

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
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness in eyes
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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BOOK BOMBHELL

Dulat stirs 'Hornet's Nest', says Dr Farooq secretly supported Art 370 abrogation

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 16 (KNO)

Former RAW Chief, A S Dulat has stirred the 'Hornet's Nest' by claiming that former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah had 'secretly' supported the abrogation of Article 370.



PM was never a mystery for him.

"Dulat sahib has revealed in his upcoming book that Farooq Sahib privately supported the abrogation of Article 370. Coming from Dulat sahib makes this revelation very credible. Dulat sahib is the closest ally of and friend of Farooq sahib. Virtually his alter ego. Incidentally Dulat sahib is the famed Uncle of the infamous Uncles and

Aunties Brigade of Delhi," Lone wrote on X.

Of course NC will deny it. Call it yet another conspiracy against NC. They have perfected playing the victim card, he said, adding that "Uncle and Aunties will take cognisance of my tweet and other such tweets and implore upon BJP to teach such tweeters a lesson."

"Out here, their MLAs will privately visit LOP Sunil Sharma and tell him

that they are brothers separated at the Kumbh Mela. That the theatre they enact in Assembly and outside assembly is in national interest. I personally am not surprised at this revelation. The August 4 2019 meeting of CM sahib and Farooq sahib with the PM was never a mystery for me. I can visualise Farooq sahib saying - Humey roney deejaye- Aap apna kaam karein- hum aap kay Saath hain- It now seems 2024 was a prize for services rendered in 2019. Of course in national interest," he wrote.

MLA Pulwama and PDP leader, Waheed Parra in a post said that Dulat's revelations today tear away the NC's last remaining veil.

"Dulat's revelations today tear away the NC's last remaining veil. It tells us that all those

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Former RAW Chief's book bundle of lies, figment of imagination: Dr Farooq

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 16 (KNO)

Terming the 'book bomb shell' "The Chief Minister and the Spy" written by former RAW Chief A S Dulat as bundle of lies, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that his claims are figment of his imagination.

Dr Farooq, according to the news agency said that his book is a "piece of fiction" which he is trying to project as the work based on facts.

Dulat, in his book, has alleged that Dr Farooq privately backed the abrogation of Article 370 while publicly opposed it. "Me and my son Omar Abdullah were put under arrest for several months at the time of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. We were detained because our stand against the abrogation of special status was well-known," he said. "Dulat's book is nothing other than rub-



bish."

Meanwhile, NC Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq also rejected the claims made by Dulat.

Sadiq while speaking to KNO said the book contradicts itself and questioned the credibility of the author. "If you look at the book and what he writes in it, he contradicts his own words. He writes that the Government of India waited for seven months to see Farooq Abdullah Sahib's reaction when he was in custody. If that was the case, then why did he promote the PAGD after coming out?" he asked.

He added that the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD)

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Justice Patil sworn in as Chief Justice



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16 (KNO)

At a ceremony held Wednesday in the Convention Centre, Justice Arun Palli was sworn in

as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He made and subscribed to the oath of office before the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, Manoj Sinha.

SC approves appointment of two Judges to J&K HC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 16 (KNO)

The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the appointment of two judicial officers as Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In a meeting held on Wednesday, the Collegium cleared the names of Sanjay Parihar and Shahzad Azeem for ele-

vation to the High Court bench.

As per the news agency, both are currently serving as judicial officers in the Union Territory.

The recommendations will now be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Law and Justice for final approval and issuance of formal appointment orders. KNO

CM Omar Abdullah reviews implementation of HADP, launches multiple digital initiatives

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javed Ahmed Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department (APD) Shailendra Kumar, Mission Director HADP Rahul Yadav, and other senior officials.

All Deputy Commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir, along with progressive farmers, participated in the meeting via video conferencing from their respective district headquarters.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while sharing the vision of HADP,



remarked that the programme is not just a policy intervention but a movement to empower farmers, modernize the agri-sector, and build a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy for Jammu & Kashmir by 2030.

On the role of digital innovation in agriculture, he stated that by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as AI-based advisory tools and real-time monitoring applications, governance is being redefined at the grassroots. "We are redefining how governance reaches the grassroots. HADP is making agriculture smart,

data-driven, and future-ready," the Chief Minister said.

Termining progressive farmers as the backbone of agricultural transformation, the Chief Minister said, "Their stories of success inspire confidence in our mission and reaffirm our belief that change is happening, village by village, farm by farm."

Reiterating his government's unwavering support, he affirmed that every scheme, every platform, and every rupee invested under HADP is aimed at directly benefiting the farmer.

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CM Omar chairs review meeting ahead of Mission YUVA launch in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting to review the pre-launch preparations of Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan)—a transformative initiative aimed at empowering youth through entrepreneurship, skill development and inclusive economic participation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javed Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma. Also present were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Department Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, AGM NABARD, Vice Chancellors of various universities of J&K, Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, and all Deputy Commissioners and other concerned attended the meeting both in person and via virtual mode.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah lauded the "pathbreaking" work undertaken by the Labour & Employment Department during the baseline household survey conducted across Jammu and Kashmir.

He noted with satisfaction that much of the data aligns with existing government records.

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CS pushes for achieving green goals under CAMPA



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today while addressing the 25th Steering Committee Meeting of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), emphasized on the department to work dedicatedly towards achieving the set targets in a given timeframe.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology & Environment was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; PCCF; Chief Wildlife Warden; Secretary, Planning; Direc-

tor, Remote Sensing; CEO, CAMPA and other concerned HoDs of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the afforestation efforts made during the past year and the targets achieved during this time. He asked the officers to complete installation of Boundary Pillars (BPs) around the forests across J&K to ensure their protection.

He also enjoined upon the concerned to digitise these BPs in order to create digitized maps of all the forest areas. He urged them to give details of the areas treated in lieu of the forest areas that

came under Hydro Electric Projects of Kwar, Kiru and Ratlehere.

Dulloo further remarked that forests are lungs of the earth guaranteeing its sustainability. He advised for adopting modern technology to map the highly degraded areas for its treatment on priority basis.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, informed the meeting about the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee in deciding the future course of action to take up the CAMPA works during the year ahead.

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CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates e-SEHAT App, one-stop healthcare solution for J&K citizens

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today launched the e-SEHAT App - a comprehensive, one-stop digital solution designed to cater to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, including citizens, doctors and medical professionals.



gratulated the team for developing such an elaborate and wide-ranging application that addresses

the health needs of J&K's citizens.

He suggested making the app more user-friendly

and incorporating additional features, including the integration of the appointment system of

empanelled private health institutions.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned authorities to conduct hands-on training through scheduled workshops for the staff to familiarize them with the application. "Once the staff is trained, awareness campaigns can be launched to educate the public about the app

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3 SPs among 36 J&K cops selected for Haj-2025 duty in Saudi

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 16 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Home Department has ordered the temporary deputation of 36 police personnel to the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to serve as Haj Officers and Haj Superintendents for Haj-2025.

According to a government order, a copy of

which lies with the news agency, the deputation follows recommendations from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, and approvals from the J&K Police Headquarters and CID, J&K.

The officers and police personnel include Superintendents of Police (SPs) Peerzada Ajaz Ahmed, Ruhail Mircha, and Mohd Muzaffer Jan; Inspectors

Gowhar Ahmad Bhat, Mubashar Hussain Shah, Shahid Amin, Peerzada Bashir Ahmad, Afaq Ahmad Nayak, Farooq Ahmad, Haroon Rashid Bhat, Parviat Ahmad, Arshid Hussain, Farooq Ahmad Wani, and Ibrar Ahmad.

Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) Zahoor Ahmad Wani, Bilal Ahmad Ganaie, Tahir

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Ist Coordination meeting held at District Court Complex Pulwama

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, APRIL 16

High Court of J&K and Ladakh Coordination Committee held its first meeting of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Pulwama.

The meeting was presided over by Principal District and Sessions Judge Pulwama, Malik Shabeer Ahmad.

Among the attendees were Shabaz Ahmad, ACR/Pulwama; Shafat Ahmad, Additional Superintendent of Police Pulwama; Shabir Ahmad Superintendent District Jail Pulwama; Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Superintendent/SDPO Tral/Awantipora; Ex. Engineers of R&B Pulwama and PDD Pulwama; District Tuberculosis Officer Pulwama, District Planning Officer Pulwama & Budgam; CEO/MC Pulwama,



ma, EO Tral and M.C Awantipora; AFO Pulwama, President Bar Association Pulwama and Secretary Bar Association Pulwama.

Addressing the participants, Principal District and Sessions Judge highlighted various bottle necks/deficiencies in the existing infrastructure so that they are addressed as

soon as possible, to ensure that justice delivery system is made more robust and efficient in District Pulwama. Earlier, Chief Judicial Magistrate Pulwama, Muzamil Ahmad Wani introduced the points of agenda to the meeting and the purpose and object of meeting in light of the order of High Court of J&K & Ladakh.

ECI launches first of its kind training program for BLAs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

In a first, ECI launches training sessions for the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to strengthen grassroots participation by political parties with around 280 BLAs of 10 recognised political parties from Bihar taking part in the 2-day training programme.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has commenced the training of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from Bihar in view of the forthcoming elections in the State. The programme is being organised at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management, IIIDEM, New Delhi.

Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh

Kumar, along with Election Commissioners, Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi addressed the BLAs in a first of its kind training programme. The training was conceptualised during the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) conference held on the 4th of March, 2025.

The Commission underscored the importance of BLAs in the election processes and asserted that the training programme would help them fulfil their responsibilities as delineated in the Representation of People act, 1950 and 1951, Registration of Elector Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules 1961 and the manuals, guidelines and instructions issued by ECI from time to time. The BLAs were given

an overview of their appointment, roles and responsibilities as per the legal framework. The training programme familiarised them with various aspects of the election processes including the preparation, updation and revision of electoral rolls and the associated forms and formats associated.

The BLAs are appointed by the recognised political parties and play an important role at the booth level to ensure transparency and fairness in the final electoral roll. They are empowered to raise objections under the provision in the final section appeals under Section 24(1) and 24(2) of the RP Act 1950 in case they are aggrieved of the final electoral rolls as published.

Illegally stored wood seized at Dureshpora, Handwara



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 16

Acting on specific inputs, a team from the Revenue Department, in collaboration with the J&K Police and the Forest Department, seized around 50 CFT illegally stored wood during an operation carried out at

Dureshpora, Handwara. The operation was conducted as part of ongoing efforts to curb illegal timber trade and protect forest resources. The seized material has been taken into official custody, and further investigation is underway to identify those responsible

Distt admin Ganderbal conducts IEC campaign against drug abuse in educational institutions

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 16

'Nasha Mukht J&K' campaign continues to gather pace in district Ganderbal, with a special focus today laid on educational institutions.

In a determined effort to curb substance abuse and raise awareness among the youth, several educational institutions were actively engaged today, under the campaign's banner, aiming to maximize outreach to the most vulnerable age group to create a drug-free district by fostering awareness, community participation, and support for rehabilitation.

From interactive awareness sessions to student-led rallies, the day was marked with a variety of impactful activities designed to educate and empower young minds about the harmful consequences of drug abuse. Teachers, volunteers, and local officials joined hands



to ensure that the message of a drug-free society reached every corner of the district.

In these institutions, students enthusiastically participated in debates, poster-making competitions, and awareness talks, voicing their commitment towards building a healthier and drug-free future. The resource persons

from various departments emphasized the importance of the campaign against drug abuse. Parents and guardians were also urged to engage in open conversations with their children about the dangers of substance abuse and to remain vigilant for early warning signs.

DC reviews progress under District Capex Plan 2024-25 in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a meeting to conduct a comprehensive sector-wise review of the physical and financial progress of developmental projects taken up under the District Capex Plan 2024-25.

The meeting focused on key sectors including Roads and Buildings (R&B), Jal Shakti, Education, Health, and Youth Services & Sports, among others.

At the outset, the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) briefed the meeting on the status of the ongoing works under BDC ADP, DDC Plan.

The DDC issued clear directives to all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to submit a comprehensive list of ongoing works along with reconciliation statements by tomorrow evening.



He also underscored the importance of verifying the timely submission of proposals for new works under the 2025-26 plan, with April 25, 2025 as deadline, after due consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing different Assembly Constituencies of the District.

emphasized the timely submission of proposals for new works under the 2025-26 plan, with April 25, 2025 as deadline, after due consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing different Assembly Constituencies of the District.

Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir visits KVK Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 16

Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Riahana Habib Kanth today visited KVK Kulgam, where she inaugurated Hi-Tech Dairy Unit & newly established High-Density Orchard trellis system, established under the university's outreach and development programmes.

On the occasion, Prof. Kanth also distributed certificates among the successful trainees of vocational courses in cutting & tailoring and nutrition.

Addressing the trainees, Prof. Kanth emphasized the importance of skill development and its role in self-employment and said that these certificates are not just documents to collect, but a key to creating sustainable employment opportunities. She also urged more youth and women to come forward and benefit from the various schemes and training programmes offered by SKUAST-K.

Prof. Kanth also delivered a detailed presentation on "Poshan Pakhwada" and



emphasised the importance of balanced nutrition in improving the health of mothers and children.

The Director Extension was accompanied by Dr Liyaqat Ali Chowdhary, Incharge, KVKs-Kashmir. Besides, Dr Manzoor Ahmad Ganai, Prof & Head KVK Kulgam, along with scientists and other staff members and trainees,

were present at the event. The visit was marked by interactive sessions, showcasing of progressive farming practices, and a strong emphasis on promoting entrepreneurship in the agricultural and allied sectors.

About 15 Chemist shops in areas of Nehama, DH Pora and Watoo, Asnoor were inspected.

UTRC reviews cases of under-trial prisoners at Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 16

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur convened the meeting of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) on April 15, 2025 as per the quarterly schedule of UTRC Meetings-2025 and in adherence to the directives issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA).

The meeting was held in Conference Hall, DLSA to review cases of under-trial prisoners to expedite the release of eligible candidates who have undergone a lengthy waiting period without trial.

The meeting was

chaired by Chairperson DLSA, Principal District & Sessions Judge Virinder Singh Bhou and was attended by Secretary DLSA Dr. Smriti Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai; Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure; I/C Superintendent District Jail Som Raj; Addl. Public Prosecutor, Addl. Sessions Court Hemanshu Prakash; I/C Public Prosecutor, Principal Distt. & Sessions Judge Court Viney Sharma and Chief LADC Pawan Gupta.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or

those who have spent substantial time behind bars without trial.

The committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries. The meeting also discusses action items, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet to monitor prisoner cases, and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairperson DLSA to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

DDC distributes Daksh Kisan Training E-Certificates among trained farmers at Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH APRIL 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vikas Kundal, today distributed e-certificates among farmers, who successfully completed the Daksh Kisan training program under the Holistic Agricultural Development Program (HADP). A total of 645 farmers were awarded certificates to individuals associated with agriculture and allied activities.

Notably, over 29,000 farmers have enrolled and registered under the HADP in Poonch District, reflecting the strong commitment of the local agricultural community towards improving their farming practices and productivity.

During the distribution ceremony, DC Kundal engaged directly with the farmers, gathering valuable insights on the utilization of HADP projects. He emphasized the transformative potential of these initiatives in enhancing

agriculture and other farm based productivity.

The DDC congratulated the farmers on completing the training in their associated fields and expressed confidence that the knowledge gained would translate into improved practices on the ground. He urged all departments to ensure continuous support and technical assistance to the trained farmers and maximizing the outreach of the HADP schemes in the district.

The HADP focuses on various aspects of agricultural development, including farm mechanization, training programs, and access to quality seeds and fertilizers. By promoting these initiatives, the government aims to create a robust agricultural sector capable of withstanding challenges posed by climate change and market fluctuations.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik and other district officers were also present at the event.



Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba, today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and projected various issues of public importance of his constituency.

Mission YUVA

Orientation-cum-training programme organized for Yuva Doots at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 16

An Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Yuva Doots was today organized under Mission YUVA here in Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The session, chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, was aimed at sensitizing the Yuva Doots about their role and responsibilities under Mission YUVA, an ambitious initiative to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC emphasized the importance of strategic planning and active coordination among all stakeholders to nurture and cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. He encouraged the Yuva Doots to act as effective communicators and facilitators between the administration and young aspiring entrepreneurs at



the grassroots level. He highlighted the pivotal role that Yuva Doots can play in identifying potential entrepreneurs, spreading awareness about various self-employment schemes, and assisting them in availing benefits under Mission YUVA.

Earlier, Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta delivered an insightful presentation on various components of Mission YUVA, explaining its objectives, expected

outcomes and key features such as interest subvention schemes, the Open Network for Digital Commerce one-stop e-commerce marketing platform, District Level Small Business Development Units and Sub-Divisional level Business Help Desks. She elaborated on how these initiatives are designed to provide a robust ecosystem to budding entrepreneurs and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

DSEK conducts extensive tour of Kupwara, visits many schools

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo today conducted an extensive tour of District Kupwara, visiting many schools and taking stock of the facilities available in these institutions.

During the tour, the Director also participated in a comprehensive district-level Guidance and Counselling session held at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sogam, witnessing the active participation of various stakeholders from the education sector of district Kupwara.

Director spent the day interacting with Public Representatives, Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Teachers, Zonal Coordinators, and most importantly, the students of the district. He lauded the efforts of Chief Education Officer Kupwara and his dedicated team for organizing such vibrant and impactful counseling sessions in the district.

Dr. Itoo emphasized the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the future of students and guiding them towards meaningful career paths. Joint Director North Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer



also addressed the gathering.

Deputy Chairman DDC Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, and DDC Sogam, Nasir Lone, highlighted the consistent efforts of the education department under the present leadership. They emphasized the significance of such sessions in guiding students and building a progressive academic atmosphere in future.

Mohammad Iqbal Shah, DEPO Kupwara conducted a detailed session on Emotional Intelligence and Career Exploration. The second session was conducted by Mohammad Abbas Gojri, Teacher at UPS Machipora, who enlightened the students about various Career Options and Pathways to Possibilities.

Earlier, CEO Kupwara, Mehraj ud din Shah presented a comprehensive overview of the ongoing initiatives and progress made by the education

department at the district level.

Prior to the main event, the Director visited BHSS Uniso during the morning assembly and stressed the principal and staff for ensuring excellent enrolment and attendance besides the moral education.

On the sidelines of the event, the Academic Calendar of GHSS Sogam was unveiled in the presence of Director School Education Kashmir. The event also included a session for officers of the department, staff members of GHSS and BHSS Sogam, as well as zonal coordinators, focusing on strengthening the academic framework and enhancing collaborative efforts.

Apart from this, DSEK also participated in a plantation drive held at HSS Behnpora which falls in Zone Rajwar. The event was attended by officers, teachers and students in large numbers.

YSS Baramulla boosts grassroots sports activities through Inter-School Competitions



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 16

In a bid to strengthen grassroots-level sports and promote mental fitness among students, the Youth Services and Sports, District Baramulla today organized Inter-School Chess Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 boys across Zone Wagoora and Zone Pattan.

Zone Wagoora marked the beginning of this year's inter-school sports calendar by hosting a Chess Competition for Under-14 boys at High School Watergam. A total of 24 schools participated, showcasing the growing enthusiasm among stu-

dents for mind sports.

Similarly, Zone Pattan launched its sports activities with Chess Competitions for both Under-14 and Under-17 boys at Alhuda Public School. The Under-14 category witnessed participation from 60 students, while 20 students competed in the Under-17 category.

DYSSO Baramulla applauded the active participation of students and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff for smooth conduct of the events. He emphasized the importance of such competitions in developing strategic thinking, discipline and healthy competition among the youth.

2nd UTRC meeting convened at Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, APRIL 16

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the Aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, Wednesday convened its 2nd quarterly UTRC meeting at conference hall ADR centre District Court, Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by O.P Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Budgam, and brought together key stakeholders from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity to address the significant issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners. This collaborative forum underscores the importance of a collective approach in safeguarding the rights of individuals awaiting trial.

08 cases involving under trial prisoners were meticulously reviewed. Each case underwent through discussion and deliberation to understand



the specific circumstances. The committee formulated recommendations aimed at streamlining the judicial process and upholding principles of equity and justice. Bhagat emphasized the vital role of UTRC meetings in strengthening the criminal justice system and protecting the fundamental rights of under trial prisoners. He stressed on the importance of ongoing initiatives to ensure a fair and efficient legal process, promoting justice and transparency.

The meeting was attended by Nusrat Ali Hakak,

Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Budgam; Rameez Raja, Additional Superintendent of Police Budgam; Mehraj Ud Din Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Shahbaz Husain, Dy SP Central Jail Srinagar; Public Prosecuting Officer, Budgam, Senior Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar and Deputy Lads and Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Budgam.

DLSA Budgam remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring fair and speedy trials for under trial prisoners.

DC Kupwara visits Deedikoot, lauds innovative farmer



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Wednesday visited Deedikoot village to inspect a Hi-Tech Poly Green House established under the Holistic Agriculture Development

Programme (HADP) by progressive farmer Ayaz Ahmad Khan.

Ayaz Ahmad Khan has implemented an integrated farming system on his farm, generating employment for five local youth and providing a seedling nursery to the community. His innovative efforts yield

an income of Rs. 5-6 lakh per season.

DC appreciated the farmer's entrepreneurial spirit and urged other farmers to adopt modern techniques and leverage government schemes like HADP to boost agricultural productivity and income.

One-day mega awareness programme on BBBP held at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 16

Hub for Empowerment of Women under Mission Shakti Kulgam in collaboration with District Administration today hosted a one-day mega awareness programme on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) at Conference Hall Kulgam.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC complimented the participants and said that implementation of BBBP for empowering the girls, has always received



the top most priority of the district administration.

He said the various initiatives have been taken by the government for edu-

cating and empowering a girl child to become a par with boys in every respect.

Speakers from GDC Kulgam and different HSS's

highlighted the different aspects regarding the upliftment and encouragement of girls in society.

Among others, the awareness programme was attended by Tehsildar Hq, College Professors, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, volunteers from Hub for Employment of Women Kulgam, female officials from

different departments, Anganwadi workers, helpers and a massive gathering of girl students from different schools.

Work on Khudwani approach road complete; DC Kulgam reviews progress at site

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Khudwani area to review progress on the ongoing construction work on the approach road connecting to the National Highway-44 near Khudwani.

Executive Engineer concerned informed the Deputy Commissioner that the road is ready for movement of traffic, and macadamization work will be started on the road in the next month.

It was informed that the approach road was taken under District Capex with an allotted cost of 47 lac.



Speaking on the occasion, DC said that in absence of a proper approach road, commuters were using a wrong and unsafe route to

access NH-44, making the location highly vulnerable and accident-prone.

He added that the newly constructed approach road

near Khudwani spot is now expected to streamline vehicular movement and significantly reduce the risk of accidents in the area.

Local residents expressed their gratitude for the timely intervention and appreciated the efforts of the district administration for ensuring safer connectivity at the Khuwani NH-44 spot.

The DC was accompanied by the Executive Engineer R&B Kulgam, AEEs and other concerned officers.

Mission Shakti Jammu organises awareness session at Women Cell Gandhinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu, Social Welfare Department, organized an empowering awareness session at Women Cell Gandhinagar today. The initiative was designed to inform the Police Officials and survivors about various government schemes

focused on uplifting and supporting women, with a broader mission of fostering gender equality and strengthening the role of women in society. Mission Shakti's team of officials

led an informative session covering an array of government programs that cater specifically to women's welfare, economic empowerment, safety, and security.

Insp Arti Thakur SHO Women Cell, Shagun Manchanda District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti, Officials of Women cell and Mission Shakti HEW Jammu were present during the programme.

Mission Shakti DHEW Jammu continues to lead from the front in creating meaningful change and the session was led by the interaction with the officials and beneficiaries.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Dulat stirs 'Hornet's'...

fiery speeches, the staged outrage, the carefully crafted image of “fighting the BJP” - was all theatre. A performance designed to mislead the people of Jammu and Kashmir into believing that the National Conference was standing guard over their rights. In truth, they were complicit - quiet facilitators and sponsors of our disempowerment,” Parra wrote.

“But really, should this come as a surprise? This is the same NC that watched silently for decades as Article 370 was gradually hollowed out - posing as protectors while doing nothing to actually protect. Their legacy is not one of resistance but of convenient silence dressed up as statesmanship. This well-rehearsed charade has only one purpose: to normalise the abrogation of 370 and 35A, and the climate of fear and intimidation unleashed post-August 5, 2019 - under the convenient label of a ‘popular government.’”

“The truth is harsh but undeniable: generation after generation, the NC has built its political fortunes on the back of our dispossession. Dulat’s disclosure is not a shock - it is confirmation. A mirror held up to decades of hypocrisy, opportunism, and moral collapse,” he wrote.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti said that it’s clear that Farooq Abdullah chose to stay in Kashmir instead of the Parliament to help normalise gutting of J&Ks constitution & subsequent betrayal.

“Dulat sahab an ardent Abdullah supporter has shared how Farooq sahab agreed with Delhi’s illegal move of abrogating Article 370. There were already doubts about what transpired between the Abdullahs & PM days before J&Ks special status was revoked. With this it’s clear that Farooq sahab chose to stay in Kashmir instead of the Parliament to help normalise gutting of J&Ks constitution & subsequent betrayal,” she wrote on X. KNO

Former RAW Chief’s...

was rejuvenated after Abdullah’s release and that it was not broken by the NC.

Sadiq also questioned Dulat’s comments about the PDP and its leadership. “The words he used about the PDP patriot are probably inappropriate. I don’t trust those things,” he said.

He added that Dulat had earlier made remarks against PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, which he termed as a bid to stay relevant.

“If the PDP and opposition talks about it, then I believe the same author has time and again said something about Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, he has said that PDP was the creation of PDP and many other personal talks. If that is true then it is true.”

“I think it is just a figment of imagination and he (Dulat) is trying to sell his book and what better than to create a controversy with regard to J&K. I think there is nothing much to it than this and I believe if the opposition is taking it head-on then I think they should also look at their own house because Dulat Sahab has said many things about the opposition as well. I feel there is nothing to it and we have cleared it very clearly.”

He said that the opposition had no issue to raise now and was trying to divert attention. “They can’t say anything on the budget or other matters. So they are making up stories,” he said. “We have bigger issues to deal with like the amendment bill and the reservation issue.”

About the reasons behind splitting of PAGD, the NC spokesperson said, “I think you should ask the people who left PAGD. We were the ones who were asking for what was left from us. I think what happened in August 2019 was betrayal for Jammu & Kashmir. We feel that was wrong and even till date we believe that was wrong. We were the ones who went to the Supreme Court and fought the abrogation of Article 370. So, we were the ones, who wanted to be with Jammu & Kashmir and the people and we stand with them.”

Dulat defends claims, says book based on facts

When news agency contacted former RAW chief A.S. Dulat he said that he never spoke against Dr Farooq Abdullah but his claims in the book “The Chief Minister and the Spy An Unlikely Friendship” is based on the fact.

Quoting the foreword of the book written by former National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan, Dulat said the account in the book is “closest to the truth and reality than most other portrayals.”

“You can ask Farooq Sahib, I have never said anything against him in my life. However, people must read the foreword of the book also written by former National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan,” he said, adding, “Narayanan Ji will never lie; what he has written in the foreword is based on facts.”

The foreword, however indicates that MK Narayanan believes Dulat’s account in the book is the most accurate and truthful portrayal.

In the book, Dulat writes that Farooq Abdullah expressed a willingness to work with Delhi regarding Article 370. “We would have helped,” Abdullah told Dulat in 2020, referring to the proposal to revoke Jammu and Kashmir’s special status.

According to Dulat, Farooq Abdullah said, “Why were we not taken into confidence?”

Dulat recounts that Abdullah believed the National Conference could have supported the move in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly if it had been informed and consulted.

The book suggests that Abdullah’s concern was not with the move itself but with the manner in which it was executed and the subsequent detention of political leaders, including himself.

Farooq Abdullah was placed under house arrest after the abrogation in August 2019 and remained in detention for nearly seven months.

According to Dulat, during a conversation following his release, Abdullah questioned the rationale behind the detention.

Dulat quotes him as saying, “‘Kar lo agar karna hai. Par yeh arrest kyu karna tha?’ (Do it if you must, but why arrest us?)”

Dulat writes that prior to the revocation of Article 370, Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

He notes that what transpired during that meeting

is not publicly known, and Farooq has not spoken about it.

The book also examines the contrast between Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar.

Dulat writes that Farooq sought a balanced relationship with Delhi, insisting on doing things his own way, while Omar was more inclined to align with Delhi’s expectations.

Dulat recalls a 2014 phone call from the Intelligence Bureau asking for Farooq’s London number, which he interpreted as a reflection of the central government’s inconsistent approach to engaging with the NC leader. “Try as Delhi might to dismiss him, it can never ignore Farooq,” he writes.

Dulat also said that Farooq Abdullah tried to shape his own political path, different from that of his father Sheikh Abdullah, but notes that it was not easy to move away from such a legacy. KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

“Our government will continue to walk alongside our cultivators in this journey of growth and innovation,” he added.

Earlier, Mission Director Rahul Yadav presented a comprehensive overview of HADP’s evolution, highlighting the preparation of 29 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) within a record four-month period. He noted that the programme aims to transition agriculture in J&K from a low-growth, subsistence-based model to a vibrant, commercially-driven agri-economy.

The meeting also deliberated on strategies to address structural challenges in the sector, particularly the long-standing cycle of low productivity and income. The programme is anchored around key strategic levers of change, with 29 distinct, future-ready projects forming its foundation.

It was informed that an investment of Rs 1000 crore has already been made in research and innovation across these projects. The roadmap for implementation was also shared, comprising three phases: Phase-I - Outreach and Awareness, Phase-II - Onboarding and Seeding, and Phase-III - Grounding, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

Officials presented updates on major ongoing initiatives, including the Daksh Kisan programme, monthly district performance rankings, Knowledge Systems (KS) documentation, and the KS Output Tracking App.

The meeting spotlighted a range of innovative digital interventions, including the HADP Kisan Saathi Portal, AI-based Credit Scheme Advisor, and the Online DPR Generator Tool.

Further, the meeting discussed the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Innovation Platform (JKCIP), outlining its financing models, targeted beneficiaries, and geographical areas of intervention.

Since its rollout in April 2023, HADP has achieved notable milestones such as the development and multiplication of high-quality seeds, promotion of oilseeds and cash crops, technological advancements in sericulture, formation of 300 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and the launch of the JK Soil & Land Resource Information System.

These initiatives, supported by research-backed strategies, have yielded tangible outcomes and are propelling the Union Territory toward the goal of a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy by the year 2030.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched several digital platforms to enhance transparency, efficiency, and farmer engagement. These included the Credit Scheme Advisor App, Online DPR Generator App, KS Sathi Output Tracking App, and the Online JKCIP Dashboard.

He also released the inaugural edition of “HADP Insights”, a monthly newsletter, and launched the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan-JKCIP. Additionally, he e-inaugurated 1,842 Kisan Saathi Applications and conferred 10,765 Daksh Kisan Skillling Certificates.

During an interactive session, the Chief Minister engaged with progressive farmers from various districts who shared their success stories.

He enquired about different aspects of their businesses and appreciated their crucial role in driving agricultural transformation on the ground.

CM Omar chairs...

He suggested that this data be shared across departments to ensure easy access and usability for formulating new schemes or refining those already in place.

Secretary Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed overview of the survey findings, highlighting its focus on four foundational pillars—Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity.

He explained that the survey is designed to foster an entrepreneurial culture and build a supportive ecosystem aimed at enabling individuals aged 18-49 to establish at least 1.37 lakh new enterprises, thereby generating around 4.25 lakh job opportunities over the next five years.

The presentation also provided insights into the programme’s design, key innovations, implementation strategy, and budget as outlined in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Secretary Ranjan emphasized that the core objective of Mission YUVA is to identify youth inclined toward self-employment and entrepreneurship, and to provide them with robust support through structured mentorship, training, and access to capital.

Mission YUVA envisions transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant entrepreneurial hub by unlocking the potential of its youth.

With a focus on strategic interventions and comprehensive support systems, the mission seeks to spur economic growth, reduce unemployment and cultivate a spirit of self-reliance across J&K.

CS pushes for...

She also made out that the Committee had an overarching role of monitoring the department’s activities besides giving necessary directions for utilization of resources to achieve the desired goals.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave out that the scheme is being imple-

mented smoothly in the UT, obtaining tangible results over the years. He said that installation and digitization of BPs around the forests had been achieved to a larger extent with the left out forests to be demarcated in the year or two ahead.

He asserted that the department has established strong internal and social audit mechanisms, including inter-range and inter-divisional checks, alongside monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting formats to monitor the outcomes of this CAMPA scheme.

Moreover, it was given out that the public transparency is being maintained through the e-Green Watch portal, where data from 3,410 projects (including geo-tagged coordinates) is accessible.

Elaborating further, CEO CAMPA, T. Rabi Kumar, revealed that the third-party evaluations show improved survival rates. The third party evaluation (2012-2019) reported a 50% survival rate and in the next phase (2019-2022), conducted by AFC India Limited, survival rates improved significantly to 62.70%, with Kashmir at 65.40% and Jammu at 60%.

Giving the financial overview of this scheme as on March 2024, it was divulged that a total of Rs 851.65 crore were available with an approved outlay of Rs 276.27 crore for FY 2024-25. It was further added that an expenditure of Rs 153.67 was booked during this year leaving a balance of Rs 727.66 crore available with the department.

As far as the outcomes over the past 15 years are concerned, the meeting was apprised that during 2010-11 to 2024-25, a substantial amount of forest land has been treated under CAMPA initiatives, with the total area afforested reaching thousands of hectares. A significant financial commitment of Rs 1369.76 crore has been made during this period.

In addition, it was given out that the CAMPA budget has seen consistent increase over the years, peaking at Rs 153.67 crore in FY 2024-25 with corresponding increase in year-wise plantation efforts. These efforts are aimed at enhancing green cover, improving biodiversity, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Annual Plan Outlay (APO) for the fiscal year 2025-26 was presented and approved, with a total proposed outlay of Rs 193.72 crore, of which, Rs 170.47 crore have been proposed under the forest sector activities and Rs 23.25 crore under wildlife conservation.

Regarding different components of APO, the Compensatory Afforestation has an outlay of Rs 12.71 crore, Additional Compensatory Afforestation Rs 7.27 crore, NPV (Forest) Rs117.96 crore and NPV (Protected Areas) Rs 23.25 for the ensuing year.

The Committee also reviewed and approved several key targets for the upcoming fiscal year. These included Plantation & Assisted Natural Regeneration on 14,680 hectares, Soil & Moisture Conservation Works on 6,468 hectares, Forest Protection Works (Fencing etc.) on 8,087 hectares, Fire Protection Measures on 2,061 km (firelines), establishment of 163 Nurseries and plantation of 1.82 crore saplings to be planted generating 20.24 lakh casual labour man days across the UT.

Later, the Chief Secretary also released the ‘Annual Asian Water bird Census’ (AWC 2025) of 26 wetlands/waterbodies of Kashmir valley. The Count was conducted simultaneously in all the major water-bodies along with lesser-known wetlands of the valley which included Hokersar, Shallabugh, Hygam, Mirgund, Wullar Lake Badinambal, Narkara, Nigeen Lake, (6 associated wetlands, Anchar Lake, Dal Lake, and wetlands from Pampore viz., Manibugh, Kranchoo, Chatlum and Fashkhoori.

It was revealed that the activity was conducted by 160 volunteers including NGOs, Bird Lovers, students from Kashmir University and SKUAST-K along with the staff of Wetlands Division and North Division.

The survey culminated into recording a total of 13,43,506 number of birds belonging to 67 species in all the wetlands. Hokersar contributed 29.97% of the total birdcount followed by Shallabugh (29.44%) and other wetlands (40.59%).

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary launched two mobile apps pertaining to monitoring of CAMPA works and its nursery module for real time updation of data by the concerned to chase the targets on time.

CM Omar Abdullah...

and its benefits,” he said.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring, he called for regular reviews – weekly by the Secretary, Health & Medical Education; monthly by the Chief Secretary; and quarterly by the Minister In-charge – to assess the app’s performance and progress.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Health & Medical Education Syed Abid Rashid, DG BISAG-N, Principals of various Government Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, HoDs and other concerned officials.

Earlier, Secretary H&ME Syed Abid Rashid gave a detailed presentation outlining the objectives, purpose, and target users of the SEHAT App.

He informed that the department has developed a cutting-edge digital application designed to guide and support patients and their attendants in accessing healthcare facilities and services across both public and private sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

He stated that the SEHAT App is a smart e-health solution offering tele-diagnosis and first opinion for healthcare needs. Useable from home, offices, or hospitals, the app is especially beneficial in remote areas and serves a broad range of users including the general public, patients, healthcare professionals, medical students, and aspirants of medical and paramedical courses.

The SEHAT App offers a wide array of features aimed at improving healthcare access and delivery across Jammu & Kashmir. It provides detailed information related to healthcare institutions, including doctors’ availability, options for appointment bookings, diagnostic and surgical services, as well as tele-consultation, telemedicine, and emergency care. For the general public, the app includes tools for health promotion and disease prevention, an AI-powered symptoms checker, health tracking capabilities, medi-

SSP Anantnag Felicitates Officers for Securing First Historic Conviction Under New Criminal Laws

JJ NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, APRIL 16

In a landmark achievement, Police in Anantnag has secured the first-ever conviction under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), marking a historic moment in the implementation of India’s revised criminal justice system.

The case pertains to FIR No. 69/2025 registered at Police Station Anantnag under Sections 303(2) and 238 of BNS, based on a written complaint lodged by Shri Ab. Rasheed Alie son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Hawora Munshi Pora. The complainant had reported the theft of his load carrier auto (Regd. No. JK18B-3925) from Mehandi Kadal, Anantnag, on April 1, 2025.

Acting swiftly, Anantnag Police launched an effective investigation, which led to the arrest of the following two accused persons identified as Faizan Ahmad Bhat son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat and Muneeb Saleem Wani son of Mohd Saleem Wani, both residents of both residents of Bangidiar, Anantnag. Upon sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, and the stolen vehicle was recovered at their instance.

The chargesheet was submitted before the Hon’ble Court of Special Mobile Magistrate, Anantnag. After due legal proceedings, the Court convicted both accused, sentencing them to three months of judicial imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 3,000 each. In case of default in payment, an additional 15 days of imprisonment shall be imposed.

In recognition of this significant achievement, SSP Anantnag Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy, IPS felicitated Head Constable Shabir Ahmad (Investigating Officer) and SHO PS Anantnag Shri Abdul Rashid Khan for their diligent, professional and time-bound investigation that led to the first conviction under the New Criminal Laws.

This successful outcome reflects the efficiency, legal preparedness, and commitment of Police in delivering swift justice under the newly established legal regime.

Over 1.3 Crore Persons Insured through GeM in FY 2024-25

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 16

Government e Marketplace (GeM), India’s largest e-marketplace for public procurement, sets yet another milestone in services delivery in the FY 24-25. Apart from facilitating hiring of 1 million manpower resources in FY 24-25, GeM has successfully facilitated insurance of more than 1.3 crore individuals covering Health, Life and Personal Accident Insurance policies.

The Insurance Services category was introduced on GeM in January 2022 to bring greater efficiency, transparency and cost-effectiveness in procuring insurance policies. By ensuring that only Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) -approved service providers are onboarded, GeM has established a reliable and trusted mechanism for availing insurance services. Through this platform, buyer organizations can seamlessly procure Group Medical, Personal Accident and Term Insurance policies, thereby offering financial security to a vast number of beneficiaries.

While commenting on this milestone, CEO-GeM Shri Ajay Bhadoo said, “GeM remains committed to continuously enhancing its platform to provide seamless, secure and cost-effective procurement solutions. The milestone of 1.3 crore insured persons reflects the growing confidence of government organizations in leveraging GeM for their insurance needs, reaffirming its role as a transformative force in public procurement.”

ation reminders, integration with wearable devices, and multilingual support.

Healthcare professionals can benefit from secure messaging, access to Electronic Health Records (EHR), prescription and billing management, lab result integration, academic resources, and opportunities for research. The app also supports medical students by offering information on academic courses, hostel accommodations, library facilities, and student exchange programs.

Additionally, SEHAT includes helpline services for hospital assistance, ambulance information, and feedback mechanisms.

It facilitates a coordinated referral mechanism through hospital networking for efficient patient transfers and emergency support. The app also provides comprehensive details on health insurance schemes such as PMJAY, CGHS, and ECHS.

Furthermore, it promotes skill development through CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) training, workshops, and various continuing education programs.

The Secretary emphasized that the SEHAT App is aimed at strengthening collaboration between healthcare providers, patients and insurers by improving communication and facilitating access to healthcare resources.

3 SPs among 36...

Maqbool Malla, Mohd Abbas, and Maksood Ahmad Selection Grade Constables (Sgct) Mohammad Rafie Bhat, Mohd Aslam Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Mir, Raja Faheem Nabi, Imtiyaz Ahmad, John Mohammad, Mehraj Ul Shafi, Peerzada Mahboubul Haq, Wasim Sikander, Mohd Amin Bhat, Ruyaz Ahmad, and Javid Ahmad, Constables Aaqib Inayat Ullah, Adil Ahmad Sofi, Rafeeq Ahmad Malik, Suhail Ahmad Wani, and Reyaz Ahmad Hurra.

These personnel have been directed to report to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, CGO Complex, New Delhi, on April 21, 2025, for completion of requisite formalities.

An advance Travelling Allowance (TE) has also been sanctioned for their journey to and from New Delhi, as per government rules. KNO

28 companies offer over 1000 vacancies to local youth at Baramulla job fair

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 16

In a significant initiative to enhance employment avenues for the youth of Baramulla, District Administration Baramulla, in collaboration with the Dagger Division of the Indian Army and District Employment and Counselling Centre Baramulla today organized a Mega Job Fair at the Chinar Yuva Centre, Baramulla.

The event witnessed overwhelming participation from hundreds of job aspirants hailing from various parts of the district.

The event was attended by Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; senior Army officers, district-level officers, representatives of participating companies, and a large number of enthusiastic job

aspirants.

A total of 28 reputed companies from sectors such as hospitality, automobile, education, banking and other service industries participated in the job fair.

The companies collectively offered 1,024 vacancies, with many conducting on-the-spot interviews and some issuing provisional appointment letters during the event itself. This direct engagement between employers and job seekers made the fair a highly productive and impactful platform.

Alongside private companies, several line departments of the district administration also set up awareness stalls to disseminate information



about key livelihood and self-employment schemes, including MUMKIN, Tejaswini, PMEGP, Mission YUVA and NRLM. These stalls aimed to encourage entrepreneurship and

guide youth towards government-backed opportunities for self-sustenance and growth.

Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Baramulla appreciated the efforts of

the District Administration and the Indian Army for jointly organising the fair.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "This initiative reflects the growing commitment of our institutions to the future of our youth. Such collaboration between civil administration and defense forces is commendable and essential for building trust and development at the grassroots level. I congratulate the District Administration for creating meaningful opportunities for our young generation."

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla handed over appointment letters to two selected candidates and interacted with job aspirants and company repre-

sentatives. Addressing the media, he expressed satisfaction over the success of the fair and the high level of participation.

"Our aim is to empower the youth of Baramulla by connecting them with real opportunities," said DC. "This job fair is more than just a recruitment drive. It is a step toward building confidence among our young population and encouraging them to pursue careers, skills, and entrepreneurship with the full backing of the administration and the private sector."

The DC also appreciated the companies and departments that participated in the fair and encouraged youth to continue engaging with similar initiatives. "Baramulla's youth are talented and eager to contribute to society. We will keep creating platforms like this where they can thrive and grow," he added.

Police organises Volleyball tournament under Civic Action Programme 2024-25 in Kulgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 16

In a stride towards fostering community engagement and youth development, police in Kulgam inaugurated a volleyball tournament under the banner "Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan" as part of the Civic Action Programme 2024-25. The tournament, designed for boys, provided a robust platform for the youth of Kulgam District to showcase their talents and enhance their sports skills.

The initiative aligns with the overarching vision of the Civic Action Programme-2025, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and youth empowerment. The sporting event aimed to instil a sense of healthy competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the participants, contributing to the holistic development of the youth in the region.

SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS along with Addl. SP Kulgam, Addl. SP NHW Qazigund and other senior officers as a token of love and appreciation distributed Cash prizes and trophies among winner up and Runner up teams.

Police lauds the enthusiastic participation of youth, making the tournament a grand success. Police remains committed to organizing more such events, uplifting youth engagement and fostering a healthy sporting culture in the district.

Labour Department issues Advisory for Workers amid Heat Wave alert in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

In view of the seasonal heat wave forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), and in line with the advisory of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Labour Department of Jammu and Kashmir has issued an important directive to ensure the health and safety of workers across the Union Territory.

The Labour Commissioner J&K S. Charandeep Singh has directed all Inspectors of Factories and Assistant Labour Commissioners (ALCs) to implement preventive and mitigating measures in Shops, Commercial Establishments, Factories, Brick Kilns, Construction Sites, and other workplaces falling under their jurisdiction.

Considering the occupational risks posed by extreme heat—especially for workers engaged in

outdoor and heat-intensive environments—the advisory mandates a series of safety steps.

Employers have been advised to modify working hours to avoid the peak heat period between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM, wherever feasible. They must also ensure uninterrupted access to safe and cool drinking water at all workplaces. Provision of shaded rest areas at open sites and proper ventilation in enclosed workplaces such as brick kilns and construction sites is to be strictly enforced.

To further strengthen preparedness, the advisory emphasizes the importance of awareness campaigns to educate workers about heat stress, its symptoms, and first-aid measures. Regular health check-ups for outdoor workers, in coordination with local health authorities, are encouraged. Emergency preparedness, including availability of first-aid kits and access to emer-

gency contact numbers and medical transport, is a critical component of the plan. Moreover, employers must provide personal protective equipment such as caps, hats, and sunglasses to workers, particularly those exposed to direct sunlight.

Assistant Labour Commissioners have been instructed to monitor the implementation of these measures through regular inspections and to provide necessary guidance to employers. They are also directed to ensure wide publicity of the advisory within their respective districts to raise awareness among both employers and workers.

The Labour Department remains committed to promoting safe and healthy working conditions, especially during extreme weather conditions, and urges all stakeholders to cooperate in implementing these vital measures for the protection and welfare of the working community.

GCET organises Blood Donation Camp

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

The Government College of Engineering & Technology Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, organized a successful blood donation camp at GCET campus today.

The event highlighted the spirit of community service and underscored the importance of collective efforts in promoting health and well-being.

The camp was inaugurated by Prof. Sameru Sharma, Principal of GCET, who emphasized the life-saving potential of blood donation. Addressing the students, she stated, donating blood is a healthy process. The human body can replenish the donated blood within 4 to 8 weeks, while plasma is restored within 48 hours. A single donation can save up to three lives. She further added that regular blood donation helps reduce harmful



iron deposits in the body, lowering the risk of heart diseases. Prof. Sharma congratulated the young donors, calling them "life savers" and encouraged them to continue donating every six months.

The event saw enthusiastic participation, with 65 students and staff members donating blood, and around 80 individuals

undergoing hemoglobin and blood group tests. Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, along with executive members Mr. Puneet Gandotra and Mr. Shammi Kapoor, also graced the occasion and commended the initiative.

The smooth conduct of the camp was ensured by coordinators Prof. Bhawna

Sharma, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Er. Sheetal Gandotra, and Dr. Raman Gupta, who congratulated the donors for their selfless contribution and advocated for building a culture of regular blood donation. Medical supervision was provided by Dr. Rubina and her expert technical team from GMC & SMGS hospital Jammu, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. The event also received commendable support from student volunteers Dhanush, Arnab, Oshan, Mehak, Aneesh, Ritesh, Vinyak and Anubhav along with senior staff members, who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success.

The coordinators expressed their gratitude to all the donors and urged more students and faculty members to participate in future blood donation drives, reiterating the importance of such humanitarian efforts.

Power Shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out evacuation of power from 33/11 KV Receiving Station Humhama by way of fixing of GI items and laying of conductor under CAPEX, the shutdown of 33KV Rawalpura Airforce line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Peerbagh, Humhama, Airforce and STC BSF shall remain off while power supply to Peerbagh, Humhama, Airforce, Sheikhpora, STC BSF, Hyderabad and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 23 & 26 April, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out the works related to augmentation of 33 KV Budgam Parthan line, the shutdown of 33KV Waterhail Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Waterhail shall remain off while power supply to Samsaan, Parthan, Waterhail, PHE Substation and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 17 & 21 April, 2025.

Also, to facilitate installation of isolators, repairing of link sets, the shutdown of 33KV Nehalpora (Markundal) line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Markundal, Naidkhai, Shahgund, Aglar shall remain off while power supply to Naidkhai, Markundal, Sumbal, Chandergeer, Ankul, Gund boon and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 19 & 22 April, 2025.

Further, for Stabilization and augmentation of 33 KV line, the shutdown of 33KV Pampore-SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at IE Khrew & 33 KV dedicated installations Cement Plants shall remain off while power supply to IE Khrew and Cement Plants and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 20 April, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Pampore line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Pampore I and Pampore II shall remain off while power supply to Pampore, Khadermoh, Zewan, Tengan and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 20 April, 2025.

Joint Enforcement drive conducted at RS Pura to curb traffic violations

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

A joint enforcement drive was conducted today at RS Pura by a team of officers and officials from the District Administration, Motor Vehicles Department and Police Department to ensure strict compliance with traffic rules and regulations.

During the drive, approximately 250 vehicles were checked, out of which 52 vehicles were challaned for various violations under the Motor Vehicles Act. Additionally, 7 vehicles were seized for serious infractions. The expected fine amount from the challans stands at Rs 1,27,700.

The enforcement team comprised Tehsildar RS



Pura, Chander Shekhar; ARTO Jammu, Mohd Saleem; SHO Police Station RS Pura, Ravi Singh Pari-

har; Motor Vehicle Inspector Azad Hussain along with other staff from the concerned department.

DC Kupwara chairs Mega Block Diwas at Kalaroos

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Thayan Kalaroose of district Kupwara to listen to the grievances and developmental issues of the people.

The programme was attended by DDC Member Kalaroos, Mustafa Rahie, District Officers, Block level officers, besides, Government employees and a large number of people were also present during the block diwas.

On arrival, DC inspected various stalls installed by different departments including the Agri-allied sector, showcasing progress and achievements of their schemes.

Addressing the block diwas proceedings, Ayushi appealed to the people to come forward to register themselves under various public welfare schemes which will address their different issues. She urged the prominent and senior citizens present there to take lead in availing the



Government schemes so that others get encouraged for the same.

Referring to Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, DC said that the scheme aims to resolve the power woes of the consumers to make them self-reliant and appealed to the people to enroll themselves under the scheme to reap the benefits of free electricity. She said the scheme is heavily subsidized by the Government for the benefit of the consumers which

reduces the power bill of the consumer to zero.

Replying to the issues of water supply, DC said that different habitations of Kalaroose block have been covered under Water Supply Scheme Kalaroose which has benefitted large number of households living in these areas. She said all left out areas will also be covered under the JJM as the Government has extended the Jal Jeevan Mission up to the year 2028.

Earlier, DDC Member

Kalaroose, senior citizens and youth spoke and put forth their demands and issues of the area pertaining to power, water supply, link roads, etc.

After giving patient hearing to the issues raised by the people, DC redressed several issues on the spot and assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased manner with active coordination from relevant departments.

Earlier, DDC Member

EDITORIAL

Demonstrate statesmanship to address distrust

The meeting between Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), and Union Home Minister Amit Shah indicated the urgency to address the region's prolonged quest for political and constitutional recognition. However, as meaningful dialogue continues to elude the people of Ladakh, frustration deepens, and trust in the Centre's intentions wears thin. At the heart of the impasse is the four-point agenda championed by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA): statehood for Ladakh, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, job security through domicile safeguards, and greater political representation. These demands are neither radical nor unreasonable. They reflect the anxieties of a region grappling with identity, demographic vulnerability, and a perceived erosion of local agency after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. While the recent meeting reportedly covered pressing administrative concerns—such as reservation for women in Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs), creation of new districts, and recruitment backlogs—the absence of a clear roadmap for resolving the core political demands remains glaring. Promises of backchannel negotiations and closed-door consultations only heighten suspicion when transparency is what the situation most urgently demands. Ladakh's demand to fix 1989 as the domicile cut-off year is not merely a bureaucratic preference—it is a vital step to preserve the cultural and demographic fabric of a sparsely populated region. The cautionary example of Jammu and Kashmir, where over 83,000 non-locals secured domicile certificates post-reorganization, looms large over Ladakh's leadership. Any dilution of this demand could set the stage for a demographic shift that Ladakh is ill-equipped to absorb. The government's preference for a "Jammu and Kashmir model" for domicile criteria reflects a lack of contextual sensitivity. Ladakh's unique topography, strategic importance, and delicate demographic balance warrant tailored solutions—not a one-size-fits-all policy approach. In this context, the LAB and KDA's call for a Sikkim-like domicile policy—anchored to historical continuity rather than mere residence duration—is both prudent and necessary. Similarly, the demand for Sixth Schedule status, which provides constitutional protection for tribal communities and their lands, is rooted in a legitimate fear of marginalization. Ladakh's distinct culture, language, and customs must be preserved through institutional safeguards, not vague assurances or temporary administrative fixes. The Centre must also recognize the implications of slashing Ladakh's annual budget. Developmental stagnation in such a geographically and climatically challenging region could fuel unrest and alienation, especially when aspirations for autonomy remain unmet. Perhaps most troubling is the MHA's delay in carrying forward the dialogue process. The LAB and KDA's decision to convene a joint meeting on April 20 to determine their future course of action is a signal that Ladakh's patience is wearing thin. Dialogue cannot be effective when one party sits in silence. It is incumbent upon the Ministry of Home Affairs to re-engage with Ladakh's leaders in good faith, with transparency, and with a willingness to accommodate the region's specific needs. Constitutional safeguards, economic equity, and cultural preservation are not favors to be granted—they are rights that must be respected. The people of Ladakh deserve more than delayed meetings and diluted promises. They deserve dignity, representation, and a genuine voice in shaping their future. The time for tokenism is over. The government must now choose between deepening distrust or demonstrating statesmanship. Only one of these paths leads to a sustainable, just peace in Ladakh.

SHEFALI GUPTA

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established in 1997 with the promise of fostering deeper regional collaboration among countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.

Yet, for nearly two decades, the organisation remained relatively dormant – its potential untapped, its purpose loosely defined. That changed in 2016 when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi injected fresh momentum into the grouping, anchoring it firmly within India's broader regional and global strategic vision.

A Strategic Turn in Goa

The turning point came when PM Modi extended a special invitation to BIMSTEC leaders to attend a Leaders' Retreat in Goa, held on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in 2016. This wasn't just a diplomatic courtesy – it was a strategic pivot. By

placing BIMSTEC on the same platform as BRICS, Modi elevated its visibility and importance. His message was clear: India viewed the Bay of Bengal region as central to its regional diplomacy, economic connectivity, and maritime strategy. Since then, Modi's personal involvement and consistent emphasis on BIMSTEC have transformed it from a symbolic forum to an active and evolving regional body. In a move that underscored his commitment, he again invited BIMSTEC leaders to attend his swearing-in ceremony in 2019 – signalling continuity, priority, and seriousness of intent.

Vision-Driven Diplomacy:

What sets PM Modi's leadership apart is his ability to integrate BIMSTEC within a broader web of policies that collectively enhance India's regional and global role. His Neighbourhood First policy, Act East strategy, and the MAHASAGAR initiative are all geared toward strengthening India's ties in its immediate

and extended neighbourhood. At the same time, his Indo-Pacific vision promotes a free, open, and inclusive region, aligning with global efforts to ensure stability and cooperation across maritime domains.

This policy convergence has lent BIMSTEC a new strategic dynamism. The group now finds itself not just an extension of South Asian cooperation, but a crucial bridge connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia, linking economies, people, and futures.

Strengthening the Institutions

While BIMSTEC's Secretariat had existed for some time, a significant leap in its institutional development came in May 2024 with the formal adoption of the BIMSTEC Charter. This milestone endowed the organisation with an international legal identity, clearly defined principles, and an institutional architecture that allows it to function with more coherence and purpose.

Further boosting its multilateral capacity, India appointed

Saluting the Gorkha spirit

ASHOK K MEHTA

In my nearly 66 years of trekking and travelling in Nepal, from a Second Lieutenant to a General, in every rank, I have savoured Nepal at its best – from dawn to dusk and at night glow with fireflies. Especially meeting Nepal's greatest gift to mankind, the Gorkha soldier. His name is emblematic of everything tough, brave and never to be messed with – and not for the faint-hearted.

The khukuri, madal, share, Khukuri rum, Gorkha beer and the list goes on; are all synonymous with the soldier. Whether during the two World Wars, Falklands, Borneo, Kashmir, Sylhet, or Jaffna, the Gorkha has left his indomitable imprint. As there is no expiry date for his use, after retiring he has been called out as fighter – contractor in Afghanistan, several places in the Middle East and North Africa, and other places under the radar for even rogue operations. The pedastal the Gorkha occupies in India will soon vanish if the government persists with the demented Agniveer policy, willy-nilly wiping out a strategic asset from the 'colonial' era.

There is a flicker of hope that the absurdity inflicted on the Indian Army – which has damaged deterrence and combat capability – will be removed sooner than later. In my travels and trekking in Nepal since 1959 – worth 60,000 km – I have met Victoria Cross winners, Mahavir Chakra awardees and other

gallantry award notables.

But with very difficult conditions in Nepal in the past, their survival rate was low. Now, with development in inaccessible places, health and education improving, and the vintage habits of old soldiers fading, the new Gorkha is living longer. There is no one better than me to make this judgment, as I have seen Nepal transform in slow motion over the years. My Holi travels last month touched Pokhara, Salyan, Rolpa, Piu, Ghorai and Tikapur, where at most places I met old soldiers, some of whom even accompanied me on my climb to Swargadwar, the famous shrine in West Nepal.

I had not met many burros – as pensioners are endearingly called – who were older than me. But last year, while distributing awards to burhos above 80 years, I met 92-year-old Khetiram Pun from our 3-inch mortar platoon.

He was my Guruji when I joined my VC battalion 2/5 Gorkha Rifles FF in 1957 in Kashmir. But this Holi, occurred the mother of all surprises – attending the 106th birthday party in full Gurung style of our own Havildar Ramprasad Gurung on 18th March; and one week later, the 99-year-old Havildar, Tejbahadur Thapa. The young Gurung joined the battalion as a



16-year-old in 1939. The Master of Ceremonies at his birthday party introduced Ramprasad with his Army number 5430423, adding that he was from Gandaki Pradesh, Syangjah district, Putlibazar Nagapalika, Oda no 6, Kolma-Pokhrichap, Majhakot ghar. Gurung was from B Company, 2/5 GR VC Paltan, who retired with 21 years of service in May 1961, fought in World War II mainly in Burma from 1939 to 1945, then was in Japan with the British Occupation Force. Later, in 1961, he served in Kashmir, and before that from 1946 in NEFA, Nagaland and Calcutta.

His only daughter, 59-year-old Jhaman Kumari, was the envy of attention and query. All of Kolma-Pokhrichap appeared to have descended on Pokhara to join the festivities. We represented his beloved battalion and were squeezed into the elaborate Tamu Samaj protocol and allotted a short window to congratulate Gurung. I recalled visiting Kolma Pokhrichap in 1959, 66 years earlier. The

cake-cutting ceremony was unique: the icing on the two cakes was used as a tika to be planted on the forehead. Every well-wisher is trying to put a pinch of cake into Gurung's overloaded mouth. Daughter Jhaman Kumari's yells of 'bhayo bhayo' (stop) – his mouth cannot take any more cake – go unheard. Gurung is unable to speak and not unhappy about it.

He is covered with confetti, icing, khatas (scarves) and gifts. Loud Nepali music signals the start of the feast. They're serving Old Durbar whiskey, Khukuri rum, Gorkha Strong beer and the hill favourite, Kodo ko Rakshi. After the mammoth menu of snacks of every edible two-legged and four-legged, there is dal, bhat and masu, without which no celebration is considered complete. The 106-year-old Gurung would have liked to recall his patrol encounters with the Japanese near Basha Hill in which he was wounded. But he has lost his voice. Fully repaired, Gurung returned to the battalion to survive the fateful Sittang River crossing in 1942.

Gurung's celebrations are covered in local newspapers as well as Annapurna Express and Naya Patrika. My second encounter a week later is with a 13-month-old of a century-old soldier in Ghorai. His career graph is more colourful and enchanting than

the 106-year-old Gurung's. Havildar Tej Bahadur Thapa was born on 5 May 1926 and joined 2/8 GR, was transferred to 6/8 GR and again moved to 3/8 GR, where he was Signal (communications) Havildar. He too fought in the Burma jungles and at the end of the war, was chosen among 1350 Indian soldiers led by Brig JN Chaudhury, who later became Indian Army Chief, at Victory Parade 1945 in London. After retiring from the Indian Army, Thapa joined Nepal Police by fudging his age by five years. He told me triumphantly: 'I have three dates of birth and get two pensions: one from India, one from Nepal. Next year my Indian pension will double.' His memory is crystal clear and his art of mixing nostalgia with encounters of war, spellbinding.

He walks with a medical stick and has a hazy vision but imbibes with gay abandon. He loves Blue Riband gin, Tuborg beer – which we split – and of course, Old Monk Rum. But he also has local rakshi. He's a perfect specimen from Jumlepani village made famous by late Hon'y Capt Indrabiri Thapa, Sardar Bahadur, OBI, MBE, MC from my VC Paltan. I must be blessed to have met two great old soldiers.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

Human trait: Excusing the inexcusable

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

It is one of the reasons why mankind has been unable to solve many national and international problems. Man, who is considered rational, has been using his reasoning in a wrong and perverted way. He has either been rationally explaining the defects of his personality and flaws of his character as his sterling virtues, or he has been using reason wrongly to justify his uncivilised behaviour as necessary for the well-being of his community or the security of his country.

He has been rationalising even his vulgar, barbarous, or animalistic behaviour as biologically 'natural', psychologically justified, and politically beneficial. Like, in the past, until recently, any woman who gave birth to many children was considered 'very fertile' and the father of those children was considered as 'potent', 'manly' or 'masculine' in character. In other words, people adored his

libidinousness and her sexual vigour, rather than took notice of the lack of self-restraint or self-control on the part of the man and the woman.

Likewise, one who could slaughter large numbers of people, even for a tyrant ruler or for an aggressive and ambitious nation, was considered a 'brave warrior', a 'courageous soldier' or a 'national hero'. In other words, people praised the quality of one's being a greater butcher, i.e. a killer, and less attention was paid to the quality of forgiveness or compassion.

Moreover, they rationalised aggression as an 'instinct', as an in-built psychological response, or as genetically correct behaviour. It is this kind of rationalisation that has resulted in the present state of the world. Man's faults of character have now acquired global dimensions and are now threatening the very existence of society. Yet his attempt to rationalise his irrational behaviour continues to be. Man's arguments justifying his habits of smoking,

drinking alcohol or taking a non-vegetarian diet also are due to his tendency to rationalise the irrational. A matter of more pity is that he does not recognise that he is arguing in favour of irrational and harmful behaviour.

Unless he realises this wrong tendency, no global problem can be solved. As stated earlier, this tendency to rationalise the irrational has led to small and individual defects taking the form of global problems. For example, man's libidinous tendencies, which were earlier justified on biological or psychological grounds, have now resulted in the grave danger caused by over-population, promiscuity, illegitimate children, rapes, abductions and the threat of the spread of AIDS.

The threat caused by over-population is not less than the one caused by nuclear weapons. Yet man does not try to have self-restraint, self-control or continence. Instead, he tries to rationalise his irrational and errant behaviour since that suits his perverted

instincts, and emotions, and gives him short-lived pleasure even though it is a great strain upon his stamina and moral health.

The same can be said of his tendencies of aggression and greed. His justification of his self-interest and the wrong notion of security has led the world into the morass of grave economic imbalance and the race for war weapons. Hence there is an urgent need to put man's rational faculty on the right track and, thereby, enable him to put an end to his irrational, irresponsible and injurious behaviour to save mankind from several global upheavals.

There was a time when defects in man's personality or faults in his character were considered as of individual concern. It was thought that society had no cause to bother about an individual's habits, as it was believed that these can, at the most, be of concern to one's family members or a few individuals who directly interact with that man. But now, with our better under-

standing, we know that defects in man's personality are of concern not only to that individual but to the whole society as well because individual defects add up to global problems. Smoking, for example, is not only injurious to the health of the man who smokes but it is injurious to others also who do not smoke but are exposed to tobacco smoke.

The libidinousness and the aggressiveness of individuals, as already explained, have now led to the problems of high population growth and a huge stockpile of war weapons respectively. The whole society has thus to suffer because of these habits of the individuals. The way to solve these problems now lies in the inner transformation of the individual but this is not possible unless man first gives up the habit of rationalising his irrational behaviour and justifying his bad habits of perverted instincts by employing faulty reasoning.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist. Views are personal)

How PM Modi's vision revitalised BIMSTEC

SHEFALI GUPTA

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established in 1997 with the promise of fostering deeper regional collaboration among countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.

Yet, for nearly two decades, the organisation remained relatively dormant – its potential untapped, its purpose loosely defined. That changed in 2016 when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi injected fresh momentum into the grouping, anchoring it firmly within India's broader regional and global strategic vision.

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The turning point came when PM Modi extended a special invitation to BIMSTEC leaders to attend a Leaders' Retreat in Goa, held on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in 2016. This wasn't just a diplomatic courtesy – it was a strategic pivot. By

placing BIMSTEC on the same platform as BRICS, Modi elevated its visibility and importance. His message was clear: India viewed the Bay of Bengal region as central to its regional diplomacy, economic connectivity, and maritime strategy. Since then, Modi's personal involvement and consistent emphasis on BIMSTEC have transformed it from a symbolic forum to an active and evolving regional body. In a move that underscored his commitment, he again invited BIMSTEC leaders to attend his swearing-in ceremony in 2019 – signalling continuity, priority, and seriousness of intent.

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While BIMSTEC's Secretariat had existed for some time, a significant leap in its institutional development came in May 2024 with the formal adoption of the BIMSTEC Charter. This milestone endowed the organisation with an international legal identity, clearly defined principles, and an institutional architecture that allows it to function with more coherence and purpose.

Further boosting its multilateral capacity, India appointed

Indra Mani Pandey – an experienced diplomat known for his multilateral acumen – as the Secretary-General. India also committed USD 1 million to enhance the Secretariat's institutional and capacity-building efforts.

India's active diplomatic engagement has also seen it hosting the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2024, followed by an informal meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2024. These events marked a new phase of energised diplomacy and engagement, laying the foundation for greater regional integration.

A Holistic Agenda

One of the standout features of BIMSTEC under India's leadership has been the expansion and organisation of its agenda.

The grouping now operates through seven key pillars, each led by a different member nation, allowing for greater ownership and specialised focus. India leads the all-important Security pillar,

while Bangladesh helms Trade, Investment, and Development.

Bhutan focuses on Environment and Climate Change, Myanmar leads on Agriculture and Food Security, Nepal on People-to-People Contacts, Sri Lanka on Science and Technology & Innovation, and Thailand on Connectivity.

This structured approach has allowed BIMSTEC to evolve into a results-oriented body, addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities across the spectrum – from trade and security to climate action and innovation. And the change is visible in its approach.

India's Pillars of Focus

India's leadership in the Security domain has seen the development of a robust legal framework to tackle terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational crimes – issues of shared concern across the region. Efforts are underway to harmonise counter-terror frameworks, intelligence-sharing, and mari-

time cooperation. On Connectivity, India has placed particular emphasis on developing physical, digital, and energy links. The BIMSTEC Energy Centre, hosted in Bengaluru, coordinates initiatives toward regional grid inter-connectivity.

This aligns with PM Modi's bold vision of "One World, One Sun, One Grid", which aims to create a globally interconnected solar energy grid. In the area of Sustainability and Disaster Management, India has positioned itself as a responsible regional partner. It hosts regular disaster management exercises involving member countries and leads the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate in Noida, playing a critical role in forecasting, climate data sharing, and early warning systems. Given the region's high vulnerability to natural disasters, this collaboration holds immense practical value.

Fostering Regional Identity

Beyond policy and security, PM Modi has consistently

championed the softer dimensions of regional cooperation – particularly culture, youth engagement, and environmental consciousness. These elements have been brought to the forefront through a series of vibrant events that promote shared identity and regional pride. Recent highlights include the BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship in Delhi (Feb 2024), the BIMSTEC Business Summit (Aug 2024), and cultural showcases like the BIMSTEC Pavilion at the Surajkund Mela (Feb 2025) and the BIMSTEC cultural troupe's performance at Bali Jatra in Cuttack (Nov 2024). Youth engagement, too, has been given a fresh thrust through the BIMSTEC Youth Summit in Ahmedabad and the BIMSTEC Youth-Led Climate Change Conference in Delhi, both held in February 2025. Another notable milestone was the launch of the BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network in February 2024, which aims to foster scientific collaboration and ocean sustainability.

BJP weaponising agencies to muzzle opposition, divert public from real issues: Tony

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony today came down heavily on the BJP-led Central Government, accusing it of misusing investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to harass opposition leaders and divert attention from the pressing issues facing the common man.

The senior Congress leader speaking to media persons after inaugurating the restaurant here today.

Referring to the ED chargesheet filed against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and others in the National Herald case, Tony slammed the BJP for indulging in what he termed as "brazen political vendetta". He stated that the case has no merit and is being resurrected only to stifle dissent and cripple the principal opposition party ahead of crucial elections.



"This is nothing but a deliberate attempt to malign the image of our top leadership and suppress the voice of democracy," Tony said, adding that the BJP is working against the very spirit of law and justice. "Instead of addressing the rising inflation, unemployment, and the deteriorating condition of farmers and labourers, the BJP is busy orchestrating distractions through ED and CBI," he said.

Tony questioned the BJP's silence on serious corruption charges against its own leaders and asked why similar enthusiasm is not seen when it comes to investigating those in

power. "The people of India are watching. They can clearly see the double standards and the misuse of constitutional institutions for political gains," he said.

Calling upon the people, especially the youth, to rise in defense of democracy and constitutional values, Tony said, "This is not just about saving India's soul, its democracy, and its future." He reiterated that Congress will not be cowed down by such tactics and will continue to raise the voice of the people, no matter how many agencies are unleashed to suppress it.

MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal Begins Construction Work on Abtal to SM Pura Road



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, APR 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of inclusive and infrastructure-driven development, MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister for Health and Medical Education, J&K, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal today kick-started the construction of the much-awaited road from Abtal to SM Pura. The project is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.70 crore.

The ceremony saw the presence of District Development Council (DDC)

Member Ramgarh, Anita Choudhary, who, along with Dr. Manyal, emphasized the significance of the project in boosting local connectivity and easing transportation challenges faced by residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Manyal reiterated his commitment to the development of the Ramgarh constituency and stated, "This road project is a part of our broader vision to strengthen infrastructure across the region. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, we are focused on accelerating growth and

improving the quality of life for every citizen."

Present on the occasion, Mandal Pradhan Ramgarh Nancy Choudhary, Former Mandal President Shiv Kumar Sharma, General Secretary Sunil Choudhary, and Sarpanchs Mohan Lal Sharma, Tejinder Singh, Anil Gupta Tilak, Binder Singh, Subash Verma, and Vijay, among others.

The local populace welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude to the administration for addressing long-pending developmental needs.

Social worker Ravi Dutt Sharma Joins BSP with his supporters

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Social worker Ravi Dutt, who contested the assembly elections from Jammu North Assembly constituency, joined the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) today along with dozens of his supporters. During this program organized at the party office in Satwari, BSP's Jammu Kashmir President Darshan Rana was the Chief Guest and welcomed Ravi Dutt and his supporters who joined BSP into the party. Many senior leaders and workers of the party were also present on this occasion. Welcoming the people who joined BSP, the party Jammu Kashmir President Darshan Rana said that Ravi Dutt has been working as a social worker for a long time and he also contested the assembly elections from Jammu North assembly constituency and he received full support of the public. Today, impressed by the policies of Bahujan Samaj Party, he



has joined BSP and his joining the party will strengthen the party a lot. Rana said that in the coming days also, more and more people will be connected with the party by organizing such programs. On this occasion, Ravi Dutt, who joined BSP, said that impressed by the policies of Bahujan Samaj Party, he has joined BSP today. He said that Bahujan Samaj Party is the only political party in the country which talks about the rights of the backward class people of the society. The party Supremo Kumari Mayawati is constantly working to strengthen the party and from time to time issues

related to the public are also given prominence by her. Before this, other leaders of the party also expressed their views and made people aware about the party's policies. Along with Ravi Dutt, Anil Kumar Verma, Geeta Devi, Manav, Gautam Varun Shashi, Rishabh, and Simran etc. were prominent among those who joined BSP, while on this occasion, the party's state vice-president Charanjit Chargoita, S. Raja Singh, Tilak Raj Bhagat Haji Shak Mohd and District President Jammu Tarsem Lal along with other people of the party were also present.

RBBA felicitates President J&K Dharmarth Trust

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

A delegation of the Raghunath Bazaar Businessmen Association (RBBA) today felicitated Dr. P.S. Pathania on assuming charge as the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust.

The delegation comprised of Association President Sanjay Gupta, Amit Goel (General Secretary), Shiv Arora, and Sanjay Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Gupta expressed confidence that under Dr. P.S Pathania's leadership, the Trust would further strengthen its role in managing temples and religious institutions with transparency, efficiency,



and devotion. He also assured the support of the business community in all noble initiatives taken by the Trust in service of Sanatan Dharma.

Dr. P.S Pathania expressed gratitude to the delegation for their kind

gesture and assured that the Trust will continue to uphold the legacy of serving devotees and preserving the ancient temples of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need for like-minded organizations to come together to protect and promote the religious and cultural ethos of the region.

Randhawa inaugurates Dream India Institute of Hotel Management at Marbal Market, Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16, 2025:

Choudhary Vikram Randhawa, the MLA from Bahu Fort, inaugurated the Dream India Institute of Hotel Management (DIHM), a new hotel management institute, on Wednesday. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Shivani Jamwal, the Managing Director of the institute And Manu Singh Jamwal

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Randhawa stated that this institute will serve as a great platform for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that it will not only equip them with valuable skills but also provide employment opportunities. He encouraged young men and women to take full advantage of this initiative and step forward toward a brighter future. Randhawa highlighted that the institute aims to offer world-class education and training for aspiring professionals in the hospitality industry.

Managing Director Shivani Jamwal shared that the objective of the institute is to develop competent and responsible professionals, providing them with the necessary skills and experience to lead in

various sectors of the hospitality industry. She added that DIHM is committed to delivering international-level education to prepare students for high-level careers in both domestic and global hospitality markets.

Jamwal further elaborated that the institute will train future managers in diverse fields such as hotels, restaurants, flight catering, airline crew services, offshore catering, and hospitality catering. The institute boasts a well-equipped infrastructure with modern classrooms, training kitchens, a training restaurant, Bar Training, Food production, and dedicated front office and housekeeping training rooms. Regarding courses, she informed that for the Diploma in Vocation (D.Voc), candidates must have passed either 10th or 12th grade, and the course duration is one year. For the Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc) degree, candidates must have completed 12th grade, with a course duration of three years.

Other present in the occasion Social Activists Anil Sharma, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Jai deep Singh, Shakshish Sharma, Shavani, Priya, Amanpreet, Nandani, Shiska Sharma, Nitika, Anil ji

KU mourns demise of its employee Mohd Rafiq, holds condolence meet

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

The University of Kashmir (KU) on Wednesday expressed shock and grief over the sudden demise of Mr. Mohd Rafiq, a university employee who passed away earlier in the day due to a sudden heart attack.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her condolence message, expressed deep sorrow over the loss and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

"Mr. Rafiq was a sincere and hardworking employee. His sudden demise is a great loss to the university fraternity. We stand in solidarity with his family during this difficult time and pray for eternal peace to the departed soul," she said.


MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurates blacktopping work on 1.75 KM Sundrani road



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 16

Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pawan Kumar Gupta today inaugurated the blacktopping work on 1.75-kilometre Sundrani to Dhanu via Nambra and Thawal Modha road. The upgrading of the road project is expected to provide a major boost to connectivity and ease of travel for

the local residents. Addressing the gathering, MLA Gupta emphasized that providing basic amenities such as roads, electricity, and water to every village remains his topmost priority. He added that this road will not only connect remote villages to major routes but will also contribute to the socio-economic uplift of the area.


Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR NAGROTA
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Assistant Collector
Phone and Fax 0191-2674752; E-mail tehsildarnagrotajammu@gmail.com

The Joint Director Information
Jammu

No: TN/Misc /D&B/25-26/03 Dated: 15/04/2025

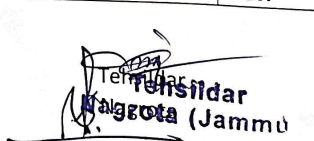
Subject: Notice to the public at large.

Sir/Madam,

The office has received Death certificate applications from Mamta Jamwal D/O Late Sh Hari Singh W/o Rahul Bandral R/O Sainik School Road Nagrota, Tehsil Nagrota District Jammu of his Mother namely Chanchla Devi W/O Hari Singh Any person having objection in the below mentioned information can file his/her objection personally or through any authorized person before his office within ten days from the publication of this notice failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objection regarding date of Death certificate.

Name of the Deceased	Sex	Name of Husband	Relation	Date of Death	Place of Birth	Name of the Deceased
Chanchla Devi	Female	Hari Singh	Daughter	18-03-2015	Home.	Chanchla Devi

DIP/J-344/25
Date: 16-4-25


Tehsildar
Nagrota (Jammu)

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAJAT-PnU-JAT25	25/04/2025 at 12:30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets blocks as per catalogue for 3 months at Jammu Tawi Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in . No. PnU-JAT-1-2025 Date: 16.04.2025		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		1123/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR-CTG25-11	24.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Khem Karan, Muktsar, Tarn Taran, Sahnewal, Kartarpur, RCF Kapurthala Halt, Kolkapur, Nawab Shahar Doaba, Nakodar, Verka, Jagraon, Firozpur City, Fazilka & Phagwara Railway Stations.
EAZR-CTG25-12	25.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Jalandhar Cantt, Railway Stations.
EAZR-LEDVB25-1	28.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of contract for advertisement rights through factory fitted 18.5" LED screens provided in all coaches by Vande Bharat Train No. 22488/22487.
EAZR-MPS25-7	30.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of contract for Multi-Purpose stalls (MPS) at Faridkot Railway Station.
EAZR-OH25-10	30.04.2025 at 11:00 Hours	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sahnewal, Amritsar & Jalandhar City Railway Station. 2) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Static media at Goraya & Lohian Khas Railway Station. 4) Static media/overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
EAZR-MIS25-7	30.04.2025 at 11:30 Hours	1) Allotment of contract for provision, operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt., Amritsar & Phagwara.
EAZR-PnU25-7	30.04.2025 at 12:30 Hours	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala & Muktsar Railway Stations.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in		
No.: MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date: 16.04.2025		1119/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

JKEDI launches Management Development Program under RAMP scheme



JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 16

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Kupwara, has officially launched a one-week Management Development Program (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The initiative commenced at the District

Employment and Counseling Centre (DECC) in Kupwara, marking a significant step towards bolstering local entrepreneurship.

Mumtaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner of Revenue Kupwara, who was present at the event, underscored its importance in driving regional economic growth.

The ceremony was graced by key officials, including Arshid Qadir,

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kupwara, and Azmat Hussain, District Nodal Officer for JKEDI Kupwara, who highlighted the program's alignment with broader developmental goals.

Designed to enhance managerial and entrepreneurial skills, the MDP aims to empower existing business owners with advanced strategies for sustainable growth. By fostering innovation and improving operational competencies, the program seeks to strengthen the economic ecosystem of Kupwara, contributing to long-term job creation and community development.

This collaborative effort reflects JKEDI's commitment to nurturing a culture of excellence and resilience among local enterprises under the RAMP scheme's framework.

Free Multispecialty Health Checkup Camp organized in Narbera Battal, Akhnoor



JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APR 16

Under the esteemed guidance of Cabinet Minister Sh. Satish Sharma ji, SIBA Event Management and Innovations Cooperative Ltd. successfully organized a Free Multispecialty Health Checkup Camp at Panchayat Ghar, Narbera Battal, Akhnoor.

The initiative saw an overwhelming response from the local community, with a large number of residents benefiting from free medical consultations and checkups provided during the camp. The

event aimed at improving access to healthcare services in rural areas and raising awareness about preventive health.

The health camp was held in collaboration with Family Health Care Clinic Dr Digvijay Singh and Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital Jammu Dr. Karanmol Singh, Dr Devit Sharma Druvi Sharma, Jagdeep Singh and Mehran Masood Dar. whose expert medical teams conducted checkups across various specialties, ensuring comprehensive care for attendees.

The event was proudly

supported by the Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation, with special acknowledgment to Sh. Vikrant Dogra for his continuous support and contribution toward public welfare initiatives.

SIBA Event Management and Innovations Cooperative Ltd. Co-founders Sidharth Verma Baljeet Singh along with team member Ankush Manni extends heartfelt thanks to all medical partners, volunteers, and community members who contributed to making the camp a grand success.

Operation of 03 Chemist shops disallowed at Kulgam for violating conditions of license

JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 16

In a bid to regulate the sale of Schedule H1 Drugs and to streamline the records by way of digitization, a special drive was conducted by the team of Drug Control Officers along with Police Officials in various areas of Kulgam.

About 15 Chemist shops in areas of Nehama, DH Pora and Watoo, Asnoor were inspected. During the drive several Drug samples of different brands were lifted for ascertaining the quality standards.

Operation of three chemist shops was disallowed for violating the conditions of licenses.

Earlier in the day, a representative from the Drug Control Department delivered an elaborate lecture in an awareness programme on the topic Drug/substance abuse, its genesis, role of the Drug deptt. and collaborative approach by the student and teacher community to circumvent this growing menace.

The mega awareness camp was held at Degree College Kilam Kulgam and was organised by Dist. Administration Kulgam in collaboration with other line departments.

Govt announces free entry to SPS Museum, Srinagar, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu on World Heritage Day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, in collaboration with the district administration, Tourism and Education departments, is going to celebrate World Heritage Day on 18th of April, 2025 in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Kashmir division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Hari Parbat Fort, Srinagar followed by Pledge and

Heritage Walk. Similarly, in Jammu Division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Samba Fort in Samba District, followed by Pledge for Preserving Cultural Heritage and Heritage Walk. On the eve of World Heritage Day, the Department has announced Free entry for all to SPS Museum, Srinagar and Dogra Art Museum, Jammu with an aim to facilitate all sections of society to have glimpse of the Rich Cultural Heritage and symbols of Historical Importance. Further, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is organizing day long Archival exhibition at Archival Repository in Jammu and at Art Gallery Museum, Old Assembly Complex, Srinagar, in order to have glimpse of historical monuments of Jammu and Kashmir. The Department has urged all to participate in the World Heritage Day Celebration, visit the Exhibitions being organized and avail the incentive of free entry to Museums.

Rs 65 cr Worth Development Works Completed by PWD in Jandrah and Dhan Panchayats

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 16 APRIL 2025:

The Public Works Department (PWD) has completed development works worth Rs 65 crore in Jandrah and Dhan Panchayat, in Nagrota Assembly constituency giving a big boost to rural road infrastructure in the area.

These works were taken up after continuous efforts by Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC, who actively pursued the matter with the district administration and PWD officials to strengthen road connectivity in the region.

The major roads completed under this initiative include the roads from Devak to nearby villages, Chakka to Sullian, Davek to Panwali, and Devak to Saley, pandiri, Bhawani. These routes are now easing travel for the local population and boosting local trade and connectivity.

In addition to road construction, several



improvements in public amenities have also been completed, aimed at raising the overall standard of living in the Panchayat. The initiative reflects a broader commitment to inclusive rural development.

PWD officials mentioned that all works were completed on time with full transparency and adherence to quality standards. The local com-

munity has responded positively, appreciating the upgraded infrastructure and improved accessibility.

Anil Sharma also extended gratitude to the villagers who generously gave land for these roads without any compensation, contributing to the public cause. Their cooperation was key to the success of the projects.

Locals, in turn, thanked

Anil Sharma for his Persistent efforts and dedication in ensuring the long-awaited projects were not only sanctioned but also completed, bringing real and visible development to their area.

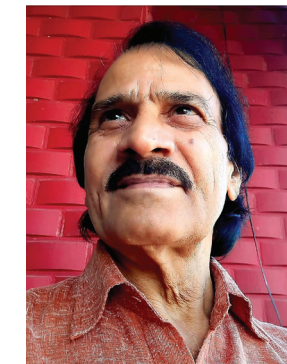
This accomplishment stands as a testament to the government's rural development focus and the strong community spirit of Jandrah and Dhan Panchayats.

Ganesh Sharma Honored on "World Art Day" by Mexico United For World Peace

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Ganesh Kumar Sharma eminent senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor honored by the Organization Mexico United for World Peace on "World Art Day" i. e. 15th of April. International Ambassador for World Peace Dr. Miriam Arenas Barrios and President of Mexico United for World Peace Organization, honored and presented an International Certificate virtually to Ganesh Kumar Sharma for his extraordinary and kind efforts in spreading art, culture, love and peace through his art works at International level.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma chosen in few of the world renowned artists by the organization and is the only artist from Jammu and Kashmir UT, who has been honored with International Certificate Award on this occasion. The management and President of the organization



congratulated and wishes more success in future to Mr. Ganesh.

Each year, on April 15th, World Art Day celebrations contribute to strengthen links between artistic creations and society, promoting greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlighting the contributions of artists to sustainable development.

Ganesh Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and recipient of so many International, National and State level awards and honors.

Ashok Koul reaffirms BJP's commitment to develop Ladakh



JNEWS SERVICE
KARGIL, APR 16

The Modi government

has demonstrated a strong commitment to the development of Ladakh through various strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing governance, infrastructure, and socio-economic growth in the region, said Ashok Koul.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh visited Kargil accompanied by Phunchok Stanzin, President, BJP Ladakh, Tsering Mutup, President, Kisan Morcha and Thinless Chosdup, General Secretary, BJYM.

BJP executive members and the Mandal Presidents of District Kargil & Drass both headed by Mohd Ali Chandan, District President BJP Kargil along with Mohd. Ali Majaz, Chairman Hajj Committee, and Rigzin Gyurmet, Councilor LAHDC Kargil.

Ashok Koul, in his address, highlighted the prominent role of BJP activists to achieve the progress and overall development of Kargil district. He necessitated the active participation of the organization at the

ground level to bring in the welcome change that has been envisioned by us all.

He said that the prime motto of BJP activists is to work for the welfare of the nation and its residents, which cannot be achieved without the welfare of the needy and the neglected living at the bottom hierarchical level of society particularly in the vast and difficult territorial region of Kargil.

He called for the active engagement of the party activists to ensure the benefit of the Modi government's public welfare schemes to the needy population. At the same time, he called for activists' role to strengthen the organizational structure of the party and extend the party activities to every remote village of the region.

Phunchok Stanzin highlighted the role of the Modi government to develop the much-needed infrastructure, which includes development of All-weather roads to ensure all year connectivity, digital connectivity, eco & cultural tourism, educational, health, employment and entrepreneurship development in Kargil.

Welfare schemes of Modi govt reflect Ambedkar's vision: Balbir Ram

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

The ideals of social justice, equality, and empowerment advocated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar are still evident in the policies and welfare schemes of the Modi government. This vision of inclusive governance is driven by the aim of empowering every section of society, especially marginalized communities.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP spokesperson for Jammu and Kashmir and former Vice Chairman of the SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, made these remarks during a conversation with senior leaders of the party's Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Class (OBC) morcha. He said that such initiatives by the government are a sincere effort to bring



Dr. Ambedkar's ideals into practice.

Balbir said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi often reiterates that the true tribute to Baba Saheb Ambedkar lies not just in ceremonial remembrance, but in implementing his vision. He stated that under PM Modi's leadership, many welfare schemes have been launched with the aim of holistic development of marginalized communities.

Initiatives like Stand-Up India and the Mudra Yojana have empowered entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and Backward Classes by providing them with financial assistance, guidance, and easy access to loans. These schemes have helped people start their own businesses, make free from poverty, and become self-reliant.

The Modi government has taken significant steps to honour Ambedkar's

legacy through the development of the Panchteerth – five key sites associated with his life. These sites have been preserved and promoted to instill a sense of pride and awareness among youth and the general public regarding his contributions.

Balbir said that Prime Minister Modi's governance model, inspired by the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" (Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all, Effort by all), is aimed at bridging socio-economic gaps and building a more just and equitable society, in line with Dr. Ambedkar's vision.

He shared these views with Sunil Prajapati, Vijay Anand Gill, Gulshan Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, Hans Raj Loria, and Adarsh Jethiyar.

Police arrests 4 drug peddlers in Baramulla, Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Baramulla & Srinagar and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party led by SHO Police Station Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Forest checkpoint NHW Gantamulla Payeen, intercepted one person. During search, 50 grams of contraband Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Usama bin Ramzan son of Mohd Ramzan Lone resident of Fatehgarh. Similarly, A Police party of Police Station Baramulla headed by SHO PS Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Kralhar, intercepted Two-wheeler

Scooty bearing registration number JK05M-6980. During search, 30 grams of Heroin-like substances was recovered from scooty rider. He has been identified as Bashir Ahmad Bhat son of Haji Ghulam Qadir Bhat resident of Umar Colony Ushkara Baramulla.

Moreover, a Police party of Police Post Palhallan, responded to an accident involving a Xylo vehicle bearing registration number UK07AQ-3700, which was moving from Srinagar to Baramulla, met with an accident near Sadderbal, in the vicinity of MM Hospital. The vehicle was being driven by Amir Khan son of Mehboob Khan resident of Bagatpora, Handwara who got injured in the accident & shifted to hospital. During search, 2.5 grams of Heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Pawan Sharma praised PM Modi's commitment to farmer welfare and sustainable agriculture in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Pawan Sharma, Senior Leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and former State Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, delivered remarks at the inaugural ceremony of the Kisan Khidmat Ghar in Sohagni, Tehsil Marh in Jammu, today, in the gracious presence of Sukh-nandan Choudhary, former Minister in J&K Govt and Dr. Parmendra Singh, Prof. Department of Agronomy, SKUAST Jammu. This initiative aims to provide vital services and support to the local agricultural community, aligning with the Narendra Modi government's commitment to agricultural development and farmer welfare.

Sharma stated that the Central Government's initiative to establish around 2000 Kisan Khidmat Ghar



across Jammu and Kashmir is a welcome step, providing subsidies and digital services to farmers. This initiative is an important step to take the government's Digital India Mission to the rural level. This initiative is being run under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), which is a big step towards strengthening rural agriculture in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor Administration and the Central Government.

In their address, Sukh-

nandan Choudhary and Dr. Parmendra Singh offered congratulations to Kajal Choudhary, a krishi udyami, and Sunil Choudhary, Program Convenor of Kisan Khidmat Ghar, as well as all local farmers, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Kisan Khidmat Ghar at Sohagni, Tehsil Marh in Jammu district.

Sunil Choudhary, Program Convenor, while providing a detailed briefing, stated that the Kisan Khidmat Ghar in Sohagni, Tehsil

Marh, will serve as a one-stop solution for agriculture and allied sectors, offering a comprehensive range of services to farmers at the Panchayat level. Farmers will be able to obtain seeds at subsidized rates under HADP at Kisan Khidmat Ghar and receive agricultural advice. Additionally, registration facilities will be available for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Assistance will also be provided in applying for documents such as passports, PAN cards, and electricity-water bill payments. Furthermore, facilities for ration cards, photo printing, and other online services will be accessible. This initiative represents a significant effort towards advancing the government's Digital India Mission to the grassroots level and empowering youth to become self-reliant.

Farooq Abdullah's hypocrisy exposed, validates BJP's stand on Art 370: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today came down heavily on National Conference patron Dr. Farooq Abdullah following shocking revelations made by former RAW Chief A.S Dulat in his new book, claiming that Abdullah had privately supported the abrogation of Article 370 and had even expressed willingness to "help" if taken into confidence.

Reacting to the development, the BJP stalwart said that the mask of political deception worn by the National Conference for decades has finally slipped. "Dulat's account exposes the monumental hypocrisy of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the NC



leadership. While they publicly cried betrayal, they were secretly aligned with the Modi Government's historic decision. This is a betrayal not just of the Constitution but of the trust of the people of Jammu & Kashmir," he asserted.

Kavinder said that BJP

has long maintained that Article 370 was a temporary and regressive provision that hindered J&K's integration and development. "Now, even those who projected themselves as its staunch defenders seem to have privately agreed with us. This validates the BJP's visionary stand and the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to deliver justice and equality to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The former Deputy CM questioned the political integrity of the NC leadership, accusing them of playing a dual role. "What kind of politics is this—where you quietly nod to Delhi and then stage protests in the Valley to gain sympathy and votes? This is a classic case of political

double-speak and opportunism that the people of J&K must see through," he added.

Kavinder also targeted the Gupkar Alliance, saying that the revelations have shattered the moral credibility of the so-called 'Gupkar Gang'. "If the senior-most leader of the alliance was willing to collaborate on Article 370 abrogation, what moral ground does this alliance have to oppose the move now?"

Kavinder said that the time has come for Kashmiri voters to demand truth and accountability from their traditional leaders. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered enough under the shadow of lies and manipulation. Let this be the moment where truth prevails over theatrics."

ADGP F&ES (J&K) inaugurates Free Medical camp at Fire and Emergency Services HQ Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services Jammu in collaboration with the People's Hut Foundation and supported by Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu organized a Day long medical camp at the Headquarters of Fire and Emergency Services, Gandhi Nagar Jammu focusing on providing essential medical check-ups and medicines to the Jawans, local population, particularly elders, women, and children. These camps under "Mobile Health Clinic Program" are part of the People's Hut Foundation's commitment to contribute to the well-being and healthcare accessibility of citizens in the country, specifically J&K. At these

medical camps, patients had the opportunity to consult with specialist doctors, including Physicians, Physiotherapists, Gynecologists, Ophthalmologists, Dentists, Orthopaedic specialists and Diagnostic Services ensuring a wide range of medical issues could be addressed comprehensively.

The camp was organised under the supervision and directions of Sh. Alok Kumar (IPS) ADGP Fire and Emergency Services and while inaugurating the camp praised the commitment of People's Hut Foundation in the field of healthcare. He appreciated the coordinated efforts of Sh. P.K Raina, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services and Dr. Manju, Medical Officer at F&ES Jammu.

The initiative by the NGO People's Hut Foun-



datation highlights its multifaceted role in the region, extending to humanitarian and social welfare activities. The Director and CEO of the foundation Dr. Rohit Koul said the availability of specialist consultations marks a significant step towards improving healthcare access and outcomes for the local population, who often face challenges in accessing quality medical care. A total of 218 Patients were treated in the camp and diagnostic services were availed by 184

Patients. The initiative has been widely appreciated by the communities, reinforcing the positive impact of such outreach programs on the lives of the people in J&K.

Ayush Department also dispersed their services in the camp under the guidance of Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, Director Ayush J&K. The Diagnostic services were provided by Sure Diagnostics Lab Jammu, Ortho and Physiotherapy camp was supported by the 4 Specialist Physiothera-

pists from KIRF headed by Dr. Imran Khan while as Eye Testing and Screening was provided by Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals Jammu. Overall the camp was supported by Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu under the mentorship of Dr. Harmeet Singh, MD and Medical Director at Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Jammu.

Dr. Ritu Koul, Director and COO at People's Hut Foundation said the NGO remains dedicated to its role in ensuring the well-being of the citizens, as demonstrated by the successful conduct of these medical camps. Such endeavours not only provide immediate health benefits but also strengthen the bond between the local communities, fostering a sense of trust and mutual respect for the non-profit organisations.

Safdarjung Hospital partners with Rotary Club of Delhi South East and Macawer BK Pvt Ltd



J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 16

In a meaningful effort to enhance public healthcare delivery, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital in association with Rotary Club of Delhi South East and Macawer BK Pvt Ltd hosted a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) event on April 16, 2025.

As part of this initiative, the hospital received critical medical equipment through CSR contributions by partner organisations - including a neonatal ventilator, fetoscope and 2 colour doppler ultrasound machines. These critical equipment will further strengthen the hospital's services, helping it provide timely and life-saving interventions to thousands of patients who seek care here, many of whom come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Such CSR partnerships are helpful in bridging the healthcare gap in public institutions. By equipping government hospitals with advanced medical technology, corporate partners not only fulfill their social responsibility but also contribute directly to the well-being of underprivileged communities. This initiative

will strengthen diagnostic accuracy, ensure better patient monitoring and improve public healthcare. Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, President, Rotary Club of Delhi South East, said: "Rotary is steadfast in its mission to strengthen healthcare delivery in communities. This collaboration reflects our commitment to support institutions that impact the lives of thousands of people daily. We are proud to contribute to one of India's leading public hospitals." Mr. Ajay Gupta, Managing Director, Macawer BK Private Limited, said: "As an organisation, Macawer BK Private Limited believes in supporting institutions that serve the most vulnerable. By contributing life-saving medical equipment, we hope to strengthen the important work being done at Safdarjung Hospital and inspire more such partnerships in the future." The event was also attended by Mr. Mahesh Tripathi, District Governor, Rotary Club of Delhi South East, who emphasised the club's commitment to impactful service. Dr. Sandeep Bansal, Medical Superintendent, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital expressed his gratitude.

"We are sincerely grateful for this generous support. These advanced equipment will greatly improve our ability to provide timely and effective care to mothers and newborns. Such public-private partnerships are vital to advance access and quality of healthcare. This CSR contribution will directly benefit our patients and enhance service delivery in high demand units." The event was attended by senior hospital officials, Additional Medical Superintendents- Dr. Charu Bamba, Dr. R.P. Arora and Dr. Krishan Kumar and members of the CSR Committee of the hospital. Heads of the departments of Surgery, Hematology, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics were also present with their respective teams, who appreciated the initiative and acknowledged the practical significance of the equipment contributed. The program emphasizes the importance of lasting partnerships between public institutions and private organizations in strengthening India's healthcare system. VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital are committed to fostering such alliances for the larger public good.

Delegation of Ekal Abhiyan calls on Lt Governor



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APR 16

A delegation of Ekal Abhiyan Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lalan Sharma national head of the mission today called on, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and gave detailed information about the ongoing Panchmukhi Shiksha being imparted to the children of underprivileged and tribal groups in six thousand Vidyalaya run by the Ekal campaign in J&K. The delegation also informed about the activities of skill devel-

opment going on through the campaign.

Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and suggested to be surveyed by these activities going on by Ekal Abhiyan in the UT.

On this occasion, A book titled 'Kranti Ram Ki' authored by the founder of Ekal Abhiyan Shyam Gupta, was presented to the LG.

The delegation comprised of Ekal Abhiyan prabhag palak Neeraj Kumar, Sambhag President Dhirendra Singh, karyakarta prabhari Vipin Sharma and youth in-charge Sandeep Manhas.

SMVDU-TBIC hosts Interactive Session with Pranav Gupta, Senior Principal Consultant at Infosys



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubation Center (SMVDU-TBIC) had the privilege of hosting Mr. Pranav Gupta, Senior Principal Consultant at Infosys and a global expert in the digital transformation of industrial systems. A proud native of Jammu, Mr. Gupta is a seasoned industry leader with over two decades of experience. He has successfully led multi-million-dollar digital transformation initiatives across the globe. His distinguished career includes scaling portfolios from \$0 to \$20 million, building high-performing teams, and implementing next-generation technologies such as Digi-

tal Twins, Artificial Intelligence (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IoT), and Virtual/Augmented Reality (VR/AR). His visit marks a significant milestone for the TBIC community. The welcome ceremony was attended by the SMVDU-TBIC team, including Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, and Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Manager, SMVDU-TBIC. The team extended a warm welcome to Mr. Gupta and briefed him on various initiatives undertaken at TBIC under the leadership of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU. During the session, Mr. Gupta emphasized the importance of digital transformation not

only as a tool for remaining competitive but also as a means to enrich the experiences of customers, employees, and communities. He shared deep insights into emerging technologies, strategies for digitizing core business operations, and the importance of cultivating a data-driven, agile, and innovative organizational culture. A recognized social media influencer and thought leader in the tech industry, Mr. Gupta's association with SMVDU-TBIC is expected to bring enhanced visibility, mentorship, and strategic guidance to startups incubated at the center. His involvement is anticipated to drive a new era of innovation and industrial modernization at TBIC.

Sat Sharma slams Congress over National Herald Case

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, criticized the Congress party over the ongoing developments in the National Herald case. He accused Congress leadership of repeatedly misusing public office for personal gains.

He was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi and party spokesperson Arun Gupta.

Sat Sharma CA said that the National Herald is a serious case of corruption and betrayal of public trust. He



said that the involvement of senior Congress leaders, including members of the Gandhi family, points to a pattern of systemic misuse of institutions for personal financial benefit. The Congress has consistently placed its own interests above those of the country. The National Herald case exposes how public funds and charitable assets were diverted for private enrichment, he asserted.

Sat Sharma accused that the Congress party has used its dirty tricks to delay judicial proceedings in the case and manipulate public perception. Every time the legal system inches closer to exposing the truth, the Congress hides behind the veil of victimhood and plays the sympathy card," he said. Responding to questions from media persons, Sharma praised the efforts of investigative agencies

and reiterated the BJP's stance that no one is above the law. The law should take its course. The people of India have the right to know the truth about how their money and trust were betrayed by those in power for decades, he added.

Sharma also criticized Congress for trying to turn a legal matter into a political battle to divert attention from the core issue of corruption.

Sat Sharma called on the people to remain vigilant and support the fight against corruption. The truth must prevail. He said that political accountability and transparency are not optional – they are the backbone of a health democracy.

PTTI Vijaypur organized lecture on Cyber Crime Awareness

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur organized a lecture on cyber crime awareness for Police personnel and trainees on various cyber frauds happening through mobile calls/SMSs being faced by the citizens. On this occasion a three member team from Department of Telecommunication Govt. of India headed by Sh. Rahur Kumar Sachan DDC(Security) J&K LSA, was invited at the Institute who delivered a comprehensive lecture and highlighted the importance of proper understanding of various forms of cyber crimes and essential tips and tricks to prevent these frauds. The team briefly explained the modalities being adopted by cyber scammers through mobile calls and SMSs and laid stress upon for not sharing any sensitive information viz OTP, bank details & passwords etc. on mobile.



To overcome these problems/frauds, the team further explained the use of Sanchar Saathi App recently launched by India's Ministry of Communication aims to combat the growing threat of digital fraud. They told that the App is available in the form of mobile app and web portal and explained briefly how this app empowers users to report fraudulent activities, block, lost or stolen handsets and manage their mobile connections etc. While speaking on the occasion, Shri Raj Kumar-SrPO, Shri Khushant Sharma-SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur told that such lectures are being organized to make aware Police personnel with the modalities being adopted

by cyber scammers and to look out for steps to be taken for its prevention. He urges that the participants will definitely take benefit of the services provided in the newly launched Sanchar Saathi app during the investigation process of such cyber crimes and will also aware other persons for the prevention of cyber frauds through this app. He thanked the team for sparing their precious time to make aware staff and trainees of this Institute on the subject. Shri Raj Kumar-SrPO, Shri Khushant Sharma-SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur told that such lectures are being organized to make aware Police personnel with the modalities being adopted

Omar playing Politics Over Statehood to Cover Up His Own Failures: Altaf Thakur



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Escalating the political heat in Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Altaf Thakur today launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister and the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah, accusing him of using the demand for statehood as a political smokescreen to divert attention from his own failures and internal turmoil within the NC.

Thakur said that Omar Abdullah has made a habit of resorting to emotional and populist issues, not out of concern for the people but as a calculated move to deflect criticism and distract the public from his party's declining influence and fractured leadership.

"Time and again, Omar Abdullah clutches onto the statehood issue to stay in the headlines. Statehood will be restored as promised so there is no need to play politics over it. This isn't about the people—it's about saving face. The statehood demand has already been addressed and assured by the central government. But instead of contributing constructively to the democratic process, he's weaponizing it to score political points," Thakur said.

The BJP leader went further to accuse Omar of inconsistency and opportunism, particularly on sensitive issues like the Waqf Board. "He changes his narrative depending on which way the political wind blows. One day he questions institutions, the next he praises them. This flip-flopping reflects not leadership, but confusion and desperation," Thakur remarked.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have grown politically mature and are no longer swayed by outdated emotional appeals or political theatrics. "Governance under Omar was marked by inefficiency and missed opportunities. The public remembers. No amount of rhetoric can rewrite the past," he added.

Thakur urged the National Conference to focus on internal reform and meaningful contribution instead of what he called "constant blame games and headline-hunting."

Police stops Congress protest against Modi govt 's vindictive action against Sonia, Rahul

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra along with AICC General Secretary & CLP Leader G A Mir and other top Congress leaders today led a strong protest demonstration against the Modi govt accusing it of indulging in clear vendetta politics against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders.

As part of nationwide call for protests against ED filing charge sheet against top Congress leaders in the National Herald case seizing of its properties, a large number of Congress leaders and activists held a strong protest demonstration at Shaeedi Chowk Jammu raising strong slogans & carrying placards against Modi govt. accusing it of targeting top Congress leaders out its vendetta politics and termed the action as illegal in a false baseless and fabricated case.

Police had a tough time to stop the top leaders and agitated workers who were proceeding towards Main Bazzars of Jammu city. The leaders climbed over barricades to show their anger Modi Shah for vendetta politics and express their solidarity with the readership.

CWC member Vikar



Rasool Wani, Working Presidents Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla, AICC Secretary Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Several former ministers, former legislators, DCC Presidents, Ex corporator, frontal wings heads and leaders and other senior congress and Mahila leaders participated in the protest.

Speaking to reporters during the protest demonstration, JKPCC Chief lashed out at the Modi Govt. for its vendetta politics for framing and fabricating a false case against top leadership of Congress on films grounds. He said only because the National Herald newspaper was started by Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru to fight for the right of Freedom of Indians, the bjp is jealousy of its legacy. No profit has been earned and neither any illegality

is involved but facts have been concocted to frame the case only to target Gandhi family.

AICC General Secretary & Leader CLP Shri G A Mir blamed Modi govt of fearing assembly elections in Gujrat and Bihar and because of failures on various fronts especially tariff issue of Trump led US, Modi Govt. has indulged in this kind of diversionary tactics. He said congress shall fight back in all possible democratic ways.

Prominent those who participated in the protest demonstration includes Ravinder Sharma, Th. Balwan Singh, DCC Presidents Jammu Urban Th. Manmohan Singh, Hari Singh Chijammu Rural), Yogesh Sawhney, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Th. Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma,

Naresh Gupta, Yash Pal Kundal, Vinod Sharma, Zahida Khan, Amrit Bali, M.K. Bhardwaj, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Narinder Gupta, Bhushan Dogra, Parvez Wani(Ramban), Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Husain Ali Wafa (ST) Madan Dogra (OBC) Annirudh Sawhney (PYC), Ajay Lakotra (NSUI), Shameema Raina (Mahila Congress), Sanjeev Sharma Panda, Dwarka Choudhary, Rajveer Singh, Michael Wazir, Vijay Shastri, Kapil Singh Chib, Neeraj Gupta, Sahil Sharma, Jatin Raina, Gurdarshan Singh, Gajan Singh, Babul Gupta, Ashok Bhagat, Vijay Choudhary, Bharat Priya, Ricky Dalotra, Bimla Salathia, Praveen Akhtar, Anuradha Sharma, Rashi Pawar, Rashada Praveen Farooq Mingnoo, Narinder Manhas, Pawan Dev Singh, Sat Pal Sapotia,, Joginder Singh Chib,, Pveern Singh Sudan, Sonu Dogra, Ch. Maqbool, shashi sayal, Sobit Sharma, Varun Magotra, Pradeep Bhalla, Varinder Kumar, Amit Gupta, Sanjeev Kattal, Nassir Masih, Jugal Kishore, Raj Kumar Sodi, Praveen Basotra, Askok Kumar, Manoj Sharma, Divyansh Jamwal, Mehul Abrol, Dr.Suhaib Manhas, Sardari Lal, Janak Raj, Khiladi Lal and others.

Commemoration of Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Marshal of Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Padma Vibhushan, DFC

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI 16 APR 2025

On 15 April 2025, to commemorate the 106th Birth Anniversary of the Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Padma Vibhushan, DFC, a bust was unveiled at Astha, Senior Citizen Home, Tughlakabad, Delhi by Air Mshl Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command and Air Mshl Jagjeet Singh (Retd) Senior Vice President Air Force Association. The event was attended by Mrs Ritu Garg, President AFFWA(R), IAF veterans and Personnel of Air Force Station, Tughlakabad.

The event was a tribute casted in the form of unveiling of the Marshal's bust, symbolising his enduring courage, visionary leadership and selfless service to the nation. The audience was reminded of his strategic brilliance and unflinching resolve shown as the Chief of the Air Staff during 1965 war. Under his leadership, the



Indian Air Force provided the decisive close air support to pulverise the Pakistani Armoured thrust in the Akhnoor sector which changed the course of the war in India's favour. He is the only Five-star officer of the IAF, who is an institution by himself and shall remain a guiding beacon to follow for generations to come.

During the event, the

AOC-in-C, Maintenance Command and President AFFWA (R) also interacted with the senior citizens and enquired about their wellbeing. The Air Force personnel also had the opportunity to interact with veterans who had served with the Marshal. Their real life narrative revived the heroic life of the legend.

CU Jammu organizes Panel Discussion on "Ambedkar and Idea of Nation"

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, organized a thought-provoking panel discussion on the theme "Ambedkar and the Idea of Nation: Reconciling Democracy, Justice and Identity" under its academic platform, Shiksha Shastrarth. The event was conducted under the esteemed patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, and was held at Pt. Malviya Shiksha Bhawan. It brought together distinguished scholars, faculty members, and students for a rich and reflective engagement with the intellectual and political legacy of Dr. Ambedkar. The event commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp (Deep Prajwalan) and a Pushpan-

jali ceremony, invoking the spirit of reverence towards Dr. Ambedkar's contribution to the nation.

Prof. Asit Mantry, Head of the Department, delivered the welcome address wherein he warmly welcomed the distinguished panellists and participants. He highlighted the significance of the Shiksha Shastrarth platform as a meaningful space for academic dialogue and critical engagement. Prof. Mantry also reflected upon Dr. Ambedkar's profound contributions to the fields of education and social justice, emphasising how Ambedkar envisioned education as a powerful tool for empowerment and social transformation. The panel discussion was presided over by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Students' Welfare, who chaired the session and offered insightful perspectives on the enduring relevance of



Ambedkar's thoughts in the contemporary socio-political landscape. The distinguished panellists included Dr. Jai Bhawani Singh, Dr. Rahul Thakur, Dr. Abhay SD Rajput, and Prof. Pawan Kumar, who explored various dimen-

sions of Ambedkar's idea of nationhood, particularly his emphasis on constitutional democracy, social justice, and identity politics. Each panellist brought a unique lens to the discussion, drawing from Ambedkar's writings and their

applicability in present-day India. The panellists, during their talk, threw light on various aspects on which Dr. Ambedkar has emphasised, such as: education, society, democracy, politics, nation, nationality, caste, equality,

etc. The panel discussion was followed by an open interaction session, where students, research scholars, and faculty members engaged directly with the panellists through thought-provoking questions and reflections. The event con-

cluded with remarks by the Chairperson, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, reiterating the critical importance of Ambedkar's thought in academia and public discourse.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Yad Ram, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and collaborators. The event was successfully coordinated by the organising team comprising Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Ravail Singh and Dr. Arvind Kumar, Mr. Vivek Kumar, and class representatives whose collective efforts ensured the smooth execution of the programme. The proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem. This academic gathering served as a fitting tribute to the vision and values of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and reflected the University's commitment to fostering inclusive and informed dialogue.

Bus overturns in Thanda Pani, 04 injured 02 referred to GMC Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, APRIL 16

Today a video coach bus overturns in near Thanda Pani Bridge when bus was going overspeed from Rajouri to Jammu. Four passengers were injured two in critical condition referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Jammu after first aid in sub district hospital (SDH) Sunderbani.

Meanwhile official told that a passenger bus bearing registration number JK02AX-6167 met with an accident and overturned on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway near Thanda Pani bridge of tehsil Sunderbani dis-



trict Rajouri resulting in injuries to four persons.

Meanwhile SHO Sun-

derbani Rajiv Sharma with own police party rushed on the spot then injured

have been shifted to a nearby Sub district hospital (SDH) Sunderbani for

treatment.

Injured have been identified as Ajit Singh (50yrs) son of Bihari Singh resident of Paloura Jammu, Bandna Sharma (37yrs) wife of Chetan Sharma resident of Talab Tillo, Wahid Hussain (22yrs) son of Arshad Hussain resident of Surankote and Arshad Hussain (55yrs) son of Mohd Sharif resident of Surankote district Poonch but in critical condition Bandna Sharma & Wahid Hussain both were referred to GMC Jammu.

While Sunderbani Police have taken the cognizance and started investigation in this regard.

PM Shri HSS, Seri unveils "Mangla Patrika", First Edition of School Magazine

JI NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, APRIL 16

PM Shri Higher Secondary School Seri Nowshera Proudly launched the inaugural edition of its school magazine "Mangla Patrika" (Vol. 1) in a grand unveiling ceremony that celebrated creativity, talent, and the power of student expression.

The occasion was graced by Iqbal Husain, Chief Education Officer, Rajouri, as the Chief Guest, accompanied by a galaxy of visionary leaders from the education fraternity. Distinguished guests included Muslim Wani, Principal, BHSS Rajouri, Gulzar Ahmed, Principal, GHSS Rajouri, Sardar Swarn Singh,



Principal, BHSS Bhawani, Rakesh Sharma Principal, BHSS Sunderbani, Anil Sharma, Zonal Education Officer, Dandesar. Also present were the Heads of Institutions from Cluster Seri, along with teachers and students, who added vibrancy to the event through their enthusiastic participation and spirited support.

The launch of Mangla Patrika marks a significant milestone in the school's journey towards holistic development, offering stu-

dents a vibrant platform to showcase their literary, artistic, and intellectual talents.

The event concluded with an inspiring vote of thanks by Principal Harcharan Kour, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, staff members, and students for making the event a memorable success. She also lauded the efforts of the editorial team and encouraged students to continue striving for excellence in all fields.

Movement Kalki raises voice against filth, mismanagement at Jammu Bus Stand

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

Movement Kalki has raised serious concerns regarding the appalling sanitation conditions, blocked drainage systems, and the deteriorating state of public toilets at the Jammu Bus Stand. Core Committee Member Mr. Sanjeev Dubey personally visited the location to assess the ground reality.

Once considered the "heart" of Jammu city, the bus stand is now plagued with filth and mismanagement. Public toilets are in a highly unhygienic state, while private operators like Sulabh Toilets are allegedly charging arbitrary fees with no proper system, oversight, or accountability in place.

The drainage system is completely choked, with insects breeding in stagnant water. The foul smell



across the area is unbearable, making it difficult for people to even stand near the vicinity. A severe fly infestation has made the environment so unhygienic that customers hesitate to eat at local food joints or

even shop—severely affecting the livelihoods of local vendors and businesses.

"Anyone can come and witness the condition of the bus stand. The stench is unbearable, and flies are everywhere. People are

afraid to eat from nearby shops. Under these conditions, business owners are suffering immensely."

This situation raises pressing questions: Who is responsible for this mismanagement? When will the administration act?

With the Amarnath Yatra set to begin soon and devotees from across the country expected to arrive in Jammu, the current state of the bus stand paints a shameful picture of the city.

Movement Kalki urges the administration to take swift and effective action to restore order and hygiene at the bus stand:

Launch a comprehensive cleanliness drive

Repair and regularly maintain drainage systems

Improve toilet conditions and implement fair, regulated usage charges

Ensure overall sanitation and hygiene in the entire bus stand area.

Amit emphasizes PACS Computerization in Mizoram SLMIC Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
AIZAWL, MIZORAM, APRIL 16

Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, ICT & Cooperation, Mizoram stressed upon the completion of Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) in a time-bound manner while chairing an important Meeting of State Level Monitoring & Implementation Committee (SLMIC) held here today in Secretariat, wherein amongst others, Registrar Cooperative Societies, Joint Secretary Department of Finance, Dy General Manager NABARD, CEO, Mizoram Apex Cooperative Bank, Joint Registrar Cooperative Societies participated.

While addressing various Agenda Points of the SLMIC Meeting, Secretary Cooperation Mizoram, Amit Sharma emphasized that a detailed survey must be conducted through RCS office regarding assessment of current status of PACS Computerisation, which should be the primary endeavour of the Government of Mizoram, as per Ministry of Cooperation



Software so as to include varied loan products like Agri Loan - Short Term / Long Term, KCC, etc and he further directed his team to minute all these decisions and apprise him about progress made in same in the next SLMIC Meeting.

Before conclusion of the Meeting, it was also approved by the Chair, Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma to include Zotlang MPACS under PACS Computerization in place of Kolasib Village Farming Cooperative Society Ltd as it had gone defunct, as per the report submitted by Joint Registrar Cooperatives in this behalf, after conducting a visit there.

During this Meeting, Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma also suggested NABARD team to ensure smooth conduct of ongoing trainings for finishing this PACS computerisation task, with the RCS Office supporting customization of ERP

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GCET Jammu organizes Blood Donation Camp in Campus

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 16

The Government College of Engineering & Technology Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassaemia Welfare Society, organized a successful blood donation camp at GCET campus today. The event highlighted the spirit of community service and underscored the importance of collective efforts in promoting health and well-being.

The camp was inaugurated by Prof. Samer Sharma, Principal of GCET, who emphasized the life-saving potential of blood donation. Addressing the students, she stated, donating blood is a healthy process. The human body can replenish the donated blood within 4 to 8 weeks, while plasma is restored within 48 hours. A single donation can save up to three lives. She further added that regular blood donation helps reduce harmful iron deposits in the body, lowering the risk of heart diseases. Prof. Sharma congratulated the young donors, calling them "life savers" and encouraged them to continue donating every six months.

The event saw enthusiastic participation, with 65 students and staff members donating blood, and around 80 individuals undergoing haemoglobin and blood group tests. Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of the J&K Thalassaemia Welfare Society, along with executive members Mr. Puneet Gandotra and Mr. Shami Kapoor, also graced the occasion and commended the initiative.

The smooth conduct of the camp was ensured by coordinators Prof. Bhawna Sharma, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Er. Sheetal Gandotra, and Dr. Raman Gupta, who congratulated the donors for their selfless contribution and advocated for building a culture of regular blood donation. Medical supervision was provided by Dr. Rubina and her expert technical team from GMC & SMGS hospital Jammu, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. The event also received commendable support from student volunteers Dhanush, Arnab, Oshan, Mehak, Aneesh, Ritesh, Vinyak and Anubhav along with senior staff members, who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success.

The coordinators expressed their gratitude to all the donors and urged more students and faculty members to participate in future blood donation drives, reiterating the importance of such humanitarian efforts.

Yudhvir conducts surprise visit to monitor Tube Well Projects, stresses timely completion for smooth Water Supply

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 16

In a proactive move to address public concerns ahead of the summer season, senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, today conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing tube well projects in Aithem, Khanna Shargal, Toote Di Khui, and Sandhi areas on the outskirts of Jammu city.

Accompanied by the Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department Rashpal Singh,

Onkar sharma, AEE PHE Rural Division Jammu, Vinod Raina AEE PHE Bishnah Gaurav Swaraj, AEE PHE Mechanical Rural Division and all concerned JEs, Sethi personally assessed the pace of work and sought a detailed briefing on the progress of the tube well installations. The officials assured the MLA that all efforts were being made to complete the works within the stipulated timelines.

Expressing concern over the rising complaints of water scarcity in various areas, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the need for timely and efficient completion of all ongo-



ing projects. "Summer is approaching fast, and people have already started facing water-related challenges. It is the duty of the department to ensure regular and uninterrupted water supply to every household," he stated.

MLA Sethi directed the Executive Engineer to intensify efforts and maintain constant monitoring so that no area remains deprived of essential drinking water. He further urged the officials to remain available on the ground and ensure swift redressal of grievances

from the public.

Highlighting the commitment of the Central Government, Sethi said, "The Modi Government has sanctioned massive funds under the prestigious Jal Jeevan Mission, with the vision of providing 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'—safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household. This initiative reflects the government's resolve to improve the quality of life for the people."

The senior BJP leader added that the public representatives and officials must work in synergy to

ensure that the benefits of centrally-sponsored schemes reach the grassroots. He reiterated his commitment to personally monitor development works in his constituency and ensure that basic amenities like drinking water are made available to every citizen without delay.

Among those who were present included Shiv Kumar Sharma, Mandal President Bajalta, Bishan Singh General Secretary, Naseeb Singh Vice President, Sunny Sharma, Sardar Singh, Gaurav Singh, Khalid and others.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment for Students at Kalal, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APR 16, 2025

Indian Army organised an inspiring session on Women Empowerment for students at Modern High School, Seri. The engaging session aimed to inspire and uplift young minds, promoting the importance of self-belief, education and the collective power of women. The girl students were acquainted with some of the most influential women in history of India, Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Mithali Raj, Indira Gandhi, Mary Kom, Kiran Bedi, Arundhati Roy, Dr Tessa Thomas "Missile women of India" to name a few, who made significant contributions in their fields and have been role model for generations to come. The students were later called upon on stage to express their ambitions in life. Lecture was focused on giving impetus to education and financial independence which is a powerful tool in the journey of empower-



ment. Important aspects like the wellbeing of women, women's equality, opportunities for women for self-development and how empowered women can be the building block of the nation were brought out by the girl students through discussions. The event not only motivated the girl students to work hard in studies and focus on education but also provided information about government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mahila E-Haat and various skill development programs.

As the event concluded, students and teachers expressed their gratitude towards Indian Army for organising a truly enlightening interactive session and for their continuous support towards motivating and guiding the youth for better life. The teachers commended the students for their active participation and urged them to embrace the lessons learned to create a brighter and more equitable future. A total of 28 students and 03 teachers attended the event.

RAMP Scheme implementation takes off in Jammu & Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 16

In a significant move towards creating a feasible ecosystem for the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme was launched today in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory with the successful conduct of the first District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop in Udhampur.

The event, held here at the ITI college, was jointly organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (SPIU for RAMP), in collaboration with the District Industries Centre (DIC). The event marked the beginning of a series of district-level outreach programs designed to build awareness and

capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders, and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative.

The RAMP scheme, an initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, supported by the World Bank, is a strategic intervention aimed at revitalizing the MSME sector across India. With a national outlay of 6,062.45 crore till FY 2026-27, the scheme focuses on improving market access, financing, digital adoption, greening enterprises, streamlining compliance, and enhancing institutional capacity.

Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated 74.03 crore under the scheme, including 66.63 crore as the central share and 7.40 crore as the UT's contribution. The Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has been entrusted with the responsibility of the scheme across the



UT. The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) has been nominated as the Nodal Agency for overall coordination and execution and Implementation of RAMP-related activities.

Managing Director, JKPTO Sudarshan Kumar underlined the strategic significance of the RAMP scheme for the UT. "This scheme directly addresses the on-ground challenges faced by MSMEs, from access to credit and markets to skilling and formalization. Under the guidance of Vikramjit Singh,

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, we are committed to ensuring that the RAMP scheme becomes a game changer for MSMEs across Jammu and Kashmir."

The SPIU Team delivered a detailed presentation, outlining the approved interventions under the RAMP scheme in J&K. These interventions include the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration in the UT of J&K, MSME packaging and publicity of GI/ODOP/DEH/unique products from J&K, and the establishment of

producer companies/associations for GI/ODOP/DEH/unique products under cluster development programmes. Additionally, the scheme encompasses buyer-seller meets (BSMs) and reverse buyer-seller meets (RBSMs), the Jammu & Kashmir MSMEs Health Clinic, the J&K Ramp M&E Dashboard, Entrepreneurship and skill development programmes (ESDP), Management Development and upskilling of existing entrepreneurs (MDPs), and the penetration of digital financing.

The workshop witnessed active participation from MSME entrepreneurs, officials, and stakeholders. Key functionaries present included Kishor Singh Katoch, General Manager, DIC Udhampur, and Sourabh Sharma, General Manager, JKPTO. SPIU consultants and officials from the Department of Industries and

Commerce and ITI Udhampur responded to various stakeholder queries, reaffirming the government's commitment to grassroots-level implementation.

Furthermore, Management Development Programmes (MDPs) have been initiated in 15 districts across J&K by JKEDI starting from April 15, 2025. Moreover, the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir has launched a dedicated Awareness cum Formalization Drive today, targeting unregistered enterprises in the Kashmir division, thereby paving the way for broader inclusion under government schemes..

The event concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the RAMP scheme across districts, ensuring that J&K's MSMEs emerge stronger, more competitive, and more resilient.

DDC Ramban interacts with Farmers



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, APRIL 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today held an interactive session with farmers hailing from different areas of the district and associated with Agriculture and allied sectors. During the interaction, the farmers shared their experiences and success stories, highlighting the positive impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) on their livelihoods. They expressed gratitude for the support received under the flagship schemes and the significant improvement in their economic condition. DC Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary assured the farmers of continued support

from the district administration and encouraged them to adopt scientific and modern agricultural practices to further enhance productivity and income. He also directed the officers of Agriculture and allied departments to extend handholding and guidance to the farmers in availing the full benefits of the HADP schemes.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner distributed 'Daksh Kissan' Certificates among the farmers, who successfully completed skill development training courses in Agriculture and allied sectors.

District Nodal Officer HADP Dr. Suhail Kawoosa along with CAO, AMO and other officers were also present at the programme.

Hajj-2025: Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today directed all the concerned Departments and agencies to work in synergy for making the Hajj-2025 a hassle free and seamless experience for the intending pilgrims.

Chairing a high level meeting to review the arrangements made for this year's Hajj pilgrimage, the Divisional Commissioner issued a slew of directions to the officers and instructed them to intensify preparations for the foolproof arrangements for the intending pilgrims and ensure their smooth departure.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of almost all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Director Airports Authority of India besides officers and representatives from various line departments including Police, Emigration & Customs, R&B, PHE, KPDCCL, MED, Traffic, Transport, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Health, Haj Committee, Police, CISF,



Airforce, J&K Bank and other concerned Agencies.

While highlighting the significance of Hajj, the Div Com urged the DCs to immediately activate the Hajj Cells in their respective offices to monitor all the preparations with respect to facilitation of pilgrims in their respective districts. He directed the Health department to establish medical camps for timely vaccination of pilgrims in their respective districts so that all the

selected pilgrims are protected and certificates of vaccination are issued in their favour well in time.

The meeting was informed that this year Haj flights are scheduled to begin from May 4, 2025, from Srinagar to Saudi Arabia, with the final flight carrying pilgrims set to leave on May 15, 2025.

Underlining the need of sufficient Foreign Exchange at Banks, Haj House Bemina and Srinagar Airport, the Divi-

sional Commissioner directed the J&K Bank authorities to ensure availability of adequate forex so that pilgrims don't face any inconvenience in obtaining Saudi currency.

The Div Com also directed PHE, KPDCCL and SMC to ensure uninterrupted civil amenities at Haj House including electricity, sanitation & water supply. He also directed immediate repairs of interior roads for smooth riding surfaces. He also directed

officials to make sufficient arrangements for boarding & lodging facilities at Haj House for the pilgrims from Jammu and Ladakh while factoring in road and weather conditions.

The Div Com asked the Customs & Immigration Departments to make special arrangements at the Airport for hassle-free clearance of the intending pilgrims by timely installation of adequate X-Ray machines and technical staff at Haj House.

To facilitate seamless movement of Haj Convoy vehicles, the Div Com directed the Traffic Department to chalk out a meticulous plan for smooth movement of pilgrim buses & luggage vehicles from Haj House Bemina to Srinagar Airport. He also instructed SSP Traffic Rural to ensure smooth movement of vehicles ferrying Haj pilgrims from Ladakh to Srinagar Haj House.

To ensure close coordination & synergy among departments, Div Com directed creating a dedicated Whatsapp group of the concerned officers for timely dissemination of information and updates regarding flights & other advisories.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 16

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Sargal, Kuntwara, Trigam and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 17 from 9 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to District Udhampur will remain affected on April 17 from 7 am to 9 am. Meanwhile, Superintendent Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Meen and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 17, 19 and 20 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Vaccination to begin from April-21 for Hajj Pilgrims of Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, APRIL 16

In view of the Hajj Vaccination programme in District Baramulla, all the selected Hajj Pilgrims of District Baramulla are asked to get vaccinated at Vaccination Section, Associated Hospital GMC Baramulla as per the date and time schedule for given serial numbers.

For Serial No 1-96, the vaccination shall be held

on 21 April, 2025 from 10AM to 1PM. Also, pilgrims falling within Serial No 97-183 shall get vaccinated on 21 April, 2025 from 1PM to 4PM.

Similarly, pilgrims from Serial No 184-281 shall get vaccinated on 22 April, 2025 from 10AM to 1PM. Further, the pilgrims falling in between Serial No 282-369 shall be scheduled to come for vaccination on 22 April, 2025 from 1PM to 4PM.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on Major Drainage Projects

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR APRIL 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting of Officers at DC Office Complex here to review the progress of ongoing major drainage projects under execution in the district.

The major drainage projects are aimed to strengthen the existing drainage network system and upgrade the system to protect the City from water logging and potential flood-like situations.

At the outset, DC took a comprehensive review of ongoing major drainage projects across the district, emphasizing the urgent need for solution-oriented strategies to protect City from water logging and potential flood-like situation during any inclement weather conditions.

During the review meeting, DC directed the concerned to expedite works on the drainage projects and ensure timely completion of critical drainage infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of sustainable and long-term planning to enhance the City's flood resilience, especially in light of past weather-related chal-



lenges. Dr Bilal urged the Officers to prioritize innovation and efficiency in project execution, while also coordinating closely to address bottlenecks and streamline processes.

DC reiterated the Administration's commitment to improving urban infrastructure and protecting Srinagar residents from environmental vul-

nerabilities. He said that all works taken up must be in accordance with need-assessment.

On the occasion, DC was given a detailed appraisal of major vital projects including new projects and ongoing works for upgradation and augmentation of drainage networks system in the district.

Awareness campaign themed 'Addiction and ambition can't coexist' organised at GHSS Paloura

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 16

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, a drug awareness programme was organised today at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Paloura. The event was held to spread awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse and to encourage a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Ansuya Jamwal was the chief guest on the occasion.

In her address, the ADC spoke about the urgent need to prevent substance abuse among youth. Emphasising the theme "Addiction and ambition can't coexist", she encouraged students to stay focused on their goals and remain vigilant against the lure of drugs. She highlighted how substance



abuse not only affects health but also hampers educational and professional aspirations. "Shun the lure of drugs and be motivated for ambitious goals in life," she urged.

The ADC also cautioned students against being misled into possessing or transporting narcotics, stressing that both possession and logistical involvement are punishable offences under the law. She further appealed to parents and teachers to maintain open communication with children and support them in making

informed, responsible choices.

The programme featured interactive sessions by experts from various departments. Sub-Inspector Uttam Singh from the Home Department briefed the students on the legal consequences of drug offences under the NDPS Act and the importance of awareness at the community level.

Dr. Varun Kanathia, Excise Sub-Inspector, discussed the role of the Excise Department in the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. He provided informa-

tion about relevant legal provisions and shared helpline numbers that can be used by children, women, and youth seeking help.

Dr. Rita Lidwal from the Health Department spoke on the adverse effects of drug abuse on human health, covering both physical and psychological impacts. She emphasised early intervention and the role of healthcare in recovery.

Representatives from the Social Welfare Department, including Manjeet Singh, Ranjana Sharma

and Meenakshi Bhau, highlighted the importance of community engagement, counselling, and rehabilitation services. They called for coordinated efforts by families, schools, and local bodies in building a drug-free society.

Similar awareness programmes were also held across the district as part of the IEC campaign against drug abuse, including at HSS Rehal, HSS Jajjar Kotli, Government Higher Secondary School Chowki Choura, HSS Ghatora and Government Boys Higher Secondary School Akhnoor on April 15 and 16.

Faculty members, students, and members from civil society participated in the event. The session concluded with a pledge by students to lead a drug-free life and act as ambassadors of awareness in their communities.