism, ADHD: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A large study of 56.1 million pregnancies, published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology on Tuesday, has reinforced the link between maternal diabetes and the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Researchers from the Central South University in China conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 202 studies, involving 56,082,462 mother-child pairs.

The results showed that maternal diabetes was associated with increased risks of all types of neurodevelopmental disorders as well as lower intelligence and psychomotor scores.

Children exposed to maternal diabetes had an increased risk of any neurodevelopmental disorder



including autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, intellectual disability, specific developmental disorders, communication disorder, motor disorder, and learning disorder, compared with unexposed children.

"Maternal diabetes is associated with an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders and impaired neurodevelopmental performance in children," said the researchers.

Maternal diabetes which includes both pre-gestational diabetes (also

known as preexisting diabetes) and gestational diabetes -- high blood sugar during pregnancy -- has become increasingly prevalent, affecting millions of pregnancies worldwide.

The global prevalences of pre-gestational diabetes and gestational diabetes have also steadily increased over the past four decades, with pre-gestational diabetes affecting about 2.4 per cent and gestational diabetes affecting 27.6 per cent of pregnancies worldwide.

Obesity and metabolic syndrome -- a cluster of

conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, excess abdominal fat, and abnormal cholesterol levels -- are known to be the major drivers.

Besides negative impacts such as caesarean section, macrosomia (excessive birth weight), and neonatal jaundice, affecting both mothers and neonates, previous studies have shown maternal diabetes might alter foetal brain development.

Notably, pre-gestational diabetes was more strongly associated with the risk of most neurodevelopmental disorders in children than gestational diabetes.

The findings also emphasise "the importance of proactive interventions for women at risk of developing diabetes and continuous monitoring of children with a history of in-utero exposure to maternal diabetes", the researchers added.

Baaghi expresses concern over unbridled rising prices of domestic LPG gas, essential commodities

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

AAP Leader & Social Activist Gurmeet Singh Baaghi criticized central government for once again burdening the common people of the country by increasing the price of domestic LPG cylinders by Rs 50. The prices of all the essential commodities have skyrocketed. This Rupees fifty hike in cooking gas comes at a time when families across the country are already reeling under inflation and job losses. In contrast, the government has cut subsidies drastically, forcing poor & middle-class families to pay full prices. The prices of essential commodities are increasing with every passing day as the Government are failed to control it. Price

hike of Commodities of daily use is very unfortunate for people belonging to lower and middle class. The uncontrolled hike in the prices of the essential commodities has added a heavy burden to the common people. Country never seen this type of situation ever before. Inflation is one of the major problems of the common man with the prices of commodities of the daily use soaring high. Inflation had made the common man very difficult and the worst thing is when the food items get dearer, one is compelled to stretch oneself beyond one's capacity to the necessities to one's family. In such circumstances the poor continue in their state of poverty but the repercussions on the middle class are high in the form



of their meagre saving or even incurring debts. The worst hit is the fixed income groups like salaried people, labour class, traders, small business owners, pensioners etc. For them even the commodities of basic necessities like wheat, pulses, grains, vegetables etc are getting out of reach. Every increase in price disturbs their budgets. Inflation of food prices directly

impacts the quality of nutrition available and hence the health of the human resource of the nation with a major chunk of the family income, being used up to run the kitchen. There is a severe cut down on the fund available for other important functions like the education of the children. The government has on several occasions pointed to the international rates of crude oil when questioned about the fuel & Gas price hike. Now the international rates have dropped then why the rates have not been slashed?

Baaghi said that this is the Government responsibility to ensure availability of essential commodities at cheaper rates and the government should make arrangement for supply of these items. This increase

in price is causing anxiety amongst the people of India. Prices of everything are sky-rocketing, even of the essential commodities like gas, pulses, sugar, edible oil, tea, food grains, petrol etc. Price rise affects different people differently. Poor people who are unable to purchase even essential commodities due to the sky rocketing rise of prices. The government failed to control the inflation and the Union Government did not take any concrete action to control inflation. People from all walks of society are unhappy with the performance of the Government. He demanded an immediate roll back of the LPG price hike and reinstatement of subsidies for poor and lower and middle income households.

SIBA organizes Free Health Checkup Camp at Peer Baba Darbar, Mukhu Mara Shrine



J I NEWS SERVICE
KARALIYA, APRIL 14

On the auspicious occasion of the Peer Baba Darbar Mukhu Mara Shrine pilgrimage, SIBA Event Management and Innovations Cooperative Ltd. successfully organized "Ek Pahal" - a Free Multispeciality Health Camp at Village Karaliya, Panchayat Chak Salaria.

Sewadar Ginnu Baba ji (gurmeet singh) Guru ji yashpal , malkit singh , joyt singh .

The camp, held from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, witnessed an overwhelming response from villagers and devotees who had gathered for the shrine pilgrimage. Hundreds of people availed themselves of the opportunity to receive

free health checkups and medicines, making it a significant initiative in promoting rural healthcare.

This year also marks a special milestone as SIBA celebrates 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, reaffirming its commitment to community welfare and development through cooperative initiatives.

Jammu Club celebrates Baisakhi with Traditional Fervour, Festive Grandeur

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Jammu Club came alive with vibrant colours, joyous music, and traditional spirit as it celebrated the festival of Baisakhi with grandeur and enthusiasm within its beautifully adorned premises. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Club members and their families, making it a truly memorable evening of cultural richness and celebration.

Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Vice President of the Club, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Extending his warm Baisakhi greetings to all present, he appreciated the tireless efforts of the Club Secretary and the Managing Committee for organizing such a magnificent and culturally immersive celebration.

To mark the occasion, the Club was transformed into a vibrant Punjabi Village, with stunning thematic décor that transported guests to the heart of Punjab. The beats of the dhol, rustic decorations, and traditional flair filled the air with festive excitement. Selfie points set up across the venue added to the joyous ambiance, allowing members to capture beautiful memories with their loved ones.

The cultural program was a visual delight. A lively dance performance by Shaniya, a talented artist from Jammu, infused the atmosphere with energy and enthusiasm. The Cultural Academy troupe enthralled the audience with a powerful Bhangra performance, followed by melodious Dogri songs that resonated with the spirit of the region.

A special note of appre-



ciation was extended to the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for their contribution in facilitating the participation of talented artists significantly enriched the cultural vibrance of the evening.

The evening was brilliantly anchored by Rajni, whose engaging style, vibrant energy, and interactive games added a whole new dimension to the celebration. Keeping children in

mind, the event featured a variety of fun-filled activities including camel and horse rides, games, and entertainment zones. The evening was complemented with the delightful taste of traditional Dogri and Punjabi cuisine, making it a complete cultural experience.

Secretary Gaurav Gupta, in his address, extended warm Baisakhi greetings to all members and expressed heartfelt joy on celebrating the

Foundation Day of Jammu Club, which was established on 13th April 1978.

He remarked, "Today is not only a festival but a historic day for all of us. On behalf of the entire Managing Committee, I pay humble tributes to all the Patrons, Presidents, Vice Presidents, Hony. Secretaries, and Managing Committee members who have contributed to the Club's journey over the decades. We walk in their footsteps today, com-

mitted to carrying forward their vision and legacy with pride."

During the vote of thanks, Gaurav Gupta expressed deep gratitude to the Divisional Commissioner and all esteemed guests for their gracious presence. He acknowledged the invaluable contribution of Er. Pooja Kohli, Chairperson of the Entertainment Sub-Committee, as well as Dr. Ritesh Gupta, Er. Vasundhra Sharma, Ashwani Gupta, Vikram Dhawan and the dedicated Club staff whose collective efforts made the evening a grand success.

Prominent members present on the occasion included K.K. Khosa, former Secretary, along with Managing Committee members Er. Ashok Gandotra, Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, Mrs. Kavita Gupta, Dr. Hema Gandotra Jandial, Mrs. Indu Puri and Mr. Sidharth Samnotra

Ambedkar considered education as most powerful tool for social change: Balbir Ram



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP and former Vice Chairperson, said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar considered education as the most powerful medium for social change and worked towards ensuring equal rights for every citizen of the country.

He was discussing the life of Dr. Ambedkar in a meeting with senior workers of the BJP SC Morcha.

Balbir stated that Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that education was the force that could lead marginalized sections of society towards justice, equality, and dignity. He himself faced social discrimination and injustice in his life, but through the power of education, he overcame it and proved that there is no greater weapon than education.

He once said, "Education is the weapon through which you can win the world."

Balbir said that Dr. Ambedkar laid special

emphasis on the education of Dalits, backward classes, and women, asserting that until every section of society gets equal opportunities, true democracy cannot be established. Not only through his ideas but also through institutions he established, he contributed to the spread of education. After receiving higher education from Columbia University and the London School of Economics, he returned to India and got involved in social reforms. He opened schools for Dalit children and arranged scholarships. Balbir Ram Rattan further said that even today, Dr. Ambedkar's views on education remain a source of inspiration. His ideas have become even more relevant in today's time when making education inclusive and accessible is more important than ever.

Senior BJP SC Morcha activists including Gulshan Bhagat, K.K. Diga, Hans Raj Loria, Lokesh Kumar Bhagat, S.K. Rana, and Yashpal Shivgotra were present in the meeting.

JKPDP pays rich floral tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar

J I NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, APR 14

Senior PDP leaders Narinder Sharma and Karan Singh along with other prominent leaders and workers today paid rich floral tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Panchayat Kotli Shah Doula, RS Pura constituency. Popularly known as one of the architects of India constitution, Narinder paying tributes said that born into a poor Dalit family on April 14, 1891, BR Ambedkar was independent India's first Law Minister, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a founding father of the Republic of India. He also campaigned against the social discrimination of Dalits and inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement in 1956. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990, said Narinder.

Narinder further said that our nation's icon and Chief Architect of the Constitution, he strived for a society based on justice and equity. Let us all take inspiration from his vision and values, and resolve to imbibe his ideals in our lives," he said. The champion of social justice will always be remembered for his untiring efforts to



emancipate the underprivileged and downtrodden." His work & life are reflected in the robust transformational Constitution & strong democracy we have. In his words, "Our Constitution is not only a political or legal document but also an emotional, cultural and social contract, added Narinder.

Narinder, while paying floral tributes to Baba Sahib, said that he devoted himself towards the cause of freedom of India from British and at the same time he fought bravely for inducing "Samrasta" in the society. He said that Baba Sahib will remain as a source of inspiration to all of us for centuries and India can never forget his great contributions. Baba Sahib used his education to spearhead the cause of equality, fraternity and liberty and everybody should follow his example. The great legal luminary has left an indelible mark by his remarkable service to the nation and ameliorating the lot of down trod-

den and weaker segments of the society, added Narinder.

Karan Singh while remembering Dr Ambedkar, said that Baba Sahib was not just a dalit leader but a true visionary who dared to re-imagine and re-cast social relations and its structures of hierarchy into a more democratic and progressive system. He said the best homage can be paid to Baba Sahib by respecting our constitution and implementing it in true spirit. He said Ambedkar's vision of democracy and equality was closely related to good society, rationality and the scientific outlook. He said his contribution to nation is immense as he was a great votary of creating a class less society. He said that Dr Ambedkar had sent a message that oppression and discrimination in the society will not end magically. He believed that it had to be defeated through democratic struggle and participating in parliamentary democracy.

Nandraaz Temple Trust Ashmuji organizes 2-day Maha Yagya in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

The displaced Kashmiri Pandits organized a Maha Yagya with immense reverence and devotion dedicated to Shri Nandraaz ji (Nundkeshwar Bhairav) on the occasion of Vaishak's commencement in the capital city of Jammu, for the welfare of Sanatan dharma.

The two-day long Yagya was organized by Shri Nandraaz Prabandik Trust Ashmuji at Swami Mahesh Bharti Ashram in Lower Roonnagar, starting on Purnamashi and concluding on Baisakhi.

Over 300 members of the village Bharadari, along with their extended families, including married daughters participated and partook in Navdham bhooj.

Amidst the chanting of mantras and shlokas, the Yagya, presided over by Guru Shri Pran Nath ji, was organized to pray for peace, progress, and prosperity of the community under the astute blessing of Bhairavnath Nandraaz ji.

A soulful Bhajan Sandhya was organized by Shri Hari Kirtan Adhyatmik Jagriti Mission under the leadership of its President, Dr J N Raina, with devotional singing by Basant Ji and



Shuban Raina Ji. The atmosphere resonated with spiritual energy as devotees swayed and danced with joy to the melodious recitation of shlokas and bhajans, fully immersed in the divine ambiance.

Postcard pictures of revered Shri Nandraaz ji and Mata Shiva Bhagwati were distributed among devotees along with Athoor and Atigut besides fruits to the village daughters.

Juice packs were distributed among devotees by Social Reform and Charitable organization in collaboration with Dabur India Ltd on the occasion of the Mahayagya.

The committee, headed by Shri Ramesh Bhat, decided to hold the Yagya and initiate the construction process for a temple and Bhawan dedicated to

the deity Shri Nandraaz ji.

General Secretary Shri Sanjay Bhat expressed gratitude to the Bharadari for wholeheartedly participating in the holy function and pledged to advance the mission.

Volunteers and office bearers of the Trust, including Mahesh Pandita, Suresh Pandita, Sunil Bhat, Raja Ji, Roop Krishen Bhat, Buntu Ji, Minto Ji, Rakesh Bhat, Chuni Lal Ji, Maharaj Krishen Ji, Sandeep Koul, Sunil Bhat, Anil Bhat, and Ashok Bhat Ji, worked diligently to ensure the success of the event.

The sacred two-day-long Shri Nandraaz ji Maha Yagya, organized by Shri Nandraaz Prabandik Trust Ashmuji, concluded with immense reverence and devotion on Baisakhi, marking the first day of Vaishak.

Handwara Police in collaboration with School Students hold Traffic Awareness Programs across district

J I NEWS SERVICE
HANDWARA, APRIL 14

In an effort to promote road safety and encourage responsible driving, the Handwara Police District organized a series of traffic awareness programs across various locations within the district. The events saw active participation from students from several schools, who played a key role in spreading awareness among the public.

The programs, conducted under the guidance of senior police officials, included awareness

rallies, the distribution of informative pamphlets, and interactive sessions focusing on traffic rules and regulations. Students, along with their teachers and local traffic police officers, engaged with commuters, highlighting the importance of wearing helmets, using seat belts, and refraining from using mobile phones while driving.

The initiative is aimed at fostering a culture of road safety among the youth and instilling a sense of shared responsibility for creating safer roads in Handwara.

Dr. Ambedkar's teachings relevance in today's social, political landscape: Tony

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Taranjit Singh Tony, senior political leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, paid rich floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary during a commemorative function held at Rajiv Nagar, Jammu. The event witnessed a gathering of local residents, party workers, and community leaders who came together to remember and reflect upon the timeless contributions of the architect of the Indian Constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, Tony emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's teachings remain more relevant than ever in today's political and social landscape. "Babasaheb's most powerful message to the



nation was to educate, agitate, and organize—a message we, as a society, have unfortunately forgotten," he remarked. He expressed concern over the declining awareness among citizens regarding their rights and responsibilities, especially the value of education and social unity.

Tony underlined that one of the greatest gifts Dr. Ambedkar gave to the common man was the right to vote, and warned that this sacred

right must never be sold in exchange for temporary allurements. "No power, no inducement should be allowed to snatch away your right to vote. It's not just your vote—it's the future of your children and generations to come," he stated passionately.

Addressing the pressing issue of the poor's suffering, Tony demanded the bifurcation of ration cards in Jammu and Kashmir. He argued that this would ensure that those who are deserving of government

benefits, especially the economically disadvantaged, are not left behind due to arbitrary divisions. "The government must act to facilitate the fair distribution of essential resources. Bifurcating ration cards will ensure that the benefits reach the rightful recipients," he asserted. Tony appealed to the people to stand united in safeguarding the democratic and social values enshrined by Dr. Ambedkar. "Paying tribute to Ambedkar is not just about garlanding his portrait, but walking the path he showed us—of justice, equality, and empowerment," he added.

The event concluded with a pledge to carry forward the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar through continued activism and public awareness.

CMH College of Legal Studies, Jammu, celebrates Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

CMH College of Legal Studies commemorated the 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by hosting an insightful seminar on "Constitutional Morality and Social Justice: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision for Modern India," emphasizing the foundational principles of India's democratic framework.

The event, presided over by College Chairman Choudhary Zulfikar Ali as Chief Guest, featured distinguished speakers Dr. Nitin Sharma from The Law School, University of Jammu and Dr. Kartika Bakshi, an academican and legal researcher, who explored Ambedkar's constitutional philosophy.

In his special address, Choudhary Zulfikar Ali,



urged students to emulate Dr. Ambedkar's dedication to learning, emphasizing how he would read for hours tirelessly. He encouraged students to draw inspiration from Ambedkar's life and contributions to nation-building.

Dr. Nitin Sharma ana-

lyzed how Ambedkar embedded constitutional morality as the cornerstone of India's democracy, citing landmark Supreme Court judgments that uphold these principles in contemporary jurisprudence.

Dr. Kartika Bakshi highlighted Ambedkar's fore-

sight in balancing social justice with constitutional governance, stressing that transparency rule of law are vital to sustaining democratic values.

The seminar saw active participation from students, with Mavish Khan anchoring the proceedings and Siya Mahajan, Aaliya Ali, Sufian Javed, and Noor ul Nisa presenting reflections on Ambedkar's legal and social reforms. An interactive session deepened the discourse on applying constitutional morality in modern challenges.

Maitree Jain, Administrative Officer, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the institution's dedication to Ambedkar's vision of an equitable and constitutionally conscious society.

DSJ presents Padmashri Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award 2025 to Brij Mohan

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

Dogri Sanstha Jammu presented the prestigious Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award-2025 to Brij Mohan, an eminent Dogri poet and music composer in a simple but an impressive function organized at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu. Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary in Department of culture, Government of UT of J & K was the Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, president Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function.

It is pertinent to add here that this award was started by Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with family members of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri in 2013 and thereafter this prestigious award is given to a Dogri writer for his first

book published for the last five years. The award carries a memento, shawl and a cash prize of Rs 21,000. So far noted litterateurs of Dogri, Shailender Singh, Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', Shakunt Deepmala, Sushel Begana, Pitambar Nath Sharma, Ashok Dutta, Colonel Raj Manawari, Ashok Anguarana, Ashok 'Ambar', Promila Manhas and Pawan Verma have the privilege being conferred upon this honour.

The Chief Guest Brij Mohan Sharma while congratulating the eminent music composer and poet of the soil Brij Mohan said that he truly deserves this honour which is established in the honour of Padmashri Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, doyen of Dogri literature and often referred as father of Dogri literature. While recalling his colossal contributions in the promotion of mother tongue especially by found-



ing pioneer literary organization Dogri Sanstha, he has inspired many for our responsibilities towards our language and cultural traditions. He hoped that Sanstha will continue in its noble mission supported by all Dogras and the prestigious award constituted in the memory of the legend will continue inspiring the

writers to pen down more creative works but with a sense of belongingness to our cultural traditions.

Earlier while welcoming the gathering Prof. Lalit Magotra said that this award is given with the sole purpose of not only acknowledging the contributions of the dogri authors but also inspiring them to

contribute for preserving and promoting mother tongue Dogri and the contributions of Brij Mohan are immense. While recalling his long association with Dogri Sanstha as an active member, poet and music composer he said that he was the first person who composed Dogri Ghazals which became very popu-

lar. He further added that the enthusiasm of the litterateurs participating in the process is appreciable and like in the past this year also Sanstha got quite a good number of books. However the consolidated decision of Jury went in favour of Brij Mohan for his collection of poetry 'MANE DE AAHLE'. On this occasion, the awardee Brij Mohan also shared his literary as well as music journey and recited his poem written on Padmashri Prof. Ram Nath Shastri. Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu read a citation on his works and also presented vote of thanks. The proceedings were conducted by Pawan Verma. A number of litterateurs, Dogri lovers, family members of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, Ajeet Khajuria, Dinesh Khajuria and family members of Brij Mohan participated in the ceremony.

Dr. Ambedkar got true honour during Modi govt: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

A series of transformative steps has been taken under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership that have given true honour to Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision and ideals.

Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this while addressing a massive gathering at Akhnoor town, along with local MLA and prominent leaders.

Sat Sharma CA said that although Congress was in power at the centre for decades together after independence but unfortunately Dr. Ambedkar did not get due recognition for his services to the nation during all these years. It was only under the Modi government that a concerted national effort was made to institutionalize his memory and ideals. Prime Minister Modi has often

stated that Babasaheb's life was devoted to the upliftment of the marginalized and that honouring him means ensuring dignity, opportunity, and justice for every Indian.

Sat Sharma CA said that a landmark initiative has been the development of the "Panchteerth" – five key places associated with Ambedkar's life, now developed into national monuments.

These include his birthplace in Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), the place of his education in London, Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur, Mahaparinirvan Sthal in Delhi, and Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai. These sites have been beautified, developed with modern infrastructure, and promoted as national pilgrimage destinations for followers and admirers of Babasaheb. Modi government has also declared April 14 as national holiday.

DDC Member, Adv Dev Raj pay floral tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar

JINNEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, APR 14

BJP DDC Member Vidya Motton, senior BJP leader Adv Dev Raj Sharma along with prominent dignitaries today paid floral tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Miran Sahib, RS Pura constituency. Speaking on the occasion Motton, said, "This is a very special day for all of us. It's the birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar, who is the architect of our constitution and who brought about a complete social transformation. His message continues to be as valid today as it was when he was drafting the Indian Constitution."

Motton exhorted the present day politicians should emulate the ideology of Ambedkar for the economic uplift of the downtrodden and underprivileged in society. She said PM Modi Govt has implemented several schemes for the empowerment of SCs and STs in the country during its 10 year rule. The BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre has done a lot for welfare of Dalits during its 10-month rule, she said. She recalled the contributions of Ambedkar for the uplift of the downtrodden. As long as there was dis-



crimination and injustice against the downtrodden in society, the life and fighting of Ambedkar would continue to inspire people to fight against all sorts of discrimination, Motton added.

Adv Dev Raj Sharma paying his respects to the father of Indian Constitution said that, it is time to reaffirm the ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice, which he truly championed. Social transformation is the foundation for any progress. His life and actions have been a source of inspiration for crores all over the world. On his birth anniversary, we celebrate the legacy of the man who gave India her Constitution," Sharma said.

Sharma further said it was due to his efforts that the country got such a Constitution, in whose preamble there was the

mantra for the strength of the country. "Babasaheb gave the blueprint of nation building based on the ideas of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, self-respect and unity and integrity of the country these are our basic strengths," he said. "The people will always remember Baba Saheb for giving the country best Constitution of the world", he said.

Various forces are attacking these values which have been acquired from history", Sharma said, adding that "they are weakening the Constitution". "In the honour of Babasaheb, we all have to stand firm and defend the Constitution and the values enshrined in it," he said. He said that the life of Ambedkar is proof of the philosophy of encountering obstacles with self-confidence. He said that Ambedkar

is a universal man who reached the heights of success with his broad thinking without getting stuck in self-deprecation and vulnerability.

Sharma observed that Ambedkar was a global intellectual who removed the prejudices prevailing in society with the light of knowledge. "Respected Babasaheb's life is a shining example of the human soul's triumph over repression, as well as a trumpet appeal for justice for the impoverished and downtrodden and ensuring basic constitutional rights of each and everyone," he said. "Let us all follow the ideals and mandates of the Constitution respecting the constitutional office / Institutions created under it, for our Nation to achieve the glory of her yore days," Sharma added.

Women playing vital role in disseminating NC's policies at grass roots level: Luthra

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA APRIL 14

A one-day women's convention was successfully organized at Village Govindsar in District Kathua. The Convention was organized by Ms Koshar Parveen District President Kathua Women Wing. Mrs Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing was the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering Mrs Bimla Luthra lauded the role of women in disseminating the party's policies and vision effectively. She reiterated that the present government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains steadfast in its commitment to Women empowerment, ensuring their active participation in the decision-making process. She assured the Women workers that all local concerns raised during the convention would be taken up by the party high command.

Mrs Bimla Luthra said that the achievements of Omar led Government in a short span of five months. "Women have received unprecedented attention with initiatives like free travel in government buses, enhancement of Girls



marriage assistance Rs 50000/= to Rs 75,000/=, free 200 power units for AAY families, 10 kg free ration per person, per month for AAY families etc. These steps reflect the NC Government's commitment to women empowerment," she added.

In her welcome address, Ms Koshar Parveen expressed heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Bimla Luthra and all the dignitaries for their

presence and support. She highlighted key local demands and issues concerning women and rural development, urging the party leadership to take these forward. She also laid out a proactive roadmap for the upcoming panchayat and urban local bodies polls, encouraging women to participate in democratic processes with strength and unity.

Those who were present included: Joginder

Kour District Vice President Women Wing Jammu Urban, Sapna Block President Jammu East Women Wing, K.K Bakshi District Secretary National Conference, Suresh Sharma District Vice President, J.P Singh Block President, Shakeel Ahmed Tony Block President, Ashu Rajput District President Women Wing Kathua Rural, Anju Sharma Senior District Vice President, Vijay Padha and others.

Congress failed Ambedkar, BJP fulfilling his dream of social equity: Kavinder

J I NEWS SERVICE

HIRANAGAR, APRIL 14

Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta today paid heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary during a function held at Village Mareen, Hiranagar in district Kathua.

On the occasion, Adv Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar Constituency, Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, District President Updesh Andotra, Col Mahan Singh DDC Chairman, Karan Attri DDC Member, Mukesh Padha Mandal President, Rajinder Bakshi Vice President

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta lauded Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a relentless crusader for social justice.

The former deputy Chief Minister took a criti-



cal stance against the Congress party, accusing it of historically sidelining Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. "For decades, the Congress failed to give Dr. Ambedkar the recognition he deserved, often marginalizing his contributions to our nation's foundation," he stated. He emphasized that it was only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Dr. Ambedkar's vision has been earnestly honored and integrated into national policy.

The senior BJP leader highlighted several initiatives by the Modi government aimed at pre-

serving and promoting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. He noted the establishment of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, envisioned as a hub for research and dialogue on social justice and empowerment. Additionally, he mentioned the development of the "Panch Teerth," five key sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar's life, transformed into places of pilgrimage to inspire future generations.

Kavinder also referenced welfare schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, focusing on providing affordable

housing to marginalized communities, reflecting Dr. Ambedkar's vision of dignity for all. "The Modi government's actions are not mere symbolism; they are a testament to our commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's dream of an equitable society," he asserted.

MLA Kathua, Bharat Bhushan, in his address, emphasized the importance of embracing Dr. Ambedkar's teachings in contemporary governance and praised the Modi government's efforts in bringing social reforms that align with Ambedkarite principles. He also highlighted initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens.

MLA Hiranagar, Adv Vijay Sharma called upon people and youth to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and work towards building a more inclusive and just India.

SC Department JK Congress celebrates Bhim Jayanti at Bahu Fort

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 14

A grand program was organized at Bahu Fort today under the chairmanship of Dewan Chand, District Chairman of the SC Department, J&K Congress, to celebrate Bhim Jayanti with great enthusiasm and reverence. The event was graced by several prominent Congress leaders including Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman of the OBC Department, J&K PCC Shamsher Bhagat Vice Chairman SC Dept JKPC; Smt. Minu Jamwal, Chairperson of the Ladies Wing (K.K.C. Congress J&K); Smt. Reeta Kumari, former Corporator; Smt. Satya Devi; P.C. Sagotra; Ram Lal Sagotra; Dev Khokhar; H.L. Chalotra; Mangat Ram; Purab Chand; Deep Kumar, and others. The gathering paid floral trib-



utes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, honoring his monumental role in drafting the Indian Constitution and his lifelong struggle for the rights of the marginalized. Speakers emphasized the importance of Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, peaceful assembly, and free movement, calling them the cornerstones of democracy and reflective

of Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision of an inclusive and just society. They urged the youth to understand and uphold these constitutional values to preserve liberty and equality. Dewan Chand addressed the ongoing atrocities faced by marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir and called for urgent administrative and legal action. Madan Lal Chalotra, in his speech, demanded the immediate

implementation of a caste census at the national level and a caste-based survey in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure accurate representation and social justice. The event concluded with a collective pledge to carry forward Dr. Ambedkar's mission of equality, social justice, and empowerment, reaffirming the Congress party's dedication to the principles of secularism, democracy, and inclusive development.

'The ChatterBox' celebrates two years, inaugurates new office in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 14

The ChatterBox, a popular infotainment platform celebrated for its vibrant blend of entertainment and cultural storytelling, marked a major milestone today by celebrating its second anniversary alongside the grand inauguration of its new office in Jammu.

The inauguration ceremony was a festive gathering, graced by an illustrious array of personalities from Jammu's cultural, artistic, and media circles. The ribbon-cutting was performed by Padmashree Balwant Thakur, Former Cultural Diplomat of India to Mauritius and South Africa, along with Shubh Devi (grandmother of founder Shivam Singh) and Sushma Devi (his mother).

Mr. Shivam Singh, the visionary founder of The ChatterBox and a recipient of the prestigious National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, welcomed guests and reflected on the platform's journey.

Among the dignitaries present were senior artists, renowned theatre personalities, cultural activists, journalists, social media influencers, and youth icons, each lending their voice to the celebration of a platform that has rapidly evolved into a cultural force in the region. Notable attendees included Padmashree Balwant



Thakur, Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Sunita Pandit, Sunny Mujoo, Ravinder Singh, Akash Dogra, Deepak Singh, Irfan Nasrat Malik, Shabir Malik, Sahil Jerry, Abhimanyu Sharma, Karan Sharma, Kanhaiya Sharma, Sahil Beyal, and Ravi Raghuvanshi.

The event was further enlivened by captivating performances. Shivam Singh, Amit Singh Andotra, Anadhi, Ayush Sharma, Sidharth Sharma, Rajan Janyal, and Rohit Verma showcased their talents through powerful acts of theatre, magic, poetry, and stand-up comedy, offering a true taste of the platform's artistic diversity.

Over the past two years, The ChatterBox has carved a unique niche with its innovative approach to heritage exploration, storytelling, and grassroots engagement. With a mission to unearth the hidden gems of Jammu's culture and history, the platform has sparked a renewed

sense of pride and curiosity among the region's youth.

A central figure in this journey has been Ms. Meenakshi Bhagat, a fellow National Scholar, widely recognized as the backbone of the initiative. Her creative leadership and unwavering commitment have played a pivotal role in shaping the platform's identity and expanding its reach.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Shivam Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude for the continued support from the people of Jammu. "The ChatterBox is more than a media platform, it's a movement to rediscover our roots and amplify the unheard narratives of our land," he stated. He also acknowledged the crucial support received from Mohd. Yaseen, Rahul Singh, Rajat Mathur, Amit Andotra, Mahikshit Singh, and Anadhi, who have stood by him throughout the platform's journey, helping it grow from a vision into a vibrant reality.

DCC Srinagar pays floral tributes to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14, 2025.

District Congress Committee (DCC) Srinagar in a function held at Party Office paid floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and recollected his selfless services and sacrifices towards Nation Building, terming him a great statesman and visionary leader, who ensured protection of every section of the people enshrined in the Constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said that Babasaheb gave the Nation Constitution ensuring protection of rights of every citizen and community and also recollected his great emphasis over the importance of education in India.

Babasaheb laid emphasis over the transformative power of education, viewing it a crucial tool for social change and public empowerment, besides stating that education was essential for dismantling oppressive structure, achieving equality and fostering a progressive society.

Babasaheb advocated for the education of women and said educating women amounts to educating a family and the society as well. The Constitution guarantees protection of public rights reflecting the very foundation of democracy and democratic setup in the country, speakers added and said Congress Party shall continue to fight for safeguarding the constitution and won't allow BJP RSS to temper with it (Constitution).

Baba Saheb will always be remembered for his selfless services to the Nation, his leadership qualities and vision shall continue to inspire people leading them at the path of social services, unity and harmony, they said.

On this occasion, Congress Leaders hit out at self-proclaimed leaders for working against Party interests and urged the Party High Command to initiate strict disciplinary action against them. Those who make attempts to cause damage to the Party have no place in Congress, they added.

Rajeev Bhagat pays tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, celebrates 'Samrasta Diwas' in Bishnah

J I NEWS SERVICE

BISHNAH, APRIL 14

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, paid a heartfelt floral tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary. The commemorative event, held at Sant Shivmani Bhawan Chak Aitara and Budh Vihar Bishnah, was observed as 'Samrasta Diwas', emphasizing social unity and equality.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bhagat highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contributions to the nation, stating, "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is not just an icon for the Dalit community, but a beacon of inspiration for the entire nation. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of social equality and justice. As the architect of the Indian Constitution, he laid a robust and inclusive foundation for our country."

He further elaborated on the significance of celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary as 'Samrasta Diwas', noting, "It is crucial that we carry forward the ideals of social harmony that Dr. Ambedkar championed throughout his life. True homage to him lies in fostering unity and amity within our society."

The event witnessed the presence of numerous dignitaries who lauded Dr. Ambedkar's legacy and pledged to uphold his principles.

Ganesh Sharma's 'Synergy of Souls' Sculpture unveiled at Eco-Vista, Raika Park, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 15

Ganesh Kumar Sharma well known eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor's art work Sheesham Wood Sculpture titled "SYNERGY OF SOULS" has been Installed at "Eco - Vista" a State - of - the - Art

Museum at Raika Park Jammu. The artist want to express through this art work the bond we share with the mother earth. This Sheesham Wood Sculpture "Synergy of Souls" depicts the connection between the human and nature at the level of soul. It embodies unity, harmony and the essence of life i.e. two faces - one spirit.

"Eco Vista" has been developed as a state-of-the-art museum, by the Department of Ecology, Environment, and Remote Sensing, Jammu and Kashmir UT and dedicated to showcasing the rich, diverse and invaluable forest treasures of Jammu.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma senior Sculptor son of the soil is working for the promotion of art and culture from more than forty five years. On the inauguration



occasion, Javed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, J&K

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of Dalits and other marginalized sections of society, advocating for social equality, justice, and fraternity.

'Samrasta Diwas' serves as a tribute to Dr. Ambedkar's vision of a harmonious society. It is a day dedicated to promoting social equality and cohesion, aiming to foster unity and brotherhood among all citizens.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of citizens who reaffirmed their commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. The celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary as 'Samrasta Diwas' is a commendable initiative. It not only propagates his ideals but also reinforces the values of social unity and equality in our society.

His pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution is indelible. He incorporated special provisions to safeguard the interests

Indian Army celebrates Baisakhi in Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, RAJOURI & REASI-14 APR 2025

The Indian Army celebrated Baisakhi a significant festival marking the harvest season and the birth of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism at Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi Districts. The celebrations were held at various locations showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to fostering community bonds and promoting cultural awareness. A total of 240 locals and children



participated in the festivities, which included traditional dances, community prayers, and distribution of sweets. The event served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local populace, promoting love, unity and peace. By engaging with local com-

munities, the Indian Army aims to foster trust and cooperation, essential for peace and development in the region. The Baisakhi celebrations demonstrate the Indian Army's dedication to serving the nation and its people, extending beyond security duties to promote unity and development. This gesture was highly appreciated by the local population, who expressed gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in bringing the community together.

Committed to all round devp of Jasrota constituency by rendering selfless service: Jasrotia

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 14

The BJP Government at the Centre will leave no stone unturned for equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. This is evident from the fact that it is paying focused attention on equitable development besides welfare and prosperity of the people of this traumatized region. This was stated by former Minister and MLA Jasrota constituency Rajiv Jasrotia while interacting with residents at Panchyats Panchayat Bhorthain North & Jakhole. After giving them a patient hearing, he assured to get their grievances addressed at the earliest by taking up the same with the concerned authorities. He appealed to the people to further strengthen the hands of PM Narendra Modi for equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

On the occasion, Jasrota inaugurated and started development works worth 25 lacs at Panchayat Bhorthain North including lanes and inauguration of Shiv Mandir Jakhole in presence of BDO Barnoti Dheeraj, Mandal President Balwant Singh, Sarpanchs Shivdev Singh, Randeep Singh, Joginder Singh, Chagger Singh besides others. Jasrotia meanwhile also paid rich floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at different places. Jasrotia reiterated commitment to emulate the ideology of Ambedkar for the economic uplift of the downtrodden and underprivileged in society, adding PM Modi Govt has implemented several schemes for the empowerment of SCs and STs in the country during its 10 years rule. The BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre has done a lot for welfare of Dalits during its 10-month rule, he said.



Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia reiterated Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. He said that the Union Government is paying focused attention to Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and is determined to carry out developmental activities in every nook and corner of this sensitive region. Former Minister said that Narendra Modi led Government at the Centre

has prioritized the overall development of all the areas without any rural-urban or other discrimination. He said that cleanliness is the basic necessity to maintain optimum health of the people living in their area and proper sanitation is inevitable to augment the efforts towards cleanliness. He said that the Government will leave no stone unturned in ensuring the proper sanitation infrastructure like drains, etc along all the lanes and

roads.

Jasrotia highlighted the policies and initiatives undertaken by the Modi government in transforming Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the substantial progress made in infrastructure development, economic growth, and social upliftment. The government's efforts in improving connectivity through major projects, and implementing various welfare schemes have significantly contributed to the region's development, fostering a new era of opportunities and progress for its residents, he added.

Jasrotia said development which took place in J&K under BJP government led by PM Narendra Modi is matchless and every road, street, nook and corner of the UT speaks itself about the remarkable progress which this region has made after BJP took over the rein", he maintained, adding that people should

not shirk to approach BJP leadership for mitigating their problems as the party is always ready to serve people for ameliorating their hardships.

Jasrotia said that the situation in J&K has witnessed 180-degree change after the Modi Government took over the reins of the country because earlier the people were longing for peace and safety of life but today businesses have been flourishing and colossal development is in the offing as every nook and corner is witnessing the execution of new projects with rural areas also moving apace with their urban counterparts. He said that the BJP Government has created a strong pedestal for steering the UT of J&K towards pinnacle of development but the responsibility to make this dream a reality lies on the people, who are the real stakeholders, added Jasrotia.

Khatana attends 'Gaon Chalo' program in Dansal area



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, actively participated in the 'Gaon Chalo' program held in the Dansal area of Jammu district. During his visit, Khatana took part in a series of activities aimed at engaging with the local populace and assessing development initiatives on the ground.

As part of the program, Khatana led a Swachhata Abhiyan at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Dansal and paid a visit to the local veterinary dispensary. He also interacted with various beneficiaries of government schemes, ensuring their concerns and feedback were heard.

Er. Khatana visited the homes of prominent community leaders from the tribal and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, reflect-

ing his commitment to inclusive outreach. He also held a meeting at the residence of a local BJP booth president and participated in community rallies, walking shoulder-to-shoulder with the people.

During his interactions, residents voiced serious concerns regarding the poor condition of drinking water facilities in the region. They also demanded a thorough investigation into the newly constructed college building that reportedly developed cracks even before its official inauguration.

Responding to the grievances, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana urged concerned officials and departments responsible for providing basic amenities to visit the area and take immediate corrective measures to address public issues.

The visit highlighted the MP's ongoing commitment to grassroots development and accountability in administration.

Indian Battalion celebrates Medal Day Parade in UNIFIL with Grandeur, Dignity



JI NEWS SERVICE
UNIFIL HQ, LEBANON - 14 APR

The Indian Battalion currently deployed under the banner of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) marked a significant milestone today by hosting its Medal Day Parade, a formal ceremony honoring the service and dedication of its peacekeepers. A total of 821 Indian Army personnel were awarded the prestigious United Nations Medal for their exemplary commitment and contribution to peace and stability in the region.

The parade was led by Lt Col Vikas Sheoran, who commanded the ceremonial proceedings with precision and dignity, exemplifying the high standards of military leadership within the Indian Army.

The concept of the Medal Day Parade was introduced by the United Nations as a ceremonial tradition to recognize peacekeepers who complete a minimum of 90 days of continuous service in a UN mission area. Over time, it has evolved into a symbol of professionalism, commitment, and shared values among the international peacekeeping community.

In UNIFIL, this tradition is observed with pride and respect, reinforcing the unity of effort among troop-contributing countries and the host nation. The event was graced by an esteemed array of dignitaries, including HE Mr Mohd Noor Rehman Sheikh, Ambassador of India to Lebanon, the UNIFIL Sector East Commander, and a wide spec-

trum of civil and military guests, notably the Mayor of surrounding villages, representatives from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), State Security, General Security, and several key appointments from local community leadership and government departments.

The strong presence of civil representatives symbolized the deepening cooperation, mutual respect, and enduring bonds between the Indian Battalion and the local Lebanese communities—a reflection of India's long-standing commitment to global peacekeeping and diplomacy.

The highlight of the ceremony was a display of exceptional military drill and precision, showcasing the professionalism, discipline, and coordination that the Indian Army is globally renowned for.

The meticulously conducted parade not only reflected the high training standards of the contingent but also stood as a proud testament to India's military ethos. The Medal Day Parade served not only as a platform for recognition but also as a valuable opportunity for military leaders to engage with various Lebanese civil authorities and departmental heads, further strengthening mutual understanding and operational synergy between UNIFIL and local institutions.

As one of the largest troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions, India's role in UNIFIL continues to set benchmarks in professionalism, humanitarian outreach, and civil-military cooperation.

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



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 14 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 Bakkarwal communities at Kalakote, Rajouri District. 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 of strengthening bonds

with the local population and fostering a spirit of trust, inclusivity, and empowerment. By supporting the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, the Indian Army reaffirms its role not just as a protector but as a partner in the socio-economic development of the region. This effort promotes community engagement, encourages sustainability and contributes to enhanced safety during winters. Moreover, it helps in building a positive and secure environment, deterring susceptibility to radical ideologies and anti-national elements. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its dual mission ensuring national security while also uplifting the quality of life for the communities it serves across the country.

Delegation of JKCLUF meets Javed Ahmed Rana and Satish Sharma, apprises grievances of daily wagers, casual labourers



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Today a delegation of Jammu Kashmir Casual Labour United Front (JKCLUF) met Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Rana and Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma and apprised them of the grievances of daily wage workers/casual labourers and put forth their demands before them which include regularization/Minimum Wages Act and those who have not come in the online process.

Cabinet Ministers Javed Rana and Satish Sharma assured them that the Jammu and Kashmir government is already

concerned about their demands and trying to resolve them.

The leaders of the Front invited them to Maharaja Hari Singh Park on April 22 where daily wage workers of every department are going to hold a Mahapanchayat and asked them to come and put forth their side on behalf of the government and assure us that the government is with us.

The delegation included Tanveer Hussain, Devinder Singh Reasi, Pawan Kumar, Farooq Bhat Sunderwani, Babu Hussain Malik, Tartaz, Vishan Raina, Pradeep Sharma, Vinod, Bashir Ahmad Kashmir, Ganesh and others.

Indian Army and Aseem Foundation illuminate Simari village with Solar Power, Clean Energy

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APR 14

In a powerful example of inclusive development and national service, Simari, a border village in Karnah Valley, Jammu & Kashmir, has been fully electrified and LPG-enabled through a joint initiative of the Indian Army's Vajr Division and Aseem Foundation, under the aegis of Chinar Corps.

Situated on the Line of Control, with one half of the village across in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Simari holds deep strategic and democratic importance as Polling Booth No. 1 of India. Until now, the villagers struggled with limited power and primitive cooking facilities. This project has transformed 53 households with solar microgrids and clean cooking LPG kits, significantly improving the quality of life.

The initiative is dedicated in the memory of Col



Santosh Mahadik, Shaurya Chakra, Sena Medal, who laid down his life in service of the Nation. In a solemn tribute, Col Mahadik's mother, Mrs Kalinda Mahadik and Mr Sarang Gosavi, Founder & MD of Aseem foundation, jointly inaugurated the solar elec-

trification system in Simari on 14th April 2025.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of over 300 villagers, including women, children, local elders, along with media representatives and civil dignitaries. The emotionally charged

gathering reflected a deep sense of pride, gratitude, and unity, as light brought happiness to homes and a soldier's legacy was honoured at the Nation's edge.

This initiative is a testament to the Indian Army's steadfast commitment to border area development, in alignment with the Government of India's Vibrant Villages Programme. It reinforces the Army's role not just as defenders of the nation, but as partners in progress—bringing light, dignity, and opportunity to even the remotest frontiers of India. The Aseem Foundation, through its sustained efforts in rural electrification, clean energy adoption, and community development, has been playing a vital role in empowering border communities across Jammu & Kashmir. Its partnership in this project reflects a deep commitment to Nation-building through innova-

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha celebrates Dr. B R Ambedkar Jayanti



JI NEWS SERVICE
GIDDERBAHA (PB), APRIL 14

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, commemorated the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, with great respect and devotion. The event was organized under the supervision of Prof. Amanjot Kaur, Head of the Department of Political Science, and held under the esteemed guidance of Dr. R.K. Uppal, Principal of the college. The celebration began with a floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar, as staff and students gathered to honor his enduring legacy. Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal addressed the gathering and spoke about Dr. Ambedkar's immense contribution to Indian society. He highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's role as a visionary leader, constitutional expert, economist, and social reformer who dedicated his life to the empowerment of marginalized communi-

ties and the establishment of a just and equitable society. Dr. Uppal emphasized the need for today's youth to imbibe the values of equality, justice, and education that Dr. Ambedkar advocated. He encouraged students to take inspiration from his life and work towards creating an inclusive and progressive nation. On this occasion, Prof. Amanjot Kaur also delivered an insightful address, shedding light on Dr. Ambedkar's struggles against caste discrimination and his pivotal role in framing the Indian Constitution. She called upon students to uphold democratic values and contribute meaningfully to nation-building. The program concluded with all faculty members and students paying floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, reaffirming their commitment to his ideals. The event served not only as a tribute to a great leader but also as an educational and motivational experience for the college community.

DPAP dissolves all units of Party

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party, has dissolved all the units of the party including State, Provincial, Zonal, District and Block Level Committees, including Chief Spokesperson & other spokespersons. These Committees will be reconstituted in due course of time. This was communicated through press release issued by Bashir Aarif, Secretary to Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party.

Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated with great fervour at Dehma- Udhmapur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14

Ambedkar Jayanti was today celebrated with full fervour and enthusiasm at the Community Hall in Dehma. The event witnessed a vibrant gathering of locals to pay tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Speaking at the function, Vice Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur Juhi Manhas Pathania called for emulating the philosophy and core ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who laid the foundation of social justice and equity in India.

She emphasized Dr. Ambedkar's visionary outlook on land reforms and economic restructuring in independent India. "His thoughts formed the bed-



rock of a just and equitable society – ideas that continue to inspire generations," she said. While acknowledging that certain ideas could not be fully implemented due to various constraints, she noted that they are still deeply relevant across political, social,

and economic spheres. "It is time we realign with his vision. Dr. Ambedkar was a champion of the poor and underprivileged. His thoughts are more relevant than ever, even after nearly 70 years," she added, appreciating the Centre Government's com-

mitment to carrying forward his legacy through inclusive development programs.

The event featured cultural performances and tributes to Dr. Ambedkar. A large number of locals gathered to honour the legacy of the great social reformer.

CME held at LD Hospital

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 14

The Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, successfully organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the theme 'Hope after Loss', focusing on the "Challenges And Clinical Management Of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)".

The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of ongoing education in improving patient outcomes and enhancing societal well-being.

Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department, underlined the importance of such academic engagements in empowering young doctors and promoting col-



laborative strategies to address the emotional and medical complexities of RPL.

Renowned faculty members including Prof. Samiya Mufti, Prof. Arshid Husain, Prof. Ajaz Hakeem, Dr. Asifa Ali, Dr. Ruksana Sami, Dr. Aashiq, Dr. Saima Wani, and Dr. Farzana Bashir delivered insightful lectures covering various clinical aspects related to the Etiology, diagnosis, and evidence-based management of recurrent pregnancy loss.

The sessions were chaired by eminent specialists such as Prof. Shahida Mufti, Prof. Syed Masuma Rizvi, Prof. S.M. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shagufta Rather, Prof. Rakesh Koul,

Prof. Hina Bashir, Prof. Nighat Firdous, Prof. M. Maqbool Dar, and Prof. Samina Sultana.

Highly interactive panel discussion, moderated by Prof. (Dr) Samiya Mufti, Organising Secretary, brought together leading experts to deliberate on practical strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, and case-based scenarios, fostering dynamic exchange of ideas and enhancing learning.

Distinguished guests including former Heads of Department Prof. Farhat Jabeen, Prof. Nighat Firdous and Prof. Rizwana Habib, and senior faculty members from GMC Srinagar, SKIMS Medical College, and LD Hospital such

as Prof. Ambreen Qureshi, Prof. Shylla Mir, Dr. Anjum Malik, Dr. Syed Naseer and Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent LD hospital shared valuable insights into hospital-based and community-oriented management practices.

The CME witnessed active participation from postgraduate students, faculty, and medical professionals, making it a significant academic milestone in advancing care for patients experiencing recurrent pregnancy loss.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Ruksana Sami on behalf of the organising committee, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and resource persons. She expressed hope for continued academic collaboration to address critical challenges in women's reproductive health.

JMC, JSCL organise plantation drive at Tawi Ghat to commemorate 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

To mark the 135th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), organized a plantation drive on the left bank of the Tawi Riverfront today.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from civic officials, environmental volunteers, and local residents, all united in their commitment to promoting green and sustainable urban development.

Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu and Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited, Dr. Devansh Yadav graced the occasion and led the plantation drive.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yadav highlighted the importance of honoring Babasaheb's legacy through actions that foster environmental conservation and social well-being.



"This plantation drive is a humble tribute to the visionary who championed the values of equality and progress. Greening our urban spaces is a step forward in building a more inclusive and sustainable future," he said.

Referring to the grand Tawi Aarti that was held yesterday on the serene banks of the Tawi river, the Commissioner shared that the event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 5,000 enthusiastic participants coming together to take part in the spiritual ceremony. He further elaborated that this

sacred Aarti would now be established as a regular feature, especially during the annual Amarnath Ji Yatra, which attracts devotees from across the country and beyond. Highlighting the importance of such events, the Commissioner emphasized that the Tawi Aarti would not only serve as a major spiritual attraction for pilgrims and tourists but would also significantly contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the region. In addition to its religious significance, he expressed optimism that regular organization of the Aarti would play a pivotal

role in boosting local business activities along the riverbank, providing new opportunities for vendors, artisans, and small businesses. By transforming the Tawi riverfront into a hub of devotion and commerce, the initiative is expected to bring lasting benefits to the local community, fostering both economic growth and cultural enrichment. The Commissioner concluded by stating that efforts would be made to enhance the infrastructure and amenities around the river to accommodate the growing number of visitors in the future, ensuring that the Tawi Aarti becomes a landmark event that people look forward to year after year.

Among others, Joint Commissioner (A), Krishan Lal, Deputy Commissioner (South), Lal Chand, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, and other senior officers and officials from JMC, JSCL, and the Forest Department actively participated in the drive.

GCW Parade observes birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar with series of events

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, NSS Units of Government College for Women, Parade Ground, in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Cell and the Department of Political Science, organized a series of impactful academic and awareness activities from April 10 to 14, 2025.

The five-day program included the screening of the film "Jai Bhim" in the college auditorium, which powerfully portrayed themes of justice, dignity, and constitutional values. On the following day, students and faculty participated in a Preamble Pledge Ceremony, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the ideals of the



Indian Constitution.

A major highlight of the observance was an invited lecture on "Ambedkar and the Constitution" delivered by Dr. Sushil Kamble, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, Central University of Jammu. Dr. Kamble shared deep insights into Dr. Ambedkar's role as a visionary leader and chief architect of the Constitution of India.

The concluding day featured a Pad Yatra, symbolizing a march for social justice, which ended with a floral tribute at the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. A total of 100 NSS volunteers participated in the activities with dedication and enthusiasm under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers – Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Prof. Anuradha Kalsi, Dr. Atiya Syed.

The event series was successfully organized with support of Prof. Renu Angurana, Convener, Equal Opportunity Cell, and Prof. Jasneet Kour, Head, Department of Political Science. The others members of Equal Opportunity cell included Prof. Renu Bala, Prof. Usha Devi, Prof. Tishu Devi, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad.

Dr. Ravender K. Tickoo, Principal of the College, addressed the students and volunteers, emphasizing the timeless relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and inspiring the youth to uphold values of equality, liberty, and social justice.

The program proved to be a meaningful tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and reinforced the importance of constitutional literacy and civic responsibility among students.

Dy CM pays homage to Dr Ambedkar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today attended two programs at village Dabber and Naniyal (Nowshera), organised to observe the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Paying homage to the legend, the Dy CM described him as one of India's foremost politicians, jurists and social reformers.

The Dy CM extended greetings to the people and remarked that this day holds great significance in honouring the remarkable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to our nation, particularly in the field of social justice, equality, and the drafting of the Indian Constitution.

He said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dedicated his life to the fight against social discrimination and worked tirelessly to secure equal rights for women,



laborers and marginalized communities. His vision laid the foundation for a just and inclusive society, as reflected in the Constitution of India, which he

was instrumental in drafting, he added.

The Dy CM added that Ambedkar believed in equality for every citizen, no matter which caste,

religion or community they belonged to and government is committed to build J&K of Ambedkar's dreams.

Fire Service Day: DFES pays tributes to Bombay Dock Explosion martyrs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 14

The Fire and Emergency Services Department today observed Fire Service Day, commemorating the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. A solemn ceremony was held here at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Gandhi Nagar, where officers and jawans paid homage to the martyrs of the 1944 Bombay Dock Explosion and reaffirmed their commitment to public safety.

The observance began with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Martyrs' Memorial, where the Director of Fire and Emergency Services, along with senior officers and jawans, paid floral tributes to the brave firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Two minutes silence was observed in their honour, and the ceremonial salute was offered as a mark of respect. The event served as a poignant reminder of the selfless courage and sacrifice made by fire service personnel in protecting lives and property, often at great personal



risk.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director of Fire and Emergency Services J&K (ADGP) Alok Kumar highlighted the department's growing capabilities, rapid response readiness, and ongoing modernization efforts. "We are proud to say that our force is not only ready for prompt and quick response in case of any emergency with advanced equipment and training but also deeply committed to promote a culture of fire safety across all sectors of society," the Director stated.

Alok Kumar further highlighted the department's focused initiative regarding fire safety public awareness programmes being conducted regularly and continuously in educational, healthcare institutions, industrial units

and other establishments under "Har Ghar Fire Fighter" programme since August 2022 throughout the UT of J&K.

The programmes aim to educate students, teachers, medical staff, and support personnel on fire prevention, safe evacuation procedures, and first aid response actions in case of a fire to act as first responders in case of domestic fires. The Director informed that under this programme the department, upto ending March 2025, has covered 3949 educational institutions, 1057 health institutions, 2555 other establishments by conducting 7551 public awareness programmes in which 8.23 lac persons have been given training of fire prevention, protection and first aid firefighting.

This year's theme,

"Unite to Ignite a Fire Safe India," emphasizes collective responsibility and community involvement in fire prevention. As part of the Fire Service Week (14-20 April), the department launched several public engagement initiatives, including, the release of a fire safety documentary showcasing real-life firefighting missions and the role of emergency services, release of posters, banners and handbills for public awareness, action plan for awareness lectures, essay writing, painting competitions, health checkups for jawans and public and medical first aid training programme.

The Director urged citizens to partner with the department in building a fire-safe India by practicing basic safety measures, reporting hazards promptly, and participating in awareness activities. "Our strength lies in unity. Together, we can prevent fires before they start," he added. The Fire and Emergency Services remains committed to its mission—to save lives, protect property, and serve with honour under the motto "We Serve to SAVE".