

**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 on eyes
- Redness on skin
- Redness on gums
- Redness on nose
- Redness on throat
- Redness on tongue
- Redness on lips
- Redness on face
- Redness on neck
- Redness on chest
- Redness on back
- Redness on arms
- Redness on legs
- Redness on feet
- Redness on hands
- Redness on fingers
- Redness on toes
- Redness on nails
- Redness on hair
- Redness on skin
- Redness on face
- Redness on neck
- Redness on chest
- Redness on back
- Redness on arms
- Redness on legs
- Redness on feet
- Redness on hands
- Redness on fingers
- Redness on toes
- Redness on nails
- Redness on hair

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Amit Shah praises CRPF for keeping J&K peaceful

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 17 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday praised the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for playing a vital role in maintaining peace in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and confining Naxalism to a few districts.

While speaking at the "86th Central Reserve Police Force Day Parade 2025" program at Neemuch district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh, Shah, according to the news agency, said, "The CRPF is playing a major role in the Central Gov-



ernment's resolve to completely eliminate Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026."

"The CRPF has left no stone unturned in maintaining the unity and integrity of

the country," he said, adding, "The CRPF was also deployed during the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The CRPF jawans have made a significant contribu-

tion in establishing peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast and other parts of the country," the Union Home Minister said.

Shah made a special mention of the CRPF's Cobra Battalion and said that it has pushed Naxalites to the wall. "The Naxalites in the country have now been reduced to only four districts. These Naxalites once had the courage to go from "Pashupati in Tirupati", now they are hiding in rat holes," he said.

"When the Naxalites come to know that the jawans

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Omar asks Mehbooba to recall what Dulat wrote about her late father

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 17 (KNO)

Reacting to the claims of Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti that book written by former RAW chief A S Dulat is a "Gospel Truth", Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that Mufti should look back and see what Dulat had written about her late father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Talking to reporters here, Omar, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "If Mehbooba Ji considers everything written by Dulat Sahib to be true, then should we also consider what he wrote about her father in his first book true? If we consider the truth, then she



turned to humiliate Farooq sahib. It is said that when you have friends like this, there is no need for enemies. Finally, Farooq sahib has found out the truth about Dulat sahib."

On the Waqf Act hearing in Parliament, he said, "We hope that when the verdict is pronounced, there will be solutions to the issues raised by the Muslim community in the Waqf Act. There should be no violence over this Bill."

On Pakistan Army chief's statement, Omar, as per KNO said, "This is nothing new. They have been saying this for a long time. When you talk about Indian territory occupied by Pakistan, why don't you also raise the issue about the portion of Ladakh which China has taken?". KNO

should answer the question of how she will make the people believe it."

Omar said, "To sell his book, it is Dulat sahib's habit not to go with the truth. In his first book, he did not spare anyone, and in this book, he did not leave any stone

## LG inaugurates week-long Mega Surgical Camp at Doda, Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the week-long Mega Surgical Camp, at Doda and Kishtwar.

Camp at 3 different locations- Associated Hospital of GMC Doda, District Hospital Kishtwar & SDH Baderwah, being organised by Rotary International in collaboration with District Administrations of Doda & Kishtwar and Department of Health & Medical Education, will witness superspeciality and general surgeries by specialized and experienced Doctors in different fields.

Addressing the gathering at SDH Baderwah during the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to members of Rotary International, officials of District Administrations, and Health & Medical Education Department, Doctors, Nursing Staff, volunteers and everyone associated with the noble endeavour.

"Health for All is top priority for me and J&K administration in the past few years



has ensured that everyone has access to effective and quality health services. We have improved physical infrastructure and invested in essential services for timely and appropriate healthcare.

There is a single resolve behind improvement in physical facilities - to provide better protection to the people during health emergencies and to ensure healthy living and well-being for people of all age groups," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the J&K Administration has made

significant strides in strengthening the healthcare sector.

He said, the entire health system has been sensitized in the last five years to ensure essential healthcare and develop infrastructure for noncommunicable diseases like mental health and psychosocial support in every district. We have been diligently working on key areas such as ensuring availability of Doctors, access to affordable Drugs, enhancing Diagnostics, and improving Delivery Mechanisms, the Lieutenant Governor added.

"I assure you all that promoting safe, healthy and better life will always be

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Kashmir belongs to us, Pak must vacate illegally held regions: India

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 17 (KNO)

India on Thursday firmly rejected recent remarks by Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir, concerning Kashmir and the two-nation theory, stating that Jammu and Kashmir remains an integral part of India and that Pakistan's only connection with the region lies in vacating its illegally occupied areas.

Responding to a question during the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory of India and dismissed any external claim over it.

"How can anything foreign be in a jugular vein? Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory of India. Its only relationship with Pakistan is that the latter must vacate the territories it continues to occupy illegally," Jaiswal said, as per the news agency.

General Munir had recently addressed an event in Pakistan, where he invoked the



two-nation theory and linked it to the current situation in Kashmir. He urged citizens to educate their children about the ideological basis of Pakistan's creation, claiming fundamental differences with India.

Jaiswal also used the occasion to raise the issue of Pakistan's continued shelter to individuals accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. He said the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the United States to India serves as a reminder of Pakistan's failure to act against known perpetrators.

He said Rana's extradition highlights the importance of justice for the victims of

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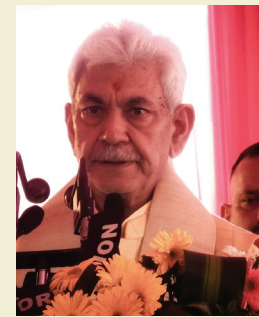
## Pak desperate to keep terrorism alive in J&K: LG

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BADERWAH (DODA), APR 17 (KNO)

Asserting that security forces are capable of thwarting any attempts to vitiate peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Pakistan is desperate to keep terrorism alive in the Union Territory.

Addressing a gathering here LG Sinha, according to the news agency, said, "Despite being a failed state, Pakistan is busy sponsoring terror and it continues to make attempts to disturb peace in the region by pushing in terrorists."

He said, "Our security forces have always foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy and are capable of thwarting all their actions."



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## Elite CoBRA commandos to tackle terrorism in J&K: CRPF Chief

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 17 (KNO)

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will raise a dedicated Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at intensifying counter-terrorism operations across forested and remote regions of the Union Territory.

The announcement was made during the CRPF's 86th Raising Day event, where Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the move is part of a broader operational push to deal with evolving

security threats in the region. "Equipped with advanced surveillance tools and trained for rapid, intelligence-driven missions, the new unit will focus on flushing out terrorists," he said, as per the news agency.

The battalion will mark the 11th CoBRA unit since the elite force was first created in 2008 to combat Left Wing Extremism.

Meanwhile, a senior security official said the new battalion will be tasked with operations specifically in dense forest areas and

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Jammu region sees restoration of 95% power supply post windstorm

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

In the wake of a severe windstorm that disrupted the power supply across various parts of the Jammu region, the Managing Director (MD), Jammu Power Development Corpora-

tion Limited (JPDC), springing into action, launched a vigorous restoration drive, ensuring around the clock works to bring back the shattered power scenario on track.

Soon after the storm subsided, the MD JPDC conducted a detailed assessment and directed the Chief

Engineer and concerned Executive Engineers to initiate urgent restoration measures across all affected areas. The MD was apprised of major outages including the tripping of 220 KV Salal Circuit-1&2, 220 KV Jatwal Transmission line feeding Grid

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Terrorists not present in Jammu only, Baramulla still vulnerable: SSP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 17 (KNO)

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, on Thursday said that terrorist activities in the district have not completely ceased, and cross-border drug smuggling remains a pressing concern for the security agencies.

SSP Singh, as per the news agency, while responding to

a query said, "It's not that terrorists are present only in Jammu. We continue to receive daily intelligence inputs about terrorist movements in Baramulla, especially due to its proximity to the Line of Control (LoC)."

He said the threat has not entirely vanished and security forces remain alert.

"We are privy to the fact that the danger is not

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## CS led SLSC approves over Rs 300 cr plans for major agri schemes



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the State Level

Steering Committee (SLSC) meeting held regarding approval to the Annual Action Plans (AAP) in

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## CM Omar Abdullah releases book by 15-year-old author Laranya R Kumar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today released a book titled "The Land of Souls"- A Tale of Adventure and Discovery, authored by 15-year-old Laranya R Kumar, at a function held here.

The event was graced by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, the young author herself, along with her parents, grandparents, family



members and friends. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Laranya on her remarkable achievement at such a

young age and appreciated that the young author began writing the book at the age of 13, exploring profound

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

# Sakeena Itoo emphasises wider awareness, improved accessibility at AIIMS Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYPUR (SAMBHA), APRIL 17

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasised on improving public accessibility and aggressive outreach campaign to aware people about wide range of medical care services being offered at AIIMS Jammu.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the functioning of AIIMS Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Rajesh Sharma; Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta; Director Coordination New GMCs, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad; HoDs of different departments of AIIMS Jammu, Professors, doctors and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, Sakeena assessed the current operational status of AIIMS Jammu besides reviewing progress on several ongoing works at the facility. She also discussed strategies for maximising awareness among the public about the facilities available at this premier health institution.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the transformative role that of AIIMS Jammu in the healthcare landscape of the region, adding that it is one of the finest institutes in terms of healthcare in North India after AIIMS Delhi. "AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital or an academic institution, but it is a symbol of hope, a beacon of advanced healthcare for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", Sakeena stated. "Aware public about facilities and services available here so that they can utilize them to the fullest

without moving outside for treatments", she said.

The Minister added that from state-of-the-art diagnostic labs to specialized treatment units and digital patient care systems, AIIMS Jammu is equipped to handle complex medical needs, yet maximum people are unaware of how to access the services being offered here.

Highlighting the role of AIIMS in acting as guiding force for other medical institutes of J&K, Sakeena Itoo called upon the Principals of all GMCs, including SKIMS Soura and other hospitals to maintain synergy with AIIMS Jammu for sharing ideas in terms of advanced medical care facilities for the benefit of common masses.

The Minister, on the occasion, also assured the administration of AIIMS of all possible support and assistance from the government. She assured the



CEO AIIMS that all the new proposals will be looked into for necessary approvals in due course of time.

Earlier, in his presentation, Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, informed the Minister that this institute is providing advanced medical care facilities to the people of J&K. He informed that till date, AIIMS Jammu has successfully catered to over 1,70,000 patients and the daily footfall of patients currently stands at approx-

imately 1200 to 1500.

He also informed the Minister that a Poison Information and Management Centre has been established in the institute to provide round the clock poisoning and Management services to the people. He added that Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine has also been established here which is a first of kind facility in Northern India.

It was also given out that AIIMS Jammu is equipped

with 20 Specialty Departments and 12 Super-Specialty Departments besides the institute has implemented advanced systems like Patient Navigation System, Patient Referral System, Walk-in Patient Services, Swasth App Integration for seamless healthcare and other advanced facilities for the ease of common people.

It was also informed in the meeting that the Blood Bank at AIIMS Jammu is being developed as a state-of-the-art facility, envisioned to be one of its kind in the region, with cutting-edge, high-end technology, all aimed at delivering patient-centric and quality-driven care.

Later, Sakeena Itoo undertook a comprehensive round of the different sections of the institute.

She visited the Academic Block, Convention Centre, Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine, Library, Outpatient Department (OPD), Inpatient Department (IPD), Emergency Department, Radiodiagnosis unit including MRI, X-ray and Fluoroscopy section. She expressed satisfaction at the world-class standards being upheld in medical education and training at this prestigious institution.

She also commended the hospital administration for establishing digital library having modern setup which is offering students and faculty access to global medical journals, interactive learning modules other research databases. She interacted with the students present at the facility, encouraging them to take full advantage of the resources to excel in their academic and pro-

fessional journeys.

While inspecting other infrastructure, Sakeena directed the officers to ensure that infrastructure gaps, if any, are addressed promptly and that periodic maintenance of both academic and clinical wings is carried out efficiently.

During the round of the institute, Sakeena highlighted on the importance of integration between AIIMS Jammu and peripheral healthcare centers to ensure seamless referral systems and better patient outcomes across the region. She reiterated the Omar Abdullah led government's commitment towards enhancing healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir, while expressing optimism that AIIMS Jammu will soon emerge as a model healthcare and teaching institution across North India.

# Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025: Labour Department commences registration of Service Providers

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

The Labour Department of Jammu and Kashmir today commenced the registration process for service providers participating in the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025. The registration process was formally launched by the Labour Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir, Charandeep Singh.

The programme was attended by Deputy Labour Commissioner Central/Jammu/Kashmir, Assistant Labour Commissioners (ALCs) virtually along with a large number of service providers, who connected from their respective designated locations across the Union Territory. The registration drive is specifically meant for essential support personnel involved in the



Yatra, such as pony wallas, palkiwallas, pithuwallas and hawkers, who play a crucial role in assisting pilgrims during the sacred journey.

The registration process is being conducted online through the portal of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board. The entire process is fully digital and streamlined,

ensuring transparency and convenience for all stakeholders.

During the session, the Labour Commissioner engaged directly with the service providers, who brought forth several concerns and suggestions related to their work and welfare. The Labour Commissioner assured them that all genuine grievances would be addressed on priority, and that the

department is committed to ensuring fair and efficient facilitation of their services.

"This registration process is a key component of our operational readiness for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025," Commissioner said and added "The contributions of these service providers are invaluable, and we aim to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met."

The Labour Commissioner has appealed to all eligible service providers to complete their registration at the earliest through their respective ALC offices. He also urged for early registration to avoid any last-minute rush or procedural inconvenience, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for both service providers and the administration.

# Road safety awareness programmes organised in various Higher Secondary Schools of Shopian

JNEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, APRIL 17

In a significant step towards promoting road safety and responsible driving habits, a Road Safety Awareness programme was organized across three prominent educational institutions of District Shopian viz. GHSSs of Sedow, Kellar and Kanjiullar.

The initiative aimed to sensitize students about traffic rules, safe commuting, and the life-saving importance of following road norms.

Students, staff, and local stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the programme, which included awareness sessions, speeches by officials, and student-led rallies in their respective localities.



Carrying banners and placards with powerful messages, students took to the streets to engage the local community.

These rallies garnered strong support from residents, who appreciated the proactive involvement of students in spreading awareness.

School authorities and invited officials addressed the gatherings, emphasizing the transformative role of youth as ambassadors of change. They urged students to practice road safety personally and to act as influencers within their families and peer circles. This multi-school initiative forms a crucial part of the broader district-level campaign aimed at fostering a culture of safety, discipline, and responsibility among the younger generation.

# Chairman DDC, MLA Jammu North inaugurate AWAS PLUS 2.0 Workshop at Bhalwal

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

A one day block level workshop cum awareness programme on Awas Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Gramin) was today organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Block HQ Bhalwal to provide people valuable insights into the features, benefits and implementation strategies of the scheme (AWAS Plus 2.0).

The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan and Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma.

Ex PRI members of Block Bhalwal and a large number of PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal participated in the workshop.

Block Development Officer, Dr Sunil Sharma, in his welcome address informed that 221 PMAY-G houses have been constructed in Block Bhalwal upto 31 March 2025 and 931 households in all the 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal have been surveyed by the surveyors (Panchayat Secretaries & Panchayat Account Assistants).

Assistant Commissioner



Development Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma presented a detailed overview of PMAY-G of District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular and informed the participants that April 30, 2025 is the last date for registration under AWAS Plus 2.0 (Both Self & Assisted Survey).

MLA Sham Lal Sharma, who was guest of honour, in his address congratulated 221 PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal for

getting their houses constructed and also thanked Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for providing huge funds for homeless households. The MLA stressed upon the holistic development of the rural areas by providing them benefits under SBM-G, LPG under PMUY and provision of functional tap water (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission. He appealed to the Ex PRIs to involve themselves for identification of eligible

PMAY-G beneficiaries in their respective Halqa Panchayats and no houseless person should be left over.

He also applauded the working of officers and officials of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular.

Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan, who was the chief guest, highlighted the initiatives of Government Of India. He said poor and downtrodden households are being provided financial assistance for construction of houses, toilets. He also appealed Ex- PRIs to assist field functionaries of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to identify all the eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries.

Ex- PRI members and PMAY beneficiaries also spoke on the occasion and described the event as a great platform for dissemination of information regarding registration of AWAS Plus 2.0 among houseless families.

Tehsildar Bhalwal Monika Sharma presented the vote of thanks.

# Empowering MSMEs at the grassroots: JKTPO hosts 2nd District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop at Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, APRIL 17

The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) today successfully conducted the second district-level awareness workshop under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at DC Office, Reasi. The workshop underscored the J&K Government's resolve to build a robust MSME ecosystem and drive inclusive economic growth at the grassroots.

The event was held under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh and Managing Director, JKTPO Sudarshan Kumar. It was organized in collaboration with the Grant Thornton-led State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) and District Industries Centre (DIC), Reasi.

General Manager, DIC Reasi Kishor Singh Karoch addressed the participants, emphasizing the vital role of MSMEs in the district's economic development. He encouraged MSME units and stake-



holders to actively leverage the RAMP scheme's support mechanisms for enhancing productivity, market access, and institutional linkages. This workshop is part of a series of outreach programs planned across the Union Territory to build awareness and capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative.

Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted Rs 74.03 crore under the RAMP scheme, comprising Rs 66.63 crore from the Central Government and Rs 7.40 crore from the UT's contribution. The Department of Industries and Commerce is steering the implementation, with JKTPO serving as the Nodal Agency for seamless

coordination and execution.

During the event, the SPIU team delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the approved interventions under RAMP in J&K. Key highlights included the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration and the strategic packaging and promotion of GI-tagged, ODOP, DEH and other distinctive regional products. The presentation also emphasized cluster development efforts by supporting the creation of producer companies and associations, alongside initiatives like Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs), and the launch of the J&K MSMEs Health Clinic.

Further, the team showcased plans for a dedicated Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Dashboard, along with robust Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs) and Management Development Programs (MDPs). Promoting digital financing solutions emerged as a pivotal component, aimed at empowering MSMEs and fostering economic resilience across the region.

The workshop saw active involvement from MSME entrepreneurs, officials from the Industries and Commerce Department, ITI Reasi students, financial institution representatives, and other significant stakeholders. SPIU consultants clarified doubts and reaffirmed the administration's dedication to ensuring effective implementation on the ground.

The event wrapped up with a unified commitment to broadening the scope and influence of the RAMP scheme throughout the Union Territory, empowering MSMEs in J&K to become more robust, competitive, and prepared for the future.

## Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Awareness Programme on Menstrual Hygiene held at G&B Girls Hostel Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, APRIL 17

An awareness programme on Menstrual Hygiene was today organised at Gujjar and Bakarwal Girls Hostel by Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programme was graced by Gender Specialist at the Hub for Empowerment of Women, Dr. Sanya Khan and Centre Administrator at One Stop Centre (OSC) Sandiya Thakur along with the warden and staff of the hostel.

Dr. Sanya Khan sensitised adolescent girls about the biological and emotional changes during puberty, especially menstruation. She emphasized the importance of



maintaining proper menstrual hygiene to prevent long-term health issues and stressed the need to normalise menstruation and eliminate the social taboos attached to it. She also highlighted the significance of nutrition and recommended iron-rich foods and regular physical activity for better menstrual health. Sanitary pads were distributed among the girls during the

session. Sandiya Thakur elaborated on the importance of personal hygiene and health awareness during adolescence and briefed the participants about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She discussed its role in combating gender discrimination, improving the sex ratio, and ensuring

the safety and education of the girl child. She also spoke about the services offered by the One Stop Centre (OSC), which was established in 2017 to provide 24-hour support to women, including police assistance, medical aid, temporary shelter, counselling, and legal support. Sandiya Thakur also threw light on sensitive issues such as teenage pregnancy and underage marriages, stressing the legal consequences of marrying a girl under 18 years of age, even with her consent. She encouraged the use of emergency helpline numbers and urged the attendees to spread awareness about the various government schemes and support systems available for women's empowerment and welfare.

## DDC Rajouri reviews development works amid whirlwind tour of Khawas Block

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, APRIL 17

District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Khawas Block to inspect ongoing developmental works and assess the status of public facilities.

During the visit, the District Development Commissioner inspected Government Higher Secondary School Khawas and the local hospital to review infrastructure and service delivery. He interacted with staff asking them to put in extra efforts to provide quality education and efficient healthcare services in remote areas.

The DDC also inspected the ongoing construction work of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Hostel in Khawas. Expressing satisfaction



over the progress, he directed the executing agency to complete the remaining work at the earliest and shift the students to the new facility soon after its completion to ensure better accommodation and learning environment.

Later, the District Development Commis-

sioner took stock of the Khawas-Baila road project and emphasized timely execution with adherence to quality standards to ensure improved road connectivity for the people of the area.

The DDC also visited the office of the Block Development Officer to review administrative function-

ing and public grievance redressal mechanism.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Deputy Commissioner met a nomadic resident whose livestock perished due to lightning amid recent Thunderstorm. Expressing sympathy, he assured the affected individual that the loss would be duly compensated in accordance with government norms.

The visit reflects the administration's continued commitment to development, welfare, and responsive governance in far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka Dil Mir; SP Operation Wajahat Hussain; DSEO Sandeep Sharma; Tehsildar Khawas, Sohan Lal; and other district and sectoral officers.

## DC Srinagar discusses arrangements for upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 17

In order to review the arrangements for upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025, a meeting of senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today at Meeting Hall of DC Office.

During the meeting, DC took a comprehensive review of the arrangements to be put in place to ensure smooth and seamless conduct of the upcoming annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

The DC discussed threadbare the arrangements to be made at yatra transit camp at Panthachowk with regard to the supply of Power & Water, setting up of cleanliness & sanitation, disaster mitigation & fire safety measures, transportation & parking facilities, access control gates, issuance of RFID cards, medical facil-



ity and other aspects to extend better facilities to the visiting yatries.

In addition, DC emphasized the need for formulating a supplementary contingency to augment the accommodation for temporary halt of the yatries in wake of expected huge footfall as the yatries may travel through train service this year to pay obeisance at holy cave via Srinagar route.

On the occasion, Dr Biall asked the concerned to take necessary measures to ensure all basic amenities at the transit camps so that yatries may not face any difficulty.

With regard to sanitation, SMC authorities were directed to ensure proper sanitation in and around the transit camp, beside, adequate arrangements for mobile public convenience facilities at the camp. They were also asked to keep sufficient staff at the camp to maintain sanitation and proper cleanliness.

Additionally they were asked to ensure measures to combat water logging issues, if any caused due to inclement weather.

DC was informed that an adequate number of mobile toilets, bath stations and urinals are

being made available at yatra transit camp Panthachowk and near Nowgam railway station to facilitate the yatries during SANJY-2025.

Regarding transports & parking facilities, the concerned Officers briefed the DC about the arrangements being made for parking of buses ferrying the Yatries.

Similarly, the Fire & Emergency Department was asked to take appropriate fire safety measures at the transit camp particularly near yatra langar to tackle any fire incident. DC also stressed on the installation of signages at Panthachowk yatra transit camp to provide information to the yatries regarding nearby facilities, control room contact numbers etc.

Meanwhile, DC passed directions to set up an Emergency Operation Centre for inter-departmental coordination and proper management of the yatra-2025.

## ADGP Director F&ES (J&K) inaugurates Free Multi speciality Medical camp at Fire and Emergency Services HQRS Gandhinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services J&K Jammu, in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation and with support of Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity, organised a Day long medical camp here today at the Headquarters of Fire and Emergency Services Gandhi Nagar to provide essential medical check-ups and medicines to the Jawans, local population, particularly elders, women, and children.

The camp was held as a part of ongoing Fire Service Week activity and under the "Mobile Health Clinic Program" of the People's Hut Foundation aimed at providing healthcare accessibility to citizens in the country, specifically J&K.

Director Fire and Emergency Services J&K (ADGP) Alok Kumar inaugurated the Camp. He appreciated the coordi-



nated efforts of R.K Raina, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services and Dr. Manju, Medical Officer Gandhinagar Hqrs F&ES Jammu and Kanwal Peshin Divisional Fire Officer for making it grand and result oriented.

A total of 218 Patients were treated in the camp and diagnostic services were availed by 184

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

The Ayush Department also rendered its services in the camp under the guidance of Director Ayush J&K Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah. The servic-

es provided to patients included Diagnostic tests, Ortho and Physiotherapy treatment and Eye Testing and Screening.

Similar Camp was organised at Batmaloo Hqrs Srinagar under the supervision of Medical Officer Dr Abrar in which a large section of patients including local families participated.

## DC Budgam inspects progress on 13-Km Sitharan-Tosamaidan Road, new building of PHC Lassipora Drang

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, APRIL 17

In order to ensure better healthcare facilities and connectivity infrastructure in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today undertook a comprehensive tour of the Khag area where he inspected the newly constructed PHC building at Lassipora Drang area and reviewed the ongoing work on the vital 13-km Sitharan-Tosamaidan road project.

During his visit to Lassipora Drang, DC inspected the shifting of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) to its newly constructed permanent building. The new PHC building is equipped with essential healthcare facilities including OPD, dental section, laboratory, general wards and a registration section.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the operationalization of the new healthcare infrastructure is a step forward in ensuring improved and acces-



sible healthcare for the local population. He said the district administration is committed to completing all approved and sanctioned projects within stipulated timelines and dedicating them for public use at the earliest.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure robust functioning

of the new health centre and the delivery of quality health services to the patients.

Later, DC interacted with a local deputation, attentively listened to their issues, and assured that all genuine demands would be taken up with relevant departments for prompt redressal.

tourism opportunities in the picturesque Tosamaidan meadows and open up new livelihood avenues for the youth of Khag and adjoining areas.

"The completion of this crucial road will not only improve local connectivity but also serve as a catalyst for tourism growth and economic upliftment of the region," the DC noted.

He further observed progress made on the works including protection and drainage works at various stretches. He also said macademization of the 7-km stretch will be started soon.

DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works while ensuring quality standards and timely completion of the project. The DC was accompanied by SDM Beerwah, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, CMO Budgam, Tehsildar Khag, BMO Khag, Ex. Engineer R&B Beerwah and other senior district and sectoral officers.

While reviewing the project, DC emphasized the transformative potential of the road, stating that it will significantly enhance

## National Tobacco Control Programme Divisional Level sensitization Workshop organized for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of CSSs

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Divisional level Sensitization workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was today organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme.

The workshop, held under the supervision and guidance of Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, was attended by 40 government functionaries from across Jammu Division.

The participating officials were sensitized regarding the Epidemiology and Burden of Tobacco, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA 2003, WHO FCTC and PECA 2019. The deliberation further focused on Tobacco Free Educational Insti-



tutions and Tobacco Free Villages initiatives of Government of India which aim to reduce the tobacco use at grassroots level. The speakers were Divisional Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Programme Dr. Mridula Singh and Divisional Coordinator Shweta Raina.

National Tobacco Control Programme is being

implemented in all Districts of J&K, with the aim to reduce environmental exposure to Tobacco, reduce the tobacco consumption in the masses and promote quitting amongst the youth and masses. Tobacco Cessation services are being provided to all desirous of quitting, free of cost in all District Hospitals in Jammu Division.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.  
Tender No. 251-J-Elect-T-01-2025-26 Name of Work Breakdown Maintenance contract for window/split ACs & CAMC for water coolers of different makes at various station and service buildings for a period of 2 years over Jammu Division. App. Cost. (in ₹) Rs. 1,02,34,099.73 Earnest Money (in ₹) Rs. 2,01,200.00 Completion period 24 Months Opening of tender 09.05.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
No. 251-J-Elect/T-Notice No. 01-Elect/2025-26 Dated:- 17.04.2025 1154/2025  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**FROM THE FRONT PAGE...**

**Amit Shah praises...**

from Cobra battalion are moving towards them, they get frightened. It's due to their efforts that Naxalism is on its last legs," Shah said, as per KNO.

Lauding the dedication of CRPF, Shah said, "Whether it is the Amarnath Yatra or the Vaishno Devi Yatra, whether it is the security of Shri Ram Jammabhoomi, Shri Krishna Jammabhoomi or the occasion of Maha Kumbh, everywhere the jawans of CRPF have made a huge contribution in maintaining law and order".

Shah said, "When I come to know that CRPF officers and jawans are deployed at any place, I become more relaxed because I know that success is certain in their presence."

Shah expressed full confidence that by March 31, 2026, Naxalism will be completely eradicated from the country. "The Central Government has taken this resolution only because of the capabilities of the CRPF," he added.

Recalling the work of CRPF jawans and officers at their duty place, Shah said, "Since the inception of the CRPF, 2264 jawans have been martyred."

He said that the country is moving ahead with the goal of becoming a developed nation by the year 2047 and these jawans will also have a big contribution in achieving this goal. KNO

**LG inaugurates...**

the priority of the administration," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor urged the people to identify, isolate and report divisive elements threatening peace and harmony.

"Our neighbouring country is making desperate attempts to disrupt peace. Security Forces, J&K Police and Administration are working together to combat terrorism and its supporters. We will not rest until we completely wipe out terrorism and its entire ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir."

"Don't Touch the Innocent and Don't Spare the Culprit" is our policy. Every section of the society must join this fight against terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, J&K is witnessing unprecedented development across the sectors, with more than Rs 1.50 lakh crore worth highways and tunnel projects being executed in the UT of J&K.

He further emphasised on facilitating private investment to tap the immense tourism potential of Bhaderwah and improve tourism facilities in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the stalls put up by the line departments and also interacted with the beneficiaries.

He directed the District Administration to create a database of Divyangjan to ensure eligible individuals can benefit from upcoming Mega Camps to be organized in both Jammu division and Kashmir division.

The Lieutenant Governor also assured that appropriate action will be taken for redressal of the issues projected by the DDC Chairman Doda.

The week-long Mega Surgical Camp is the fourth camp of Rotary International in Jammu Kashmir, with over 2000 patients to get directly benefitted from this Camp. Earlier, similar camps were organized in North Kashmir, South Kashmir and Rajouri-Poonch.

For the camp at Doda and Kishtwar, this year, an extensive process for preliminary medical examinations to identify individuals in need of surgical intervention was made by health workers at the block level. Special teams of doctors were also constituted for screening. Based on such screening, as on date, over 750 patients have already been shortlisted for undergoing different superspecialty and general surgeries in the domains of ENT, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology using advanced laparoscopic technologies.

Apart from surgeries, OPD facilities, Pre- and Post-operative Care and Monitoring will also be provided by special teams of Rotary and District Administrations. Free consultations, diagnostics, distribution of medicines and entire boarding/lodging of the patients as well as their attendants will also be provided free of cost by the District teams.

Shri Dhanantar Singh Kotwal, Chairman, District Development Council Doda; Dr Mandeeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) range; Shri Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Doda; Dr Rajeev Pradhan and other members of Rotary International; HoDs of Medical Institutions; senior officers, Doctors, Nursing Staff and people in large number were present.

**Kashmir belongs...**

the attacks. "Pakistan may try very hard, but its reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism will not diminish," Jaiswal added.

He further said that Pakistan must bring all individuals responsible for the Mumbai attacks to justice, naming those still sheltered in Pakistan as a major concern for India's counter-terrorism efforts. KNO

**Pak desperate to...**

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that "enemy will not be allowed to plan any misadventure and any such attempt will be given a befitting reply."

"The security policy in Jammu and Kashmir is very clear— everything will be done to maintain peace and order. Peace is a prerequisite for development," LG Sinha said.

He lauded the efforts of the armed forces, police, and intelligence agencies in maintaining security and ensuring a peaceful atmosphere in the Union Territory. KNO

**Jammu region sees...**

Station Gladni, 220 KV burn Kishanpur feeding grid station Burn, thereby affecting almost all 132KV/33KV Grid stations including 132kV Rajouri Grid, 132kV Canal

Grid, 132kV Gladni Grid, Samba Ckt-2, Manwal Grid and a technical snag at the 220/132/33kV Grid Station in Ramban.

To keep the public informed, the MD instructed all the concerned officials to actively update the restoration status of their respective areas through local awareness channels. He also coordinated with the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, to mobilise the necessary machinery for clearance of uprooted trees obstructing the restoration works.

Further, instructions were issued to all field teams to conduct physical patrolling to check line snapping and initiate restoration wherever possible, without waiting for complete restoration of the 220/132kV systems.

Key milestones achieved during the night included re-energising of 132kV Canal Grid, 132kV Kalakote Grid and 132kV Karra Grid, along with all lines from Kathua Grid, restoration of 132kV line from Udhampur, charging of one circuit of the Gladni Grid and restoration of nearly 90% of the transmission lines by around 12.30 pm midnight. The power load for Jammu Province was recorded at 190 MW at 1 pm, 948 MW at around 6 pm and by around 7:00 pm it had reached 1000 MW.

As of 7:00 pm today, nearly 24 hours after the wind-storm, the power supply restoration status stands at 93% for 11 kV feeders and 96.49% for 33 kV feeders. Overall, more than 95% of the power supply has been successfully restored across the Jammu region, with restoration works continuing on war footing in the remaining areas.

The MD JPDCL has emphasized the need to expedite the remaining restoration activities, ensuring minimal inconvenience to the public. "JPDCL remains committed towards restoring full normalcy at the earliest and grateful to the public for their patience and cooperation during this challenging period", he maintained.

**Elite CoBRA commandos...**

difficult terrains of Jammu and Kashmir particularly in belts where recent terrorist activity has spiked.

The battalion is expected to function alongside the Kashmir Valley Quick Action Teams (QAT) and regular CRPF units already deployed in the region.

Another senior CRPF officer who served J&K said that deploying a CoBRA unit will bring a more structured response to insurgency threats in areas like Rajouri, Poonch, and southern parts of Kashmir, where dense forest cover offers natural concealment to militant groups.

"This unit will be a key in flushing out militants hiding in forest belts. Their training in jungle warfare and close-quarter combat gives them a specific edge in such terrain," he said.

Currently, CoBRA battalions operate in Maoist-affected states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The new unit for Jammu and Kashmir is the first of its kind tailored for anti-terrorist operations in the region's unique topography.

Another official involved in planning the battalion's deployment said it will be equipped with modern surveillance equipment, communication tools, and light but advanced assault gear.

"Their role will be to lead intelligence-based operations in remote pockets and respond quickly to ambushes or high-risk encounters. The goal is not just reaction but pre-emption," the official said.

The force is expected to recruit younger personnel and commanders for the unit to ensure operational mobility and endurance in high-stress environments.

Officials say the CoBRA unit's presence will be critical in improving the force's ability to contain threats before they escalate.

This development comes amid a recent uptick in cross-border infiltration attempts and gunfights in forested belts of Jammu region. KNO

**Terrorists not...**

gone. We have not lowered our guard, nor have we reduced our efforts in tracking down the terrorists who are still present," he said.

The SSP further stated that the security agencies are working in close coordination and continuing their operations with full intensity. "We are working with 100% synergy and commitment to catch these terrorists and prevent any possible acts of violence," he added.

Addressing the issue of cross-border drug smuggling, SSP Singh said that security forces have intensified their surveillance to ensure drugs don't find a way into Baramulla. He revealed that there are around 1,600 families in the district with relatives across the LoC, and among them, approximately 100 families have been found to have some level of involvement in smuggling or aiding infiltrators.

"We are keeping a close watch on these families. Out of the 100, five have been identified as being actively involved in smuggling contraband, weapons, or facilitating infiltration. We have already registered cases against them and their properties are being attached," the SSP said, as per KNO.

He issued a stern warning to those involved: "It's okay to have relations and interactions with your kin across the LoC, but once you engage in illegal activities, we are after you. If someone thinks the Indian legal system won't reach across, they must know that those aiding such acts from this side will face strict legal action."

The SSP said that apart from the police, intelligence agencies are also working to track drug movements. Preventive detentions are being carried out based on inputs to stop the inflow of drugs at the initial stage. "If drugs do manage to slip through, then the legal process follows— FIRs are lodged, and action is taken under laws such as the PIT-NDPS Act," he said.

The district police, he emphasized, are committed to tackling both militancy and narco-terrorism with a zero-tolerance approach. KNO

**CS led SLSC approves...**

favour of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Agriculture Production Department in the region.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, APD,

Shailendra Kumar, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda; Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Prassana Ramaswamy; Secretary, Planning, Talat Parvez; Secretary, Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal; DG, A&T, Mahesh Dass; DG, Budget, M Sultan and other concerned HoDs of APD.

During the meeting, the department submitted proposed action plan for 2025-26 fiscal under the major flagship schemes like Krishonnati Yojana (KY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to the Chief Secretary led Committee for its approval.

For the Krishonnati Yojana, the sub-schemes focused on seeds, nutrition, digital agriculture and horticulture development. Besides, the department has projected a total financial requirement of Rs. 20,881.62 lakh, significantly exceeding the Rs. 14,923.00 lakh ceiling conveyed by the Government of India, during the upcoming fiscal.

The sub-components included Agriculture Extension ATMA with an AAP for Rs 2,500.00 lakh. The Agriculture Extension ATMA acts as a platform to integrate agricultural research, extension services and farmers.

For the sub-component of Seeds (SMSP), an action plan of Rs 750.00 Lakhs was submitted for approval. The aim of the plan is to ensure the availability of quality seeds to farmers in a timely and affordable manner.

Other sub-missions of the scheme included National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSM) with a plan of Rs 875.00 lakh to increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

Similarly, National Mission on Edible Oils—Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) with an AAP of Rs 312 lakh for 2025-26. This sub-mission aims at increasing domestic production of edible oils by increasing the productivity of oilseeds, promotion of high-yielding oilseed varieties and hybrids.

On the other hand, the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) with an AAP of Rs 11,850.50 lakh aims at enhancing the horticulture production and improve the livelihood of farmers through sustainable practices.

The Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) had a plan of Rs 4,604.62 lakh to modernize the revenue records and agriculture by using digital technologies to improve the productivity, reduce input costs and enhance farm-level decision-making. It also included development of a unified farmers' database and geo-tagging of assets.

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for the Financial Year 2025-26 has a total proposed Annual Action Plan of Rs. 9900.00 lakh. This comes alongside the progressive implementation of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) across the Union Territory, showcasing a multi-pronged strategy to enhance the agricultural sustainability, mechanization and farmer empowerment.

The Proposed Annual Action Plan under RKVY for 2025-26 included allocations across several key sub-schemes aimed at holistic agricultural development. The major components of the proposed plan included Soil Health and Fertility retaining its original allocation of Rs. 280 lakh, Rain-fed Area Development (Rs. 224 lakh), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) (Rs. 615.20 lakh), Per Drop More Crop (Rs. 1750 lakh), Agriculture Mechanization (Rs. 3141 lakh) and Agroforestry (Rs 116.25 lakh).

These sub-schemes are critical components of the government's broader mission to transform agriculture into a more productive, sustainable and technologically empowered vocation.

**CM Omar Abdullah...**

questions such as whether we are alone in the universe or if there is life in another world observing us.

"She not only dared to imagine these possibilities but also translated them into a compelling narrative. At an age when many are still discovering themselves, she has gifted us with a book born out of imagination and curiosity," he remarked.

Explaining his reason for attending the book release, the Chief Minister said, "I am here because I believe achievements like Laranya's deserve to be celebrated. I want readers to know that what she has accomplished is truly commendable."

He lauded Laranya for setting an inspiring example, not just for her peers but also for older generations. "She has demonstrated immense discipline and the courage to let her imagination transcend the boundaries that society often imposes," he added.

The Chief Minister expressed his delight in learning that Laranya is already working on more books. "I look forward to reading the next one, and the one after that. I sincerely hope that her work inspires other young people to take up reading, because the habit of reading, once nurtured early, stays with us throughout life."

He concluded by urging the younger generation to embrace reading, as it not only broadens perspectives but also encourages budding writers like Laranya to continue expressing themselves and sharing their stories with the world.

**Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags to Gujjar, Bakkarwal Communities at Dera ki Gali, Rajouri**

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI:17 APR 2025

As part of its ongoing commitment to social welfare and community outreach, the Indian Army distributed sleeping bags to members of the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities at Dera Ki Gali, Rajouri. This initiative aims to provide much-needed warmth and improve living conditions for these nomadic groups, especially in the face of



**Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Locals at Patli Top, Rajouri**



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI:17 APR 2025

Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Patli Top, Rajouri. A total of 32 locals including 14 men, 11 women and

07 children from village of Patli Top availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines. Medical representative from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during medical patrol which was organised with the objective of providing medical aid to people. The local populace appreciated selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also help in the synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam towards development of the region.

**Farmers of J&K welcome AICC Gen. Secy Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain**



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

Farmers of Jammu and Kashmir strongly welcomed aicc general secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Ladakh affairs Dr. Saeed Naseer Hussain. Farmers delegation led by chairman kisan congress jkpc bharat priye welcomed him at Jammu Airport. Bharat priye said that the Congress is the only well wisher of the country's farmers. Since independence, the Congress

governments always took care of the farmers and worked for their betterment. Like the current government, the Congress never tricked the farmers and always gave them the status of Annadata of the country. They said that There is a lot of enthusiasm among the farmers of the state regarding visit of Dr. Saeed Naseer Hussain. From this visit Congress workers will get new energy and they will work to spread the policies of the party with more ascendancy.

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

## Mission YUVA: Two-day Training programme for YUVA DOOT concludes at Kupwara

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, APRIL 17

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara and in collaboration with the district administration Kupwara, District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara successfully conducted a two-day training programme under Mission YUVA.

The event aimed to empower and equip the nominated YUVA DOOTs with essential knowledge and skills to guide youth in career development and employment opportunities effectively.

The programme commenced with a comprehensive overview of the training agenda provided by Arshid Qadir Bhat, Assistant Director Employment, Kupwara. He emphasized the significance of Mission YUVA in fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship in the district.



An overview of various components of Mission YUVA, including skill development initiatives, job placement support, and government employment schemes was presented by Employment Officer Kupwara.

Career Counselling Officer, Kupwara deliberated on IEC techniques to cater to the underserved and un-aware populace of the district who want to start their own enterprises under Mission YUVA.

The training included hands-on workshops, group discussions, and Q&A rounds to ensure active participation and practical understanding among the YUVA DOOTs.

Participants were encouraged to collaborate with DECC Kupwara to implement learning at the grassroots level, ensuring maximum outreach and impact.

(Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute) highlighted entrepreneurial opportunities, startup support, and financial assistance available under the Mission YUVA scheme which can be availed through the Mission YUVA App.

The training included hands-on workshops, group discussions, and Q&A rounds to ensure active participation and practical understanding among the YUVA DOOTs.

Participants were encouraged to collaborate with DECC Kupwara to implement learning at the grassroots level, ensuring maximum outreach and impact.

## ADC reviews arrangements for Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 at Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 17

A meeting to review the arrangements for the Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal.

The Hajj Incharge apprised the ADC that a total of 33 pilgrims from District Kishtwar will be undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage this year. The pilgrims are scheduled to depart from Kishtwar to Hajj House Srinagar on May 12, 2025.

The meeting deliberated on various logistical and administrative aspects related to the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The ADC urged the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security arrangements for the pilgrims.

It was informed that vaccination for the pilgrims is scheduled from April 20, 2025 to April 25, 2025.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide an ambulance along with a doctor to accompany the pilgrims to the Hajj House Srinagar.

The ADC also reviewed other necessary arrangements including currency exchange facilities, transportation, and boarding arrangements at Islamia Faridia School.

The ADC emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure hassle-free and safe travel for the pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; Dy. Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma; Dy. SP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta; Hajj Incharge, members of the Hajj Committee and officials from banks and other concerned departments.

## Power Shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 17

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out the work interchange of cable between 33 KV Airforce line and 33 KV Silk factory line on 33 KV Gantry at Rawalpora Grid, the shutdown of 33KV Airforce line, Silk Factory line and Rangreth line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Peerbagh, Humhama, Wanbal and Rangreth shall remain off while power supply to Peerbagh, Humhama, Wanbal, Rangreth and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 23 April, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out the repair & maintenance of Gantry within the Air force Camp to be executed by AE E/M Awantipora Airport, the shutdown of 33KV Awantipora-Naroo line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Naroo & LIS Koil-II & III shall remain off while power supply to Ratnipora, Lajoora, Puchal, Naroo and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 21 April, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Awantipora-Airport line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Airport station and LIS Koil-Ist shall remain off while power supply to Air force & LIS Koil-Ist will be affected from 10:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 21 April, 2025.

Further, for replacement/ repairs to the 1500 mm nominal Dia Rising main Pipe laid under earth the Ladoora-Rohama, the shutdown of 33KV Amargah SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Rohama and Chakloo shall remain off while power supply to Rohama, Chakloo and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 21 April, 2025.

## Chairman DDC, MLA Jammu North inaugurate AWAS PLUS 2.0 Workshop at Bhalwal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

A one day block level workshop cum awareness programme on Awas Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Gramin) was today organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Block HQ Bhalwal to provide people valuable insights into the features, benefits and implementation strategies of the scheme (AWAS Plus 2.0).

The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan and Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma.

Ex PRI members of Block Bhalwal and a large number of PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal participated in the workshop.

Block Development Officer, Dr Sunil Sharma, in his welcome address informed that 221 PMAY-G houses have been constructed in Block Bhalwal upto 31 March 2025 and 931 households in all the 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal have been surveyed by the surveyors (Panchayat Secretaries & Panchayat Account Assistants).



Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma presented a detailed overview of PMAY-G of District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular and informed the participants that April 30, 2025 is the last date for registration under AWAS Plus 2.0 (Both Self & Assisted Survey).

MLA Sham Lal Sharma, who was guest of honour, in his address congratulated 221 PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal for getting their houses constructed and also thanked Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for providing huge funds for homeless households. The MLA stressed upon the holistic development of the rural areas by providing them benefits under SBM-G, LPG under PMUY and provision of functional tap water (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission.

He appealed to the Ex PRIs to involve themselves for identification of eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries in their respective Halqa Panchayats and no houseless person should be left over. He also applauded the working of officers and officials of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular.

Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan, who was the chief guest, highlighted the initiatives of Government Of India. He said poor and downtrodden households are being provided financial assistance for construction of houses, toilets. He also appealed Ex-PRIs to assist field functionaries of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to identify all the eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries.

Ex- PRI members and PMAY beneficiaries also spoke on the occasion and described the event as a great platform for dissemination of information regarding registration of AWAS Plus 2.0 among houseless families.

Tehsildar Bhalwal Monika Sharma presented the vote of thanks. The SSP further stated that the newly established lab will greatly facilitate the smooth functioning of CCTNS Projects in Jammu District by enabling efficient tracking of case disposals and records from various police stations. Furthermore, it will contribute to the digitization of policing by incorporating modern technologies such as e-Sakshya, e-FIRS, e-Summons, and electronic record-keeping.

## SSP Jammu inaugurates 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System Lab cum training centre' at DPO Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Joginder Singh on Thursday inaugurated 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System Lab cum Training Centre' here at DPO Jammu.

Deputy SP Hqrs Jammu Farha Nishat, Senior Prosecuting Officer DPO Jammu Altaf Hussain, PA to SSP Jammu Inspector M K Chowdhary, and members of the Range Technical team, including ASI Dheeraj Kumar Magotra, Sgt Anil Raina, Sgt Vishal Bandral and District Rollout Manager IRAD Jammu Mohit Ahluwalia were present on the occasion.

The SSP stated that the Lab is uniquely equipped and fully furnished with the latest equipment to control the CCTNS Project in Jammu District, as well as to impart training on various CCTNS related software.



The SSP further stated that the newly established lab will greatly facilitate the smooth functioning of CCTNS Projects in Jammu District by enabling efficient tracking of case disposals and records from various police stations. Furthermore, it will contribute to the digitization of policing by incorporating modern technologies such as e-Sakshya, e-FIRS, e-Summons, and electronic record-keeping.

He said that the Lab was essential for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System, which would provide training for IOs and CCTNS operators, and on the first day, 23 IOs and operators received training on various portals and digital services under the New Criminal Laws.

## GLOF Hazard: J&K Govt. adopts focused, holistic & proactive approach for mitigation & risk reduction

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Following imminent risk of sudden breach of Glacial Lakes in high altitude regions, particularly in the Himalayas by rapid melting of glaciers due to the climate change, government of Jammu and Kashmir has adopted a focused, holistic and a proactive approach which includes comprehensive understanding of risk landscape and the development of robust mitigation and risk reduction strategies.

In this connection, the Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Monitoring Committee (FGMC) constituted by the Govt of J&K has conducted Expeditions to various such lakes to enhance understanding and preparedness against the potential hazards.

Subsequently, geographical field expeditions were conducted to the two glacier lakes i.e. Sheshnag and Sonsar enroute Holy Amarnath Cave. The detailed report was shared with FGMC after the field expedition highlighting the major findings and future possibilities for deliberations.

As part of the initiative, a specialized expedition team carried out the expeditions and undertook a comprehensive study of three critical glacial lakes in the Kishtwar district including Mundiksar Lake, Hangu Lake and Unnamed Lake in the Kishtwar region.

The expedition provided valuable data on the lake conditions, surrounding environmental factors, and potential risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) events.

The expedition also carried out to Gangabal Lake, a high-altitude glacial lake located in the northwestern Himalayas. The expedition examined the physical and geological characteristics of Gangabal Lake. Particular focus was given to assessing the local geomorphology, the stability of the natural dam containing the lake, and the conditions of the glaciers feeding it.

This investigation provided critical insights into the GLOF hazard potential of Gangabal Lake and contributed to broader efforts to enhance climate resilience in the region.

Field expeditions for the rest of the categorized lakes are scheduled to be carried out in the coming months involving all concerned stakeholders.

The expeditions underscore the urgent need for enhanced monitoring and risk management strategies to address the growing threat of GLOFs in the Himalayas.

The insights gained will be instrumental in formulating risk mitigation strategies and enhancing the early warning systems in the region.

Understanding the potential GLOF hazards associated with specific glacial lakes is crucial for risk mitigation and disaster preparedness.

In the next phase, Department of DMRR&R will be focusing on more scientific multi-disciplinary studies like electric resistivity tomography, Bathymetric investigation, hydrological study of discharge, geological studies, topography survey, susceptibility assessment etc, and has planned to install Early Warning Systems for generating real-time alerts and AWS for regular monitoring at most of high-risk glacial lakes in UT of J&K in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority and a technical partner.

The GLOF mitigation strategy is being implemented in phased manner in the UT involving Expedition and Data Collection, identifying and studying glacial lakes that pose a high risk of GLOFs based on the assessments provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NRSC, CWC, etc.

Detailed data will be gathered through bathymetric surveys, water sampling, and meteorological data collection. Additionally, the dynamics and characteristics of these lakes will be analyzed to determine the feasibility of lake-lowering techniques for reducing the risk of potential GLOF events.

Secondly a Comprehensive Risk Mitigation strategy will be devised, developing and implementing specific mitigation measures. This includes creating comprehensive plans for lowering the water levels of high-risk lakes identified earlier.

A fully functional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Early Warning System (EWS) will also be established to enhance preparedness. Personnel will be trained in the operation and interpretation of the EWS, ensuring effective responses to potential GLOF events. Where necessary, the lake-lowering techniques and site specific mitigation measures will be taken to further mitigate the risks.

Efforts to expand the mitigation programme are being expedited. Apart from these initiatives, NDRF, SDRF and ITBP have been sensitized to be prepared to deal with any emergent situation. Aapda mitras have been sensitized and activated to remain vigilant in the local areas and be prepared. Awareness generation has been specially focused. FMGC has asked the District Disaster Management Authorities to put in place the GLOF management plans and to be well prepared for GLOF Hazard.

## 2-day orientation cum training programme for Yuva Doots concludes at Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17

The two-day orientation cum training programme for Yuva Doots, under Mission YUVA, organized by District Employment & Counselling Centre concluded, here today.

The programme aimed at empowering the Yuva Doots with essential knowledge, tools and strategies to effectively motivate and guide budding entrepreneurs across the district.

The concluding session was graced by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh who attended the event as the chief guest.

While addressing the participants, the ADDC emphasized the crucial role of Yuva Doots in fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem at the grassroots level. He called upon the participants to adopt a proactive approach in reaching out to aspiring youth and sensitizing them about various self-employment schemes under Mission YUVA.



## EDITORIAL

## Cracks within the National Conference?

The political corridors of Jammu and Kashmir are once again witnessing a familiar drama – that of dissent, disillusionment, and defiance from within. This time, the stage is set by Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, a long-time loyalist of the National Conference (NC), whose growing estrangement from the party he once helped strengthen now threatens to spill into open rebellion. Despite the NC's repeated efforts to contain the rift, Ruhullah's decision to call a meeting of his supporters this Sunday signals a critical juncture in his political journey – and in the party's internal cohesion. His move is not just a personal reaction; it echoes a deeper unrest brewing within the ranks of a party that has often struggled to balance tradition with evolving public sentiment. Ruhullah's grievances are not new, but they have become louder. He alleges that his support for student protests against the Union Territory's controversial reservation policy marked the beginning of his isolation within the NC. His participation in the December 22, 2024 protest outside the Chief Minister's residence, alongside leaders from rival parties like the PDP and AIP, may have been a principled stand – but it was also, unmistakably, a political message. For a party that has long projected itself as the voice of Kashmir's aspirations, the cold shoulder to a sitting MP for standing with students is a troubling contradiction. Ruhullah's claim that communication with the leadership ceased after the protest raises uncomfortable questions about the NC's tolerance for dissent and diversity of opinion within its own ranks. Adding fuel to the fire is the recent Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) chargesheet filed against Ruhullah in connection with the Budgam fraudulent payment scam – a case that dates back nearly two decades. While no one is above the law, the timing of the charges has raised eyebrows. Is this a legitimate step toward accountability, or a veiled attempt to stifle a voice that has dared to speak out? Ruhullah's statement, "My politics is not driven by ambition... God is my judge," is heavy with moral conviction. It is also a clear indication that he is prepared to defy the party line, even at personal cost. His recent warning against imposing an "outsider" in the Budgam by-election is more than local electoral posturing – it is a challenge to the central command of the NC, and perhaps even a bid to reassert his own political capital in the region. What makes Ruhullah's situation particularly compelling is the tension between loyalty and ideology. Here is a politician who claims his conscience outweighs party loyalty, and who seems prepared to walk a different path if the party no longer reflects his principles. Whether that path leads to a breakaway, an independent stance, or even alignment with a different political platform, remains to be seen. For the National Conference, the message is clear: silencing internal voices of conscience can backfire. At a time when public trust in mainstream politics is fragile, parties need to show that they can accommodate principled dissent, not punish it. Unity forged through fear or sidelining is brittle – real cohesion comes from dialogue and mutual respect. Aga Ruhullah Mehdi's Sunday meeting could mark the beginning of a new chapter – either for his personal political evolution or for a much-needed introspection within the NC. Whichever way the wind blows, this moment demands more than damage control; it requires leadership with empathy, accountability, and the courage to listen.

## Radio Waves of Community Led Social Change

(DR BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR &amp; NIKITA JOSHI)

In today's digital world of hashtags, GIFs and reels, communication has expanded across a variety of mediums. Large parts of India today cannot think of a world without the internet and the quick communication it has enabled. Yet one would be misinformed to imagine that effective communication is restricted to unilateral means. A study of target audiences and their cultural contexts allows one to explore the different communication mediums that have been initiated and adopted by individuals and communities to suit their circumstances. The Community Radio is one such creative medium that is flourishing in different parts of the country today including educational institutes and rural heartlands. A radio set is the most frugal commodity often owned and operated by even those at the bottom of the pyramid. At the heart of this communication medium lie the values of community led ownership and grass root expression. It is a platform which allows communities to express themselves in their language and discuss issues that lie at core of their existence. Mediums such as these therefore not only create partnerships and develop communication and management skills but also become catalysts of social change. Governments hence play an important role in recognizing and encouraging these local communication efforts that also help build robust communities.

The Community Radio is set to truly make 'Radio Waves' at the

"World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025" which is to be held in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025. WAVES is being organized with the vision of connecting India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry with the global markets, fostering growth, collaborations and innovations. The key objectives of WAVES is to drive industry growth, nurture innovation, empower young talent and promote cultural exchange. The Community Radio Association of India (CRAI), the registered, elected organization of Community Radios, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India is organizing an array of initiatives at WAVES focusing on creating awareness and encouraging the development of Community Radio Stations in India.

The Community Radio Content Challenge is one among 32 Create in India Challenges. Each of the 32 Challenges under this initiative is designed to test skills and inspire youth to showcase their talents on a distinguished platform spanning diverse fields such as animation, gaming, esports, comics, filmmaking and more! The Community Radio Content Challenge is designed to highlight the diverse skills and unique voices that Community Radio Stations bring to the airwaves and inspire them to experiment with new formats, genres and storytelling techniques. This hopes to create opportunities for Community Radios to share knowledge, learn from each other and build connections. The Challenge will recognize and reward programs

that make a real difference in their communities. Entries for the challenge have been sought from five categories namely - Public Health and Safety, Education and Literacy, Women and Child Development/ Social Justice and Advocacy, Agriculture and Rural Development and Cultural Preservation. A panel of experts, including renowned media personalities and representatives from the CRAI, will evaluate the entries, shortlist participants and finally select and award winners.

Apart from this a Community Connect Zone will be created by the CRAI at the CreatoSphere in WAVES. The Community Connect Zone aims to showcase the essence of Community Radio Stations and their significant contributions to various communities. The key elements of the Community Connect Zone are a Community Radio Stations Compendium Display Flip Book, the CRS India Map or Radio Garden, a Live Radio Set Up and a Newsletter.

The Community Radio Stations Compendium Display Flip Book is a visually appealing, interactive flip book that will contain a comprehensive compendium of Community Radio Station initiatives across India. Attendees can browse through this digital compendium to understand the evolving landscape of community radio and its pivotal role in shaping local and regional narratives and learn of success stories.

A large, interactive map of India will be displayed to showcase the location of active Community Radio Stations across the country. Alternatively, a Radio Garden concept will be used, where visitors

can virtually explore and listen to different community radio stations broadcasting from various parts of India. This will help visitors understand the diversity of voices and issues that Community Radio Stations represent.

A Newsletter that captures the most recent developments, activities and initiatives arising from the WAVES Community Radio Content Challenge will be prominently displayed. This will include insights into the creative challenges faced by Community Radio Stations and their responses. The newsletter will keep visitors updated on trends in radio broadcasting and innovative community-led programs.

A dedicated space to celebrate Community Radio Station award-wins for their exceptional contributions to community radio will be earmarked. This corner will showcase profiles of Community Radio Stations, producers and volunteers who have won awards for their impact on society. Visual displays and multimedia presentations will highlight their stories, emphasizing the influence of community radio in areas like education, health, social justice, tribal welfare, women empowerment, environmental sustainability and more.

In order to provide an immersive experience, a Live Radio Set Up will be established within the Zone, where visitors can interact with radio hosts, community broadcasters and engage in live discussions. The setup will allow visitors to participate in real-time broadcasts, ask questions, share experiences and engage with experts in the field of community

radio. A section dedicated to showcasing the "Mann Ki Baat" series will feature episodes aired via Community Radio Stations. This compilation will allow visitors to listen to key episodes that have resonated with diverse communities, reflecting important issues, national milestones and initiatives. The focus will be on how such broadcasts have connected the masses and empowered local communities.

Along with this more than 530 Community Radios from across the country are also participating in the deliberations at WAVES between the 1st to 4th of May 2025.

Engaging with Community Radios has time again proved that there is no dearth of talent and enthusiasm within communities in areas beyond Metropolitan and Tier 1 cities. WAVES aims to bring to fore the skills and potential of all such efforts in the media and entertainment sector and provide them with a global platform to connect and collaborate. The ultimate beneficiaries of such an initiative it is hoped, are the communities that these radio stations represent!

**Dr Brijender Singh Panwar is a senior journalist and at present Director, M.S.Panwar Institute of Communication & Management, Solan, and Station Director of 16-year-old Hamara MSPICM Community Radio, Solan. Ms. Nikita Joshi (IIS 2019) is currently posted as Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Mumbai, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.**

## Finding God consciousness in a distracted world

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We all desire a quality life, but very few achieve this dream. Why? We need to develop God's consciousness to succeed. Let us understand what God's consciousness is. In very simple terms, it is to have faith that God exists. That He is unimaginably big, and we are very small and are parts of God (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7). God exists eternally, and so do we, except that our bodies change, while God remains the same. We must remain in God's shelter and gain His favour. Don't we need God for Creation to continue? Why don't we try to become God conscious, if it is so beneficial?

There are several reasons. The first one is denial of the existence of God and the necessity of our dependence on Him. We have all kinds of consciousness except that of God. Such is the illusion born of ignorance. We gain material knowledge but do not make efforts to seek higher spiritual

knowledge, which would help us realise our real identity as souls.

This would be the first step in wanting to link with God and develop God's consciousness. Some people are aware of the higher truths but are too lazy to apply themselves. "Tapasya" (austerities) for real and long-lasting gains is avoided. Lord Krishna illuminates, "Neither there is waste of effort here, nor is there an opposite effect. Even a little of karma-yoga protects one from great fear" (2.40). Should we not pay attention to God's instructions? Where do we seek shelter to escape our many fears? You have guessed right: it is to drink or even to go to the extent of consuming drugs. Drink and sleep are the mantras for most who are addicted to drinking. Then, there is another escape route – that of indulging in lustful thoughts, assuming them to be harmless. They aren't, because all acts of the mind, words, and body result in 'karmaphalas' (fruits of deeds). Additionally,

the mind is polluted and gives rise to fears, anxiety, depression, etc.

The mind becomes the master, and we are unable to control it. Some people go a step further by having sex consciousness. Sex has been allowed for limited pleasure according to dharma (7.11) and reproduction. It occupies more space in our thinking than it was ever intended. We use other organs badly, too, due to the lower consciousness. Eyes are looking for something that excites them. The tongue ignores health warnings in search of more taste.

How will you explain indulging in meat products, which harm, especially poor animals? There is other consciousness as well to keep us away from God. Money is God for a large percentage of people. They must earn more and more. Greed is the driving force for many, which is a door to hell (16.21). Power consciousness is another motivating factor. One wants to become Almighty. What happens? There is the

illusion of bigness temporarily if one succeeds. This bubble bursts before death, if not sooner. Fame consciousness drives a lot of people, too, which is quite fickle in our world of intense competition. Knowledge consciousness is great, but one must graduate to spiritual knowledge to be truly knowledgeable. The benefits of God's consciousness are many. I will mention a few in this article. God provides what we lack and protects what we have (9.22). It is true, though hard to believe. Become God-conscious and experience it yourself. God guides His devotees, as He only can, perfectly, because He is omniscient, a knower of past, present, and future too. I am a regular beneficiary of this 'kripa' (favour).

And God gives help because we are quite limited, really. Devotees of God become beneficiaries of God's taking charge of their lives. Believe it or not, God miraculously manages the lives of His devotees, mine included. He is the Karta in my life; God gets everything done, and I

get the credit for it. I am never alone; God gives me company 24x7. God is very merciful; He limits such corrections to alternate days only, leaving a day between for me to be blissful, which God ensures. It is quite an experience to have two diametrically opposite days.

Corrections are not pleasant, to say the least, but to enjoy peace on alternate good days is quite something. I never knew such peace as I am blessed with now. The same is the feeling of security. No matter what material objects I have gathered, I never felt secure. Now I do, to a great extent, because God has given me this feeling. The biggest assurance I have got from my Lord is: 'theek chalega' (life will be smooth). Problems keep coming, but there are always solutions provided by my Lord. Not only does He guide me to do what is required, but He also extends the necessary help when I find myself helpless.

**(The writer is a spiritual teacher. Views are personal)**

## BJP – AIADMK alliance reboots

KALYANISHANKAR

Although the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections are a year away, the recent announcement of the BJP and AIADMK poll alliance is strategically important.

This tie-up, part of the larger National Democratic Alliance at the national level, could benefit both parties in the upcoming elections. Though the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections are almost a year away, the recent announcement of the BJP and AIADMK poll alliance is strategically essential.

The recent BJP and AIADMK poll alliance announcement carries significant strategic importance. This alliance could be beneficial for both parties. Both sides made compromises. The BJP let go of Annamalai, a key figure for the party's future.

Meanwhile, the AIADMK agreed to ally a year before the Assembly elections and committed to creating a coalition government if they won. There was no alternative for the BJP in Tamil Nadu other than an alliance with AIADMK, just as it did in Andhra Pradesh in the 2024 Assembly polls with TDP.

Caste calculations, too, seem to have played a role. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the alliance, asserting that the NDA would progress in the state. He emphasised that removing the corrupt DMK government to protect Tamil culture was imperative.

The BJP and AIADMK have worked together as allies since the birth of the NDA in 1998. However, in 2023, the AIADMK ended this partnership for several reasons. The two parties disagree over party strategies and leadership decisions. The

BJP did not win any seats in the Lok Sabha elections, but Annamalai's efforts helped the party increase its vote share by more than seven percentage points.

Insiders suggest that the need for political resilience and influence from Delhi has prompted AIADMK chief Palaniswami to reassess his position, particularly with the 2026 Assembly elections in mind.

The DMK's phenomenal success in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and Chief M. K. Stalin's victories in by-polls have restricted Palaniswami's options. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday in Chennai that AIADMK had returned to the NDA. He also said AIADMK Leader Edappadi Palaniswami would lead the coalition.

The AIADMK, BJP, and all alliance parties will work together in the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections as

part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Shah assured that the AIADMK has no conditions or demands and added that there will be no interference in its internal matters. He stated, "This alliance will benefit both the NDA and AIADMK." Shah also noted the past cooperation between Prime Minister Modi and former Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha. Previously, the BJP suggested the inclusion of expelled AIADMK leaders O. Panneerselvam and AMMK leaders TTV Dhinakaran in the alliance.

However, Edappadi adamantly stuck to his decision. Shah, distancing the BJP, said that the BJP would not interfere with the DMK's internal matters.

Palaniswami was adamant about keeping out the expelled leaders O. Panneerselvam, TTV Dinakaran, and Sasikala, Jaya's companion.

BJP felt that these leaders would cut into AIADMK's votes.

Why did the two parties announce their decision earlier? The BJP, recognising the strategic importance of Tamil Nadu in national politics, wants to improve its chances in the state because it has had trouble gaining support.

The party is looking to establish itself in the south, but it has found that, ideologically, AIADMK is problematic due to differences in policy and governance approaches despite its efforts.

The AIADMK has faced challenges in performing well in the last two elections: the Lok Sabha and the Assembly polls. In 2024, the BJP won no seats in the southern state.

The AIADMK and the BJP allied during the 2019 and 2021 Assembly elections but chose to part ways before

the 2024 general election.

The BJP could benefit from the alliance because of the strong AIADMK base. The BJP and AIADMK have had a rocky relationship for several reasons.

First, both K. Annamalai and AIADMK leader E. Palaniswami belong to the Gounders, a powerful community in western Tamil Nadu, and they come from the same area, West Kongu. Annamalai's successor, Nagendran, belongs to the influential Thevar community.

It is no secret that Annamalai stepped down before the announcement to facilitate a smooth transition. The DMK-led coalition seems stable and shows no signs of internal conflict. Meanwhile, superstar Vijay's new party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, and Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi are not keen to join the AIADMK coalition.

The former IPS officer, Annamalai, and the leaders of the AIADMK do not have a working relationship. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections proved disastrous for the AIADMK and the BJP, as neither party won a single seat.

Now that Nainar has replaced Annamalai, there will be a new scenario. In 2023, Annamalai criticised key AIADMK leaders, including the late J. Jayalalitha.

This upset the AIADMK and led them to pass a resolution against him, resulting in their withdrawal from the alliance with the BJP. Nagendran is from Tirunelveli in southern Tamil Nadu, where the BJP is trying to grow its presence.

One week is said to be long in politics, but one year is too long. We have to wait and see how the renewed alliance works.

**(The writer is a popular columnist. The views are personal)**

## JMC felicitates Swachh Dungal participants held on Baisakhi at Suryaputri Tawi River Front



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

In celebration of the vibrant festival of Baisakhi, a wrestling competition was held at the scenic Suryaputri Tawi River Front.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from wrestlers representing Jammu & Kashmir Police, and other districts including Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi and Samba.

The event highlighted

the spirit of sportsmanship and community celebration, making the Baisakhi festival even more special for the people of Jammu.

To recognize their outstanding performances and sportsmanship, the participating wrestlers were felicitated by the officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation. Medals and trophies were presented to the winners and runner-up players. Coaches, technical officers, and other officials

associated with the event were also honored for their contributions to the successful organization of the competition.

Joint Commissioner (Administration), Krishan Lal, Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Joint Commissioner (H&S), Abdul Star, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Chief Accounts Officer, Sandeep Singh, VAS, Dr. Priyanka, besides other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

## Annual Scholarship, Mobility Appliances Distribution Camp held at Kamsar - Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 17

The District Administration Poonch and Pritam Spiritual Trust Poonch today organized the annual Scholarship and Mobility appliances Distribution Camp at Kamsar.

The event aimed to support underprivileged members of the community by providing essential resources and financial assistance.

The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal as the chief guest.

During the event, he distributed scholarships to 24 needy, orphaned, underprivileged, and disabled students, ensuring they have the necessary support to pursue their education.

In addition to scholarship assistance, the camp also provided vital mobility aids, including wheelchairs, hearing aids, and walking sticks, to individuals in need. This initiative



reflects the commitment of the District Administration to enhance the quality of life for all residents, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

In his address, the DC emphasized, "The District Administration Poonch is always ready to fulfill its social responsibilities for the overall development of the district. We recognize the importance of supporting our youth and the specially abled persons, as they are the pil-

lars of our future."

He also commended the Pritam Singh Trust for their unwavering dedication to social responsibilities, highlighting the importance of community collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals.

The event was attended by the local officials, community leaders and residents, all coming together to celebrate the spirit of giving and support for those in need.

## Mission YUVA: Orientation Training imparted to Yuva Doots at Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APRIL 17

An Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Yuva Doots was successfully conducted under the auspices of Mission YUVA at the Multipurpose Hall of SKC GDC Poonch today.

The event was chaired by District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal.

In his address, the DDC underscored the critical importance of strategic planning and active coordination in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. He urged the Yuva Doots to serve as effective communicators and facilitators, bridging the gap between the administration and aspiring young entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

Deputy Director Employment Mohd Rafiq emphasized the vital role that Yuva Doots can play in identifying potential entrepreneurs, raising awareness about various self-employment



schemes, and assisting them in accessing benefits under Mission YUVA.

The programme featured a comprehensive presentation delivered by Resource Persons from the Employment Department, who detailed the specific responsibilities of the Yuva Doots within the mission framework. The presentation provided valuable insights into the various components of Mission YUVA, including its objectives, expected outcomes, and key features such as: Interest Subvention Schemes; Financial incentives to support new businesses; Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC); A one-stop E-commerce marketing platform aimed at enhancing online busi-

ness opportunities, District Level Small Business Development Units; Support units designed to assist small businesses at the district level, Sub-Divisional Level Business Help Desks; Local help desks to provide guidance and support to entrepreneurs.

The session was designed to sensitize Yuva Doots about their roles and responsibilities in this ambitious initiative, which aims to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, encouraging Yuva Doots to engage actively and seek clarifications regarding their roles in implementing Mission YUVA.

## DDC assesses progress of Jal Jeevan Mission Projects in Reasi district

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, APRIL 17

District Development Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who is also Chairperson of the District Jal Jeevan Mission, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on physical and financial progress, status of completed works, Har Ghar Jal Certifications, number of water quality tests conducted, geo-tagged documentation, and submission of Action Taken Reports.

A detailed presentation was delivered, highlighting that out of 121 Water Supply Schemes sanctioned under JJM in Reasi district, 73 have been completed. A scheme-wise and subdivision-wise analysis was conducted to identify implementation bottlenecks and track progress.

The DDC emphasized the importance of timely and quality execution of all works. She issued strict directives for action against contractors causing unwarranted delays and instructed all Execu-



utive Engineers to conduct regular field visits for inspection and monitoring. She further directed the Superintending Engineer and concerned Executive Engineers to submit detailed status reports for each scheme.

Special instructions were given to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Dharmari, to coordinate closely with SDM Mahore to address local challenges and ensure early completion of pending and non-functional schemes in the Mahore subdivision.

The DDC sought written explanation from both Executive Engineers for their failure to commission the water supply works under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Despite repeated meetings, clear directions, and multiple extensions of the target deadlines, the

work remains incomplete, depriving local residents of access to safe and adequate drinking water. The DDC has expressed serious concern over the continued inaction and has demanded a prompt and satisfactory response from the concerned officer.

The DDC highlighted that the meeting underscored the administration's commitment to achieving 100% functional tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission in a timely and efficient manner.

Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Superintending Engineer Both Raj Bhagat, Executive Engineers Rakesh Gupta (Reasi), Kishore Kumar (Dharmari), AE, officials from JPDCL and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## Mega awareness programme under Nasha Mukh Abhiyan held at Kulgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, APRIL 17

Municipal Council Kulgam, in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, today organized a mega awareness programme under Nasha Mukh Abhiyan at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Kulgam.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Addressing the occasion, DC said that drugs not only ruin individual lives but also disrupt families and communities. He further highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the district administration to curb the menace of drug addiction, adding that a fully functional Drug De-addiction Centre is operational in Kulgam to provide support and rehabilitation to affected individuals.

Resource persons also deliberated on the



theme and shared valuable insights on the psychological, social and legal aspects of substance abuse, as well as strategies for prevention and community engagement.

Adding a creative touch to the programme, artists from Yadgar Music and Art presented a thought-provoking skit on drug abuse and its impact on youth and society. The

performance was well-received and left a strong impression on the audience.

The event saw active participation from officials, students, civil society members, and the general public.

ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri; JDP Zahid Sajjad; SDM, Bashir Ul Hassan and other officers also attended the programme.

## Awareness-cum-sensitization session hosted for Krishi Udyamis at Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17

An awareness-cum-sensitization session for Krishi Udyamis of the KKG was today organised by the Agriculture and Allied Departments here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The session was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh and witnessed the active participation of officers from allied departments.

During the session, Krishi Udyamis were sensitized about the key features and benefits of the Kisan Sathi and Daksh Kisan Portals. The officials highlighted the



importance of these digital platforms in streamlining agricultural support services and improving farmer outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC emphasized the need for widespread awareness and active involvement of Krishi Udyamis in mobilizing farmers to register on the Kisan Sathi Portal

and on the Daksh Kisan Portal to equip farmers with updated skill sets and technical knowledge for modern farming practices.

The participants were directed to ensure maximum enrolment of farmers under both portals to ensure effective implementation of schemes and to promote sustainable agriculture in the district.

## Four Indian Grey Wolves translocated from Gujarat to Jambu Zoo

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Department of Wildlife Protection is delighted to announce the successful translocation of two pairs of Indian Grey Wolves to Jambu Zoo. The wolves were donated by Sakkarbaug Zoological Park, Junagadh, Gujarat in exchange for one pair of leopard cats from Jambu Zoo.

The transportation was facilitated by Indian Railways, ensuring a smooth and safe journey for the wolves via Veterinary Passenger Units (VPU). Throughout the transit, utmost care was taken to minimize stress and ensure the well-being of the animals.

Upon arrival, the wolves have been placed under a mandatory quarantine care and observation period of two weeks at Jambu Zoo. A dedicated team comprising Zoo Vet-

erinary Officer Dr. Ranjit Singh Katoch, Range Officer Sumit Kumar and skilled animal keepers has been overseeing their translocation and acclimatization in Jambu Zoo. The wolves will be introduced to the public exhibits after successful completion of the quarantine, in accordance with established animal welfare protocols.

The Indian Grey Wolves, known for their sharp intelligence, live in small family packs, often forming monogamous pairs. They can communicate through howls, body posture, and scent marking. They usually hunt in pairs or small packs. The species is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The addition of these wolves to Jambu Zoo's rich biodiversity will greatly enhance public education, awareness and interest in wildlife conservation.

## Nutrition Items distributed at Bal Niketan Ved Mandir, Ambphalla



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

In a heartwarming gesture of compassion and service, nutrition items were distributed among the children of Bal Niketan, an orphanage at Ved Mandir, Ambphalla. The event was organized under the Health & Nutrition Support Programme by DABUR India Limited in collaboration with Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation (SR&CO), Kishtwar.

The noble initiative was facilitated by Mr. Sanjeev Parihaar, Founder President of SR&CO, who coordinated the provision of the nutrition kits from DABUR India, aiming to support the well-being of underprivileged children.

Gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest was Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, who praised the efforts and emphasized the importance of holistic care for the children. The event was presided

over by Sh. K. S. Samyal, President, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, who highlighted the collective responsibility of society toward its most vulnerable members.

The presence of Ms. Shikha Jain, President ARSH NGO; Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta, Secretary Ved Mandir; Sh. Alok Sharma, Vice President Ved Mandir; and Sudesh Pal Ji, senior stalwart of Sewa Bharti, further enhanced the grace and impact of the function. The entire staff of Bal Niketan extended whole-hearted cooperation in making the programme a success.

The event served as a reminder that helping the needy is not just a social responsibility but a divine act of kindness. It is by the grace of the Almighty that some individuals are inspired and engaged in such noble causes. This initiative reflected the power of collaboration between corporations and social organizations in creating meaningful change.

## Vaccination for Srinagar based Hajj pilgrims to be held from April-21 to 23 at Bait-ul-Hujaj

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 17

In view of the Hajj Vaccination programme in District Srinagar, all the selected Hajj Pilgrims of District Srinagar are asked to get vaccinated at Bait-ul Hujaj Haj House Bemina as per the below given date and time schedule for given serial numbers.

For Serial No 3-119, the vaccination shall be held on 21 April, 2025

from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Also, pilgrims falling within Serial No 120-224 shall get vaccinated on 21 April, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM.

Similarly, pilgrims from Serial No 226-1396 shall get vaccinated on 22 April, 2025 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Further, the pilgrims falling in between Serial No 1398-1513 are scheduled to come for vaccination on 22 April, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM.

## Arif, Sunil demand early restoration of Statehood to J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BATOTE, APRIL 17

Mohammad Arif Mir, Provincial Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), and Sunil Verma, District President of JKNC Udhampur, have jointly expressed serious concern over the prevailing administrative inertia in the Union Territory, stressing the urgent need for restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering of party workers during their visit to Batote area in Ramban district, the senior National Conference leaders came down heavily on the hollow policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre, blaming it for the developmental stagnation and governance crisis gripping the region. They said



the absence of an elected government has only worsened the woes of the common people.

The leaders visited several villages of Block Batote, including Champa, where they interacted with locals and listened to their grievances related to poor road connectivity, erratic water supply, lack of healthcare facilities, and neglect of rural development. They said these pressing issues reflect the ground reality of administrative neglect and policy paralysis under

the current bureaucratic regime.

Mohammad Arif Mir strongly criticized what he termed as a "dual power structure" prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it has led to confusion in governance and delay in public service delivery. "Bureaucrats, no matter how efficient, cannot replace a people's government that understands the pulse of the masses," he added.

Sunil Verma emphasized that only a democratically

elected government can truly represent the aspirations of the people and address their issues in a meaningful way. He urged the Central Government to stop delaying and immediately restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, thereby reinstating the political and constitutional rights of its citizens.

The leaders also called upon National Conference workers to remain steadfast, strengthen grassroots connectivity, and work tirelessly to resolve the local issues of the people.

Prominent among those present during the visit were Mannmohan Verma, Block President NC Tikri; Samullah Bhatti, Senior Leader; Farooq Ahmad Magrey, District Vice President JKNC Ramban; Nazir Ahmad Magrey and others.

## Department of Zoology, JU hosts awareness session on HPV and its impact on human health

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

The Department of Zoology, University of Jammu, organised an enlightening awareness session on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and its impact on Human Health today. The session aimed to educate young minds on the significance of HPV awareness and its implications for public health, particularly in the context of cervical cancer prevention.

Dr. Md. Kausar Neyaz, Founder and Managing Director of AABir Bioservices Foundation, served as the resource person for the event. Drawing upon his extensive experience in biotechnology and public health outreach, Dr. Neyaz delivered a compelling talk on the role of HPV in causing cervical cancer and emphasised



the importance of awareness, vaccination and early detection.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from research scholars and postgraduate students of the Department. Prof. Seema Langer, Head, Department of Zoology, convened the event and welcomed the guests and participants, underlining the department's commitment to community health and awareness initiatives. A poster-making compe-

tion on the WHO Global Mission for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer was also conducted as part of the program. The posters were evaluated by Prof. Kamal Jaiswal, Head and Dean, Zoology, School of Life Sciences, Ambedkar University, Lucknow, who appreciated the creativity and scientific understanding demonstrated by the participants. Winners were felicitated during the event.

Later in the day, Dr.

Kausar Neyaz also recorded a special podcast for the University of Jammu's Community Radio - 91.2 FM, further extending the outreach of the awareness initiative to the broader community.

Dr. Sarbjeet Kour conducted the proceedings of the event. Among others present were Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Dr. Arti Dogra, Dr. Parvinder Kumar, Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Rakesh Panjariya, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Shash Pal, Dr. Pankaj Chhibber, and Dr. Nidhi Slathia, whose presence added value to the program.

The Department of Zoology continues to actively engage students and the community in sensitising them to important health and environmental issues, aligning with national and global public health goals.

## Finalists for WAVES Comics Creator Championship & WAVES Awards of Excellence Announced

JI NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI/BHOPAL, APRIL 01

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India, in collaboration with Indian Comics Association (ICA) and ASIFA India, has announced the finalists for two prestigious competitions under the WAVES Create in India Challenge—the WAVES Comics Creator Championship and the WAVES Awards of Excellence.

The competitions have attracted participation from across India and internationally, highlighting the country's potential as a global hub for content creation, intellectual property, and technological innovation. The winners will be announced at the World Audio Visual and

Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025), scheduled to be held in Mumbai from May 1-4, 2025.

Additional Director General, PIB, Bhopal, Shri Prashant Pathrabe said that, WAVES is an important event that provides a global platform for professional entrepreneurs, investors, producers and innovators to connect, collaborate, innovate and contribute in the entertainment sector.

WAVES Comics Creator Championship:

Indian Comics Association (ICA) President Ajitesh Sharma stated that ICA has selected 10 teams for the final round and that the candidates for the final round were selected based on their creative story, artistic skills and overall impact.



Jury Panel for Comics Creator Championship

The five-member jury to evaluate the competition entries included: Dilip Kadam - Renowned comic artist and illustrator; Nikhil Pran - Acclaimed comic creator and son of Pran Kumar Sharma; Jajil

Homaveer - Creator of the web manga The Beast Legion; Sanjay Gupta - Founder of Raj Comics; Preeti Vyas - President & CEO of Amar Chitra Katha. The jury panel will now select the winners by evaluating the Semi-Finalists' entries. The selected

10 Finalists will then compete at the Mumbai Waves Event from 1-4 May 2025. The final competition will take place at WAVES 2025 in Mumbai, where the best talents in Indian comics will be recognized on an international stage.

ASIFA announces WAVES Awards of Excellence

The WAVES Awards of Excellence, organized by ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) India under the Create in India Challenge, has received 1,331 entries from 28 Indian states and 13 countries.

Shri Sanjay Khimesara, President, ASIFA India addressing the Waves Comics Creator Championship and Waves Awards of Excellence finalists announcement ceremony.

Jury for WAVES Awards of Excellence

The evaluation process for the WAVES Awards of Excellence was led by an esteemed five-member international jury, ensuring global standards in selection: Dr. Anastasia Dimitra (Greece) - VP, ASIFA International & Animation Educator; Briana Yarhouse (USA) - Director, Awards of Excellence & Professor; Pramita Mukherjee (USA) - Sr. Creature FX Developer, DreamWorks; Dhimant Vyas (India) - Professor of Practice, IDC School of Design; B.N. Vichar (India) - Art Director, Technicolor Games

The winning entries will receive mentorship, global exposure, and networking opportunities with industry leaders.

## IGNOU extends last date for online submission of Examination Forms for June 2025 TEE

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

IGNOU has extended the last date for submission of online examination forms to appear in the June 2025 Term-end examination till 28th April, 2025 without any Late Fee. The Examination fee is INR 200 per course for theory component and INR 300 per course for practical component. Students can fill out the IGNOU Exam Form for June 2025 online by visiting the official portal of the university <https://exam.ignou.ac.in/> followed by SAMARTH portal <https://ignou.samarth.ac.in/exam.php>. The examinations are likely to commence from 2nd June 2025.

"The Examination Centre will be allotted on the first come first serve basis and in case the sitting capacity at the chosen exam centre is full, the learners may opt for the nearest/alternate exam centre", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

The University reserves the right to reschedule/



cancel examinations/papers at any time in all the Examination Centre across the Country or in any particular Examination Centre/ State due to any exigency or any other reasons.

The University has also extended the last date for submission of assignments till 30th April, 2025 for the June Term End exam 2025 for programmes. University accepts assignments for all programmes such as BSc, BCom, BBA, MBA, MCom, MA, MCA, and more to appear in the June TEE 2025. The assignments form an important component in the courses of programme completion as they carry 30% weightage of the total marks/grades.

## Kavinder describes Guru Ravidass as torch bearer of social justice



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, described Guru Ravidass as a symbol of social justice, equality, and spiritual enlightenment.

He was discussing the teachings of Guru Ravidass with Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch General Secretary of British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation and Member, Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha.

Kavinder Gupta lauded the revered saint's teachings that continue to inspire generations across

the country.

He said that Guru Ravidass was a revolutionary spiritual figure who envisioned a society free of caste discrimination and inequality. His teachings promote universal brotherhood, compassion, and the dignity of labour. His message remains more relevant than ever, he said.

Highlighting the inclusive philosophy of Guru Ravidass, Gupta emphasized that the saint's poetry and spiritual vision advocated for a society, where every individual—regardless of caste or creed—has the right to live with dignity and respect.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that Guru Ravidass was a true reformer who chal-

lenged the social norms of his time with the power of wisdom and devotion.

He also commended the efforts of various organisations in India and abroad, which are preserving the saint's teachings and contributing to the social and cultural fabric.

"Guru Ravidass' life is a source of immense pride for all Indians. His values have deeply influenced our constitutional principles of equality and justice," he remarked.

He urged the younger generation to follow the values taught by Guru Ravidass and play an active role in building a more inclusive and compassionate society.

## Jammu College of Physiotherapy hosts Fresher's Party to welcome New Batch



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

In a vibrant display of camaraderie and celebration, Jammu College of Physiotherapy (JCP) organized a grand Fresher's Party to welcome the incoming batch of 2024-25. The event, held on campus, was a joyous occasion marked by colorful cultural performances, fun-filled games, and enthusiastic participation from both freshers and seniors.

The senior students extended a warm and spirited welcome to their juniors, creating an atmosphere of warmth and inclusion. The event was graced by the Principals of various colleges functioning under the aegis of

Shri Sain Charitable Trust, along with the faculty members and students of JCP.

One of the highlights of the event was a talent competition among the freshers, where Mr. Gulshan was crowned Mr. Fresher and Miss Bhoomika earned the title of Miss Fresher. Their performances and enthusiasm won the hearts of all in attendance.

The event was also honored by the presence of Mr. Ravish Sharma, Managing Director of Shri Sain Charitable Trust, along with esteemed members of the management including Ms. Japna Sharma, Ms. Jasuda Sharma, and Dr. Nitin Mahajan, all CEOs of the trust. The dignitaries distributed prizes to the

winners and lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Navinderpal Singh, Principal of Jammu College of Physiotherapy, congratulated the students for organizing a successful and engaging event. He appreciated the collective efforts of both students and faculty in making the celebration a memorable one. Dr. Singh also extended heartfelt gratitude to the trust's management for their continued support and encouragement. He specially acknowledged the contribution of Ms. Suman Sharma, Chairperson of Shri Sain Charitable Trust, for encouraging such initiatives and promoting holistic development.

## Pankaj Mahajan, President Vivekanand Marg Traders Association honoured



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

Rajan Gupta, Prant Sewa Parmukh, along with Dr. S.S. Sambyal VHP Jammu Dist. President today honoured Shri Pankaj Mahajan on being elected unopposed for the second consecutive term as President of the Vivekanand Marg Traders Association, Below Gumat. Speaking on the occasion, Rajan Gupta congratulated Pankaj Mahajan and praised his dedicated efforts towards the welfare of the trader community.

He expressed confidence that under Gupta's leadership, the association would continue to flourish and address the concerns of traders effectively. Dr. S.S. Sambyal also extended his heartfelt best wishes to Pankaj Mahajan for his second term and lauded his commitment and service to the business fraternity. The event was attended by several prominent members of the local trading community, who joined in congratulating Pankaj Gupta and pledged their support for his continued leadership.

# India's Deeptech Company Simpliforge sets Global Benchmark with World's Highest On-Site 3D Printed Structure in Himalayan Range

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

In a monumental leap for defense infrastructure and construction technology, Simpliforge Creations and IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Indian Army represented by Arun Krishnan (who is also a PhD student at IIT-Hyderabad), have successfully delivered India's first on-site 3D printed protective military structure at a staggering altitude of 11,000 feet above sea level in Leh under Project PRABAL. This marks the world's highest-ever in-situ 3D construction printing feat, accomplished under the extreme high altitude and low oxygen (HALO) conditions.

Under the guidance of Prof. K.V.L. Subramaniam of IIT-Hyderabad, Simpliforge

Creations and IIT-Hyderabad Teams developed specialized 3D printing technology capable of operating under extreme environmental conditions. This innovation enabled the construction of a form-optimized protective bunker using locally sourced materials, completed over a total printing time of fourteen hours.

The PRABAL initiative showcases how homegrown technology and academic-industry collaboration can push the boundaries of construction science. The deployment of this 3D printed bunker is not only a first-of-its-kind in India but also sets the stage for rapid, on-site, deployable infrastructure in challenging terrains, further strengthening the country's defense preparedness.

This ground breaking

project marks a convergence of engineering innovation, military utility, and the Make-in-India spirit—paving the way for future-forward infrastructure solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Simpliforge Creations CEO Dhruv Gandhi stated "Executing this project in the high-altitude, low-oxygen environment of Ladakh was an immense operational challenge—for both our team and our machines. The Robotic printer system was set-up and commissioned in under 24 hours proving its agility & mobility. The reduced oxygen levels affected everything from power systems performance, which were delivering lower energy output than they would on normal plains, to human efficiency. The low humidity and high UV posed challenges in integrity of the



built material. Despite these constraints, we were able to meet our production targets and deliver a robust structure within a record timeframe of 5 days."

Prof KVL Subramaniam - IIT Hyderabad said, "One of the most critical aspects of this project was the development of specially engineered materials tailored to perform in extreme environmental conditions. Operating at high altitudes

with low oxygen levels, low humidity and significant thermal variations required not just structural innovation, but also material science at its finest. Our team at IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Simpliforge Creations, designed a concrete mix that could be 3D printed on-site while offering superior mechanical performance, durability, and resilience. Before deployment, we conducted

vigorous testing at IIT Hyderabad's advanced facilities, including comprehensive studies on local sand and aggregates sourced from the region, rheology of mix. Understanding the material behaviour under simulated environmental stresses allowed us to optimize the mix design for on-site usage. This material innovation was fundamental to achieving the desired strength and structural integrity within such a challenging context."

Arun Krishnan commented, "Project Prabal was conceptualized and initiated during my M.Tech program at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Several teams and companies had attempted to bring 3D printed construction to the high-altitude terrain of Leh, but the extreme conditions of Ladakh proved to

be a formidable challenge. It was the unmatched synergy between Simpliforge Creations and IIT Hyderabad that finally made it possible. Their technical depth, adaptability, and relentless focus on innovation enabled the successful execution of Project PRABAL. Together, we didn't just build a structure—we proved that indigenous, cutting-edge technology can overcome even the harshest operational environments and deliver tangible impact for our armed forces. The printed structure has undergone rigorous trials."

Hari Krishna Jeedipalli, MD - Simpliforge Creations said, "we've been pushing the boundaries of additive construction since 2022—from building India's first 3D printed bridge, to the

world's first 3D printed place of worship, and the Indian Army's first in-situ 3D printed medical facility using locally available material. Each project has been a leap forward, and this bunker in Ladakh marks a crucial milestone in our journey towards extra-terrestrial."

"Looking ahead, we envision commercialising this technology for remote terrain applications and extending this beyond Earth—towards space habitats on the Moon and Mars. Printing in the extreme, open conditions of Ladakh has given us vital insights and validation for operating in extra terrestrial environments. It's more than construction—this is a stepping stone on our journey into space deep tech. added Mr Hari"

## Farooq's double standards on Art 370 exposed: Adv. Purnima

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Reacting sharply to the recent revelations made by former RAW chief A.S. Dulat in his new book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy', BJP Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Adv. Purnima Sharma, has accused National Conference (NC) President Dr. Farooq Abdullah of indulging in blatant political hypocrisy and double standards on the issue of Article 370.

In a press statement issued here today, the BJP Spokesperson said that Dulat's claim that Dr. Abdullah was "willing to work with Delhi" after the abrogation of Article 370 is a damning indictment of the NC leadership's duplicity. "While



Farooq Abdullah and his party have been shouting from rooftops against the abrogation of Article 370 in public, behind closed doors, they were ready to cooperate with the Central Government," she said.

Highlighting a portion of Dulat's book where Farooq Abdullah is quoted saying, "We would have helped. Why were we not taken into confidence?", She ques-

tioned the integrity of the NC's public posturing. "This clearly exposes how the NC leadership was more interested in political bargaining than the so-called 'cause' they claim to champion," she added.

The senior BJP leader also pointed out Dulat's assertion that Farooq Abdullah even contemplated having the proposal passed in the Legislative Assembly. "This statement confirms what the people of J&K have long suspected—that the NC leadership's opposition to the move is nothing but political drama aimed at misleading the public," she said.

Purnima Sharma called upon the youth and the people of Jammu and Kashmir to see through the smokescreen cre-

ated by dynastic political parties like NC. "The abrogation of Article 370 has opened new avenues of development, investment, and empowerment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It's time to reject those who only seek to cling to power through confusion and contradiction," she asserted.

Purnima reiterated BJP's stand that the decision to revoke Article 370 was in the national interest and has proved beneficial for the common people, especially the marginalized sections who were previously deprived of rights under the special status regime.

"Farooq Abdullah's double speak stands exposed. The people of J&K will not be misled again," she added.

## NC cheated in silence, PDP hugged BJP in public: Hakeem

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 17

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Thursday held both National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) responsible for the present mess in the region and stated some cheated in silence and some hugged BJP in public.

Reacting strongly to the explosive revelations made by former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat, Hakeem said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had long suspected betrayal—and now the dots are connecting.

"Dulat Sahab is no ordinary man. He's someone who was seen as the closest confidant of Farooq Sahab. In Delhi's political circles, he's considered the biggest advocate for Farooq Abdullah. So when he says that the abrogation of Article



370 happened with Farooq Sahab's consent and that from 2020 to 2023 Farooq was desperate to align with BJP—it carries tremendous weight," Hakeem said.

"If these claims are false, then file a defamation case against Dulat. But don't try to mislead the people with emotional speeches. Silence in such matters is not innocence—it's an admission," he said.

Taking the attack further, Hakeem said that let's be honest, NC betrayed the people from behind the curtain—but PDP did it openly. They shamelessly formed a government with

## Not surprised by Dulat's revelation on Farooq Abdullah backing Art 370 abrogation: Mehbooba Mufti

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 17 (UND)

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said she was not surprised by former RAW chief A.S. Dulat's revelation that National Conference (NC) patron Farooq Abdullah had privately endorsed the abrogation of Article 370 and even expressed willingness to "help" with the process if he was taken into confidence.

"Dulat sahib has long been close to the National Conference like a family member. Today he writes that Farooq sahib wanted a discussion over removal of Article 370 and was even willing to get it removed through the Assembly. This is not the first time. The NC had done similar things in 2014," Mufti told reporters on the sidelines of a PDP central Kashmiri workers convention in Srinagar.

She further claimed that senior NC leaders, including Omar Abdullah, had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2014—allegedly during late-night meetings—to urge the BJP to form a government with NC, and not with the PDP.

"They offered to form the government with the BJP without any conditions. This (Dulat claim) is not a new thing," she said.

The former Chief Minister also expressed hope that the Supreme Court would deliver a favourable verdict on the petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, which is currently under consideration.

"When the decision of Babri Masjid or Afzal Guru came... there was no evidence. ...But the Supreme Court said we are giving this decision for collective consciousness. So, I hope... emotions of crores of Muslims are attached to Waqf. Too... .... We hope that the Supreme Court will give verdict against the Waqf amendments considering the same collective consciousness," she said.

Mufti said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not peaceful as claimed by the government.

## COAS General Upendra Dwivedi reviews Operational Preparedness of Sudarshan Chakra Corps, honours Veterans

J I NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI: 17 APR 2025

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), undertook a comprehensive review of the operational preparedness of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, reinforcing the Indian Army's steadfast commitment to high combat readiness, innovation and professional excellence. During his visit, he was briefed on ongoing initiatives and the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies. He interacted with troops and praised their focus on operational efficiency, adaptive training, and battlefield innovation.

A significant highlight of the visit was the felicitation of five distinguished veterans with the Veteran Achiever Award, celebrating their continued contribution to society and nation-building.

Brigadier Ramnarayan Vinayak, VSM (Retd): Actively involved in ex-servicemen welfare, he established a Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) - sponsored security agency employing more than 300 veterans, enabled Ex-Servicemen



Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) benefits for Veer Naris of 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars, and advocated for liberalised family pensions. Along with his spouse, he promotes the legacy of bravehearts through educational presentations at Shaurya Smarak.

Colonel Vaibhav Prakash Tripathi (Retd): As Vice President of the Madhya Pradesh Ex-Servicemen League, he is associated with Ojas Shikshan evam Prashikshan Sansthan in Betul, a veteran-run institute providing training and education to tribal youth aspiring to join the defence forces.

Colonel K P Singh

(Retd): Known for his legal support to veterans and widows, he facilitates biometric life certification and SPARSH issue resolution. He also provides free SSB guidance and supports local charitable institutions for the elderly and differently-abled.

Naik Anil Kumar Verma (Retd): Converted his ancestral home into a girls' hostel and founded a school for underprivileged tribal children in Bilaspur, which has been achieving remarkable board results. A symbol of social commitment, he continues to inspire fellow veterans.

Lance Dafadar Pradeep Kalaskar (Retd): Actively helps resolve pension

and financial issues of ex-servicemen. He risked his life to save five individuals from a fire and was honoured as 'Vrikshamitra' for planting over 1,000 saplings.

These awards underscored the Indian Army's deep respect for its veterans and their continued impact on THE society.

Concluding the visit, General Dwivedi visited Yodhasthal, narrating the valour and history of the Indian Army. Designed as an immersive and educational experience open to the public to promote civil-military cooperation and inspire future generations.

## Dogri Song "Sada Shair Akhnoor" released at Akhnoor

J I NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, APR 17

A Dogri song "SADA SHAIR AKHNOOR" was released on 16 Apr.2025 on YouTube channel DISHA KALA JAGAT in the presence of a large gathering at Kameshwar Temple hall by the Hon'ble MLA Jammu North Sh. Sham Lal Sharma and MLA Akhnoor Sh. Mohan Lal. Mahant Rameshwar Dass showers the blessings on the occasion.

The singer of the song is Ashok Kumar and the lyrics are given by Sh. Jugal Chanan. Nirbhay Slathia composed the song, and the video director is Sh. Ravi Sharma. Editing and color grading at Dhanraj Studios. While music is given by Dr. V. Kaith and the song featuring Miss Ishita, Jugal Chanan and Sh. Raghuraj Singh.

The song "SADA SHAIR AKHNOOR" depicts all famous and historical places of Akhnoor which appeals to the listeners to visit Akhnoor. Speaking on the occasion Sh. Sham Lal Sharma terms the release of this song a milestone in the history of Akhnoor and urged the



people to see the worth and beauty of Akhnoor through this song. He congratulated the whole team involved in the production of this song.

MLA Akhnoor Sh. Mohan Lal appreciated the efforts of the team and assured all possible support to the artists in future for such songs. Sh. Mohan Lal said that this song will highlight the glory of Akhnoor.

On the occasion Sr. Journalist and founder president of press club Kr. Shakti Singh, Sardar Ranvir Singh (Jt. sec. DGPC) and Sh. Retaish Gupta (Vice president Civil

Society) were the special guests. While Sh. Rakesh Malhotra and Sh. Dipesh Singh graced the function as special guests.

Prominent among other who were present including Sh. Subash Singh, Sh. Bishan Lal, Sewa Ram, Sh. Thoru Ram, Kewal Kumar Kewal, RL Bhardwaj, OP Shakir, Kewal Krishan, Virender Mishra, Krishan Chand. Anil Sharma conducted the proceedings of the function. Singer and producer of the song thanked all the dignitaries and media persons for making the song release function successful.

## Epic Victory Cricket League to kick start inaugural season in Kashmir this September

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 17:

The Epic Victory Cricket League, a franchise based T20 tournament is set to launch with its first edition of the tournament starting in the month of September.

Launched in Srinagar, Kashmir today by Irfan Pathan, the league will include an equal balance of local Indian players with international stars and ex-Ranji cricketers from the region of J&K. The franchise-based tournament, will feature a pool of over 200 players, which will get decided after a month and a half of trials across 20 cities.

"Epic Victory Cricket League is looking forward to bringing cricket to Kashmir once again and showcase the talent that this beautiful and we are very excited to also be playing in Jammu and Kashmir for the inaugural season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing



action. I urge all the cricketers to register and join the EVCL for the opportunity of a lifetime." Said Mr. Irfan Pathan, Former Indian Cricketer.

Registrations will begin in the coming week on the official EVCL online portal for the trials held across 20 cities for a duration of 45 days. The trials kick off in Srinagar on the 15th of June and will conclude in Baraut, Uttar Pradesh on the 31st of July 2025. The eligibility for these trials are simply any male cricketers from the ages of 17

to 39 which will showcase their talent under the watchful eyes of a selection committee consisting of selectors from the state cricketering associations and the apex council of the EVCL.

"This isn't just about another competition. It's about providing a stage to the people who have missed the opportunity for many reasons and showcasing the incredible depth of cricket talent in India." Vikas Dhaka, League Owner, Epic Victory Cricket League, added,

"We're going to see some stunning matches, unexpected heroes rise, and inspire a whole new generation of players around the world".

The league is set to broadcast on one of the leading OTT platform with coverage in over 7 languages that will include English, Hindi and in a first of its kind, Kashmiri and Dogra to include the vast population of the region that would enjoy cricketing action in their own language for the first time ever.

## National Herald Case exposes Congress corruption: Vibodh

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 17

Asserting that the BJP stands firmly with the underprivileged, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta criticized the Congress, stating it has no moral authority to speak about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He made these remarks while addressing party workers at the BJP office in Poonch as part of the Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan, being observed from April 13 to April 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

Vibodh recalled that during the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's regime, Dr. Ambedkar not only had to resign as the Law Minister but was also defeated at the hustings. He also alleged that the then government did not permit the last rites to be conducted in the capital as was the norm for prominent personalities, his portrait too adorned the Parliament only during the NDA government led by A.B. Vajpayee and further Dr. BR Ambedkar was conferred with the Bharat Ratna Award by the BJP-supported government at the centre.

"It is the Congress which has historically instigated caste divisions, humiliated B.R. Ambedkar during his



lifetime and acted against the Constitution by bringing in the Emergency rule and suspension of civil rights", said Vibodh. He praised the Modi government for establishing the 'Panch Teerth'-five sacred sites dedicated to Dr. Ambedkar's life and legacy—and for implementing reforms aimed at uplifting the downtrodden, as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar.

Launching a scathing attack on Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Vibodh accused them of massive corruption in the National Herald case. He alleged that the Congress orchestrated a "corporate conspiracy" to benefit the Gandhi family. He asserted that those involved in corruption and illegal land acquisitions from farmers will face legal consequences under the "honest government" led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gurdeep Singh Khalsa, BJP District President Poonch, stated that the Modi government is truly realizing Dr. B.R. Ambed-

kar's vision by working tirelessly for the upliftment of the marginalized and ensuring that constitutional values are upheld in both spirit and practice. He emphasized that the BJP stands committed to social justice, equality, and the empowerment of the underprivileged, in line with Ambedkar's ideals.

Senior BJP leader Ch. Abdul Gani strongly criticized the Congress for betraying the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar. He accused the Congress of exploiting the Constitution for political gains, creating caste divisions, and sidelining Ambedkar during his lifetime. Former District President BJP Poonch Rajesh Raina, District General Secretaries Sunil Kumar and Gulzaar Jatt, Vice Presidents Ravinder Kumar Bitta, Naresh Sharma, and Mehtab Bukhari, Senior Leaders Adv. Mohinder Pyasa, Azhar Manhas and Sanjeev K Fancy, along with Mandal Pardhan Mendhar Ch. Abdul Qayoom and Syed Ameer Ali Shah also spoke on the occasion.

## JMC felicitates wrestlers participated in Swachh Dungal on Baisakhi held at Suryaputri Tawi River Front

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

In celebration of the vibrant festival of Baisakhi, a wrestling competition was held at the scenic Suryaputri Tawi River Front. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from wrestlers representing Jammu & Kashmir Police, and other districts including Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, and Samba.

The event highlighted the spirit of sportsmanship and community celebration, making the Baisakhi festival even more special for the people of Jammu.

To recognize their outstanding performances and sportsmanship, the participating wrestlers were felicitated by the officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation. Medals and trophies were presented to the winners, and runner-up players. Coaches, technical officers, and other officials associated with the event were also honored for their contributions to the successful organization of the competition. Among others, Joint Commissioner (Administration), Krishan Lal, Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Joint Commissioner (H&S), Abdul Star, Deputy Commissioner (South), Lal Chand, Chief Accounts Officer, Sandeep Singh, VAS, Dr. Priyanka, besides other senior officers and officials were present on the occasion.

## Waqf properties safe and protected, only politicians confused: Darakhshan Andrabi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APR 17 (UND)

BJP leader and Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Darakhshan Andrabi, on Thursday said, except politicians, there was no confusion among the common people in the Union Territory about the newly enacted Waqf law.

Andrabi asserted that Waqf properties, including mosques, shrines, and graveyards in Jammu and Kashmir, are secure and face no threat.

She dismissed the rising concerns as politically motivated attempts to mislead the public.

"Those who are genuinely connected with the dargahs, mosques, and the path of faith have no issues (on Waqf Act)," she told reporters in Anantnag.

"It is only politicians who are confused and trying to bake their bread," she added.

She said that the J&K Waqf Board is functioning transparently, and its properties are well-protected under law.

"For the last three years, the functioning of the Board has been visible to the public in Jammu and Kashmir, and everything is being managed as per law and faith," Andrabi stated.

When asked that the Supreme Court is hearing the petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, Andrabi said the Constitution and the law are open to all, and those who challenge decisions have the right to seek redressal through the courts.

"This is a democracy. The courts are open, and the law is equal for everyone," she said.

She said the bill has been passed in the Parliament, and no one can stop it from being implemented.

"Those who have to go to the Supreme Court, the doors of the law are open," she said.

## Ritika slams Cong protest against ED as "Thief Crying Foul"



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha, Ritika Trehan, today held a press conference criticising the Congress party for protesting against the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation into the National Herald case involving Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

Trehan likened Congress's protest to a "thief crying foul," asserting that the party is trying to

deflect accountability. She emphasized that the ED's charge sheet is a legal consequence of the Gandhis' actions, not a political vendetta.

Trehan pointed out that the case originated during Congress's own rule, dismissing claims of political bias.

She criticized Congress for turning a legal issue into a political storm, suggesting that the Gandhi family's "greed" led to their current predicament.

Ritika reiterated the BJP's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring those who violate it face consequences.

The ED's investigation is a legitimate legal process aimed at addressing financial irregularities. Individuals who have engaged in wrongdoing will be held accountable through the law. The legal system should be allowed to run its course without interference or attempts to politicize the issue.

## Suri seeks swift gov action to assess storm damages, protection for J&K residents

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 17

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri has called on the government to urgently assess the extensive damage caused by the high-velocity storm that struck Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The storm, which escalated into hurricane-like conditions in several areas, caused widespread disruption, particularly in the Jammu division, with significant losses to farmers, fruit growers, and infrastructure.

The devastating weather event led to the collapse of a house and two shops in Chasana, Reasi district, due to a cloud-burst, with a car buried under debris and several animals lost. Uprooted trees, damaged crops, and fruit plants have severely

impacted the livelihoods of farmers and growers. The storm also caused extensive damage to the electricity infrastructure, with over a hundred poles and a dozen transformers destroyed in Jammu district alone.

The back wall of the secretariat in Jammu collapsed under which several vehicles suffered damages, and hailstorms in Udhampur further compounded the destruction. "The government must immediately deploy teams to assess the losses suffered by our people, especially farmers and fruit growers, who are the backbone of our economy," said Suri. "Prompt compensation must be provided to help them recover from this unforeseen calamity."

Raman Suri also highlighted the Meteorological Department's fore-

cast of continued rainfall and potential snowfall in higher areas until April 21, 2025, with a yellow warning issued for farmers to suspend agricultural activities. Dust storms are expected to resume from the evening of April 18, posing further risks. "Given the prediction of more adverse weather, the government must act proactively to safeguard lives and property," Suri urged.

"The disaster management team should be pressed into service immediately to ensure adequate measures are in place to mitigate further damage." Suri emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to restore normalcy and protect vulnerable communities. "We stand with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this challenging time and demand swift action to address their plight," he said.

**Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,  
Seed Development Division, SFRI Complex, Janipur, Jammu- 180007**  
E-mail: [dfosseed123@gmail.com](mailto:dfosseed123@gmail.com), Tel- & Fax: 01912953921

**E-TENDERING**

**Notice Inviting Tender: e-NIT No.02 of 2025-26 Dated: 16.04.2025**

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations having experience and knowledge of the work of nursery raising and maintenance of the plants involving the following items of works:-

**Name of Work: 2<sup>nd</sup> year Maintenance of poly bagged plants raised during 2023-24(9"x6") in Sidhra Nurseries(CAPEX)**

T.S & A.A= Accorded  
Status of Funds= Approved

S.N o.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	<p>Maintenance of plants in poly bags of size 9" x 6"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resowing of seeds in failed polybags including cost of seed and labour as per the ordered quantity</li> <li>Care of new germination including shade/hatching whenever required</li> <li>Regular weeding in polybags including disposal of weeds</li> <li>Cleaning of bunds and interspaces of plots and beds and all nursery area on daily basis including disposal of weeds in a way to keep them always free from any weeds/grasses for hygiene purposes.</li> <li>Irrigation of plants as per requirement from available irrigation facility including that by water tankers to be procured from market in case of shortage of water in irrigation source of nursery and also in case of fault in motor pumps</li> <li>Cost of diesel/petrol/ for irrigating /Watering of plants in Nursery including cost of weedicides, Insecticides spray in case of disease outbreak.</li> <li>Cost of seed/cuttings/transplants required for sowing/resowing/ transplant</li> <li>Shifting and grading of polybags as per requirement as directed by supervisory staff</li> </ul> <p>Dressing of bunds/boundaries of plots/paths including general nursery maintenance and use of chemical /physical/biological methods to keep the plants and nursery free from any sort of disease and insect and animal/bird attack in Sidhra-I, II &amp; III</p>	78700 @ 2.66/- per plant till March 2026 Rs.2.093 lacs	4190	A,B, C & D	Rs.600/-	Maintenance Work as detailed to be done on daily basis uptill 25/03/2026 or till lifting of plants from nursery	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:-  
[www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in)  
**Position of funds: APPROVED&(50% Funds available)**  
**Position of AA/TS: ACCORDED**

Publishing Date	16.04.2025
Download Start Date	16.04.2025 from 04:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	16.04.2025 From 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	25.04.2025 At 02.30 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	26.04.2025 at 02:00 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	26.04.2025 at 02:30 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).

**Divisional Forest Officer  
Seed Development Division,  
J&K FRI, Jammu.**

Dated, 16.04.2025

No. JKFR/SD/JF-181/57-62  
DIP/J-388/25  
Date: 17-4-25

## Modi Govt's policies propel J&K into tourism spotlight: Kavinder

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has lauded the remarkable surge in tourism witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the upward trend to the visionary and pro-people policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Citing official data, Gupta noted that over 5.25 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir in just the first three months and one week of 2025 alone which seems to be a clear evidence that the region is fast emerging as a global tourism hub.

Speaking at a meeting held at the BJP Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder highlighted that this sharp rise in tourist footfall is a direct outcome of the Central Government's continuous efforts to restore peace, promote development, and improve infrastructure in the region. "The abrogation of Article 370 proved to be a turning point," he said, adding that the removal



of the temporary provision opened new doors for investments, job creation, and infrastructural growth, significantly benefiting the tourism sector.

He emphasized the importance of flagship events like the G20 Tourism meet, Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg and the annual opening of the Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which have become key attractions and are drawing both domestic and international tourists in large numbers. He added that development of better road connectivity, upgraded airports, and increased air traffic has further boosted the ease of travel to the Union Territory.

Kavinder further said that the Modi Government is committed to

transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant economic zone, with tourism playing a pivotal role. "Tourism not only brings economic prosperity but also bridges cultural gaps, creates livelihood opportunities and strengthens national unity," he asserted.

Looking ahead, the former deputy Chief Minister expressed optimism that Jammu and Kashmir is steadily shedding the shadows of the past and is poised to become one of India's most sought-after tourist destinations. He reiterated the Modi government's resolve to continue strengthening infrastructure, enhancing security, and creating a welcoming environment for tourists from across the globe.

## Dr. Rameshwar meets CM Omar, seeks relief for fire-affected families in Bani



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani constituency, today met with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and apprised him of the devastating fire incident that occurred in Panchayat Sundharon, Bani area of district Kathua. The fire, which broke out recently, resulted in the complete destruction of four residential houses, leaving several families homeless and distressed.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh informed the Chief Minister about the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for government intervention to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation to the affected families.

Responding to the concern raised by the MLA, the

Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow over the incident and assured full support from the government.

The MLA informed that the Chief Minister has issued directions from his office to the Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, to ensure prompt relief measures are taken on priority. The CM has instructed the DC office to provide necessary assistance to the victims and initiate the process of compensation for the losses incurred due to the fire. The CM also assured that adequate funds from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund would be allocated to support the affected families during this crisis, Dr Rameshwar said.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his

prompt response and compassionate approach toward the suffering of the fire-affected people. He also directed the local administration, including the Tehsil office and the Station House Officer (SHO), Bani, to visit the site, assess the damage, and ensure that no affected family is left without support.

The MLA further assured the victims of his unwavering support and continuous follow-up with the concerned departments to ensure they receive timely aid. He also appealed to the residents of Bani and nearby areas to come forward and extend all possible help to their fellow citizens in this hour of need, reinforcing the spirit of community and solidarity.



Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today met Arjuna Awardee Para-Archer Shri Rakesh Kumar, and National Champion Para-Archer Payal Nag, at Raj Bhawan. The athletes were accompanied by Archery Coach Ms Abhilasha Chaudhary. The Lieutenant Governor also met National Games Silver Medalist Shri Hritik Sharma, and extended best wishes to the young archer for the upcoming FISU World University Games 2025. The Lieutenant Governor said the remarkable achievements of athletes from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, Katra, at National and International sporting events is a great source of inspiration for the youth. He also assured the Athletes all support from the administration.



Rajiv Jasrotia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jasrota called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

## Chairman DDC Jammu, MLA Jammu North jointly inaugurate PMAY-G Awaas Plus 2.0 Workshop in Bhalwal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 16

A one-day Block Level Workshop cum Awareness Programme on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) under Awaas Plus 2.0 was organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, District Jammu at Block Headquarters, Bhalwal (Oasis Farms, Baran). The workshop aimed to provide comprehensive insights into the scheme's features, benefits, registration process, and implementation strategies, while fostering public engagement and transparency.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by Shri Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu, and Shri Sham Lal Sharma, Hon'ble

MLA, Jammu North, in the presence of PRI representatives, panchayat members, field officials, PMAY-G beneficiaries, and surveyors from all 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal.

In his welcome address, Dr. Sunil Sharma, Block Development Officer Bhalwal, shared that 221 PMAY-G houses have been constructed in Block Bhalwal as of March 31, 2025, and 931 households have been surveyed under Awaas Plus 2.0 through the coordinated efforts of Panchayat Secretaries and Panchayat Account Assistants. He emphasized the role of data-driven governance and called for proactive community participation in the scheme.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, presented a detailed over-

view of PMAY-G in District Jammu with a special focus on Block Bhalwal. He explained the operational aspects of the AwaasSoft platform, SECC-based eligibility criteria, the importance of timely registration under both self and assisted survey modes, and highlighted April 30, 2025 as the final date for registration. He commended the technical and administrative support provided by both the Central Government and the UT Administration in ensuring effective implementation.

Shri Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and Guest of Honour, congratulated the 221 beneficiaries who received assistance for house construction under PMAY-G and extended heartfelt



thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for launching such transformative schemes with significant financial outlays for rural housing. He emphasized the integration of housing with other flagship initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), PM Ujjwala Yojana, and Jal Jeevan Mission under the larger umbrella of holistic rural development. He urged

ex-PRI members to actively support the identification and verification process at the Panchayat level, ensuring no houseless household is left behind. Shri Sharma also praised the dedication of officers and officials of the Rural Development Department in achieving progress at the grassroots.

Further, Shri Sham Lal Sharma reiterated his unwavering commit-

ment to rural empowerment through effective policy execution and local engagement. He stressed that real development begins at the village level, and initiatives like PMAY-G not only provide shelter but also restore dignity and a sense of security to economically weaker sections. He assured the gathering that his office will continue to facilitate coordination between public representatives and the administration to ensure no eligible family is excluded from the ambit of government welfare schemes.

Shri Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Jammu and Chief Guest, lauded the Government of India's initiative in providing pucca houses, toilets, and essential facilities to poor

and marginalised families. He appealed to PRI representatives to work closely with field functionaries for accurate identification of beneficiaries, and reiterated the crucial role of decentralized governance in delivering last-mile benefits. He also appreciated the community-driven format of the event and called for increased public participation.

A key highlight of the workshop was the experience-sharing session, where PMAY-G beneficiaries, surveyors, and ex-PRI members shared their experiences, challenges, and suggestions, describing the workshop as a highly effective platform for information dissemination and feedback. Participants welcomed the transparent registration process and interactive structure

of the awareness drive. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. Monika Sharma, Tehsildar, Kot Bhalwal, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and stakeholders for their contributions and support. A second formal vote of thanks was also presented by Shri Rajesh Sharma, Panchayat Inspector Bhalwal, who reaffirmed the block's commitment to full saturation of eligible households and timely implementation of central schemes.

Among others present were Shri Sunil Sharma (SHO, Gharota), PRI representatives, field-level PMAY-G functionaries, panchayat members, and citizens from across the block.

## Arvind inaugurates Himalayan Heritage Exhibition at GGHS Talab Tillo

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and Hon'ble MLA West Constituency, today inaugurated a vibrant exhibition organized by the Himalayan Heritage Museum (Regd.) at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHS), Talab Tillo, Jammu. The event drew enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and members of the local community, celebrating the rich cultural and historical legacy of the Himalayan region.

The exhibition showcased a diverse collection of heritage artefacts, traditional handicrafts, and rare photographs, highlighting the cultural richness and traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Arvind Gupta lauded the efforts of S. Inder Singh, Chairman of the Himalayan Heritage Museum, for his unwavering dedication in preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Himalayan region. He commended his vision and commitment in orga-



nizing such informative exhibitions that not only celebrate heritage but also serve as a vital educational experience for students. He emphasized that initiatives like these play a crucial role in connecting the younger generation with their roots and instilling a sense of pride in their cultural identity.

Following the inauguration, Arvind Gupta also interacted with the students and the teaching faculty of the school. He attentively listened to their concerns and took stock of the existing academic and infrastructural facilities at the institution. Various issues such as the need for better classrooms, upgraded sanitation facilities, and availability of sports and digital learning equipment were discussed during the

session. Responding to these concerns, the MLA assured the school authorities and students of his full support in ensuring that the institution receives the attention and resources it deserves. He committed to taking up the matter with the concerned departments and pledged to work towards improving the overall infrastructure and learning environment at the school. He further emphasized the critical role of quality education in shaping the future of the region. He said, "Education is not just a fundamental right; it is the foundation of a strong, empowered society. Our children deserve the best facilities and opportunities to grow into capable, confident citizens."

## Storms, rain, lightning fail to stop Movement Kalki - Day 180 of protest continues uninterrupted

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

Despite fierce thunderstorms, heavy rain, and intense lightning, Movement Kalki's protest entered its 180th day with unwavering determination. The protest is being held to demand that Mother Cow (Gau Mata) be declared as the 'National Mother', for the formation of a Sanatan Board, strict cow protection laws, and the construction of cow shelters across the country.

Last night, a sudden and violent storm swept through Jammu, disrupting the protest site. Strong winds blew away tents, scattered belongings, and flooded the entire area. Yet, the protestors remained firm, continuing their dharna (sit-in) through the storm, praying to God to calm the fury of nature.

The protestors believe this storm is a direct reflection of the sins committed by society—particularly the



sin of cow slaughter. They said that while the government, the authorities, and political leaders remain silent, nature has begun to respond. They appealed to the public, stating that the only way to prevent such calamities is to join Movement Kalki and take a stand against cow slaughter.

Pritam Sharma, Advisor to Movement Kalki, stated: "It is time for people to wake up, reflect on their actions, abandon selfishness, and take responsibility to stop this endless sin. Only then will nature and Gau Mata forgive us."

Sanjeev Dubey, Core Committee Member, added:

"We are making continuous efforts to awaken people to the divine importance of Gau Mata. Storms and rains cannot stop us. Movement Kalki has taken a firm vow—we will not step back until Mother Cow is officially recognized as the National Mother."

Movement Kalki urges all citizens of India to join this sacred mission, raise their voice to stop cow slaughter, and help lay the foundation for a cow-protected Bharat.

## Indian Army organizes Medical Ayush, Veterinary Camp at Sarsot, Reasi



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI: 17 APR 2025

As part of continued efforts to reach out to the remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Indian Army organised a Comprehensive AYUSH and Veterinary Camp at Sarsot (Batsiyala). The initiative was aimed at providing much-needed healthcare service to the local populace with a special focus on remote villages having limited access to medical facilities. The camp witnessed participation from dedicated teams of doctors from the Indian Army, specialists in AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga & Naturopathy) and Veterinary experts. A wide range

of services were provided, including general health check-ups, distribution of free medicines, Veterinary treatment and vaccination of Livestock's, AYUSH consultations, awareness sessions on Health & Hygiene.

The event was well received by the villagers, who expressed immense gratitude for the Indian Army's sustained support and humanitarian outreach in the region. This initiative is part of the Indian Army which aims to foster goodwill, trust and collaboration with the Indian Army's commitment to support the health and well-being of citizens in the most remotest and challenging terrain.

## “Democracy on Wheels” targets student fraternity, ELCs for enhanced SVEEP awareness in Nagrota Assembly Constituency

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 17

A focused initiative to amplify voter awareness among the student community and Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency has been launched through the innovative “Democracy on Wheels” campaign.

This specially outfitted van aims to engage young and future voters during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR).

Launch of this targeted SVEEP (Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation) activity was spearheaded by the Additional Chief Electoral Officer (ACEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Sharma.

The event saw the participation of key officials, including Special Secre-



tary, Dr. Narupa Rai, Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Akhtar Hussain Qazi, Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Vinay Kumar Sharma and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Dansal, Ranveer Jamwal.

“Democracy on Wheels” will serve as a mobile educational platform, specifically designed

to reach students and ELC members in various educational institutions and community centers within the Nagrota constituency. Equipped with interactive tools, informative materials, and dedicated personnel, the van will provide on-the-spot voter registration assistance and address queries related to

the electoral process.

Rahul Sharma emphasized the crucial role of young voters in strengthening democracy. He highlighted the importance of engaging with students and ELCs to ensure they are well-informed about their electoral rights and responsibilities. He stated, “Empowering the student fraternity with electoral literacy is vital for building a robust and participative democracy. ‘Democracy on Wheel’ is a strategic step towards achieving this goal.”

Dr. Narupa Rai underscored the commitment of the election machinery towards fostering a culture of informed and responsible voting. She noted that engaging with students through ELCs and initiatives like “Democracy on Wheels” is essential for

cultivating future leaders and active citizens.

Akhtar Hussain Qazi elaborated on the specific strategies employed to engage with students, including interactive workshops, demonstrations, and the distribution of educational resources. He expressed optimism that the campaign will significantly boost voter registration and awareness among the youth.

The “Democracy on Wheels” van will be actively visiting educational institutions and ELCs across the Nagrota Assembly constituency in the coming days, providing information and facilitating voter registration. Students and ELC members are encouraged to participate in the activities and avail themselves of the resources offered.

## DDC reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Kishtwar District



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 17

A review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held today here with District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan in the chair.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDCL briefed the District Development Commissioner on the current status of applications received and consumer registrations under the scheme.

While reviewing the

progress, the District Development Commissioner directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the government departments to actively publicize the scheme. He emphasized seamless access to loan services by facilitating the interested persons in registrations and linking with banks. The DC also laid special emphasis on achieving visible results, including in cases of slackness.

Furthermore, he instructed the Executive Engineer to widely cir-

culate the step-by-step procedure for availing the scheme from registration to vendor selection, bank linkage, and finally installation and commissioning.

The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd. Ashraf; SDM Chattroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Dy. Registrar Cooperative/EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS & CA Shafiqat Ali Keen; Executive Engineer JPDCL Er. Latif Wani besides others.

## Pr. District & Sessions Judge chairs 2nd UTRC meeting at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, APRIL 17

To ensure timely review and release of under-trial prisoners, promoting their rights and access to justice, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, chaired a 2nd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) for the year 2025, in his office chamber here, today.

The meeting was attended by District Magistrate Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, Ragav S; Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain; Public Prosecutor, Sessions Court, Ganderbal, DySP DAR Ganderbal, DySP, Central Jail Sri-



nagar, Public Prosecutor, Additional Sessions Court, Ganderbal, Incharge Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal Ganderbal, Medical Officer, Central Jail, Srinagar, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel and other concerned.

The Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) convened a meeting to review the case of an undertrial prisoner shortlisted by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)

Ganderbal. After thorough consideration, the committee decided not to recommend the Under Trial Prisoner (UTP) for release based on the medical report and owing to the fact that the said undertrial is allegedly accused of NDPS Act involving commercial quantity.

Despite the decision, the committee recommended constituting a Medical Board to further

examine the UTP's health condition and submit a report within one month as to whether the said UTP falls within the category of terminally ill or not.

The committee suggested informing the Learned Trial court to direct the concerned hospital/Central Jail Srinagar authorities to constitute a special Medical Board. This board will assess the UTP's health condition and provide a report to both the trial court as well as DLSA Ganderbal within a month's time for further action.

The meeting underscores the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to uphold the principles of justice and ensure the rights of under-trial prisoners are safeguarded.

## DDC Udhampur hands over keys of e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen under PMMSY

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17

District Development Commissioner Saloni Rai today handed over keys and ice boxes of three-wheeler e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen of the district under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the District Development Commissioner congratulated them and highlighted the Government's continued efforts to support the fisheries sector. She informed that the Department of



Fisheries, besides generating employment through the construction of carp ponds, trout Raceways and Backyard Mini-RAS units, is also extending financial and logistical assistance to

fish farmers and fishermen by providing them with three-wheeler e-rickshaws. She added that this initiative aims to strengthen the marketing and transportation infrastructure

for fish and fish products. The provision of e-rickshaws will enable the fishermen to transport their produce more efficiently to nearby markets, while the ice boxes will ensure the freshness and quality of the fish is maintained during transit, the DC added.

The beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the government and the District Administration for this support, which will significantly enhance their income-generating capacities and improve livelihoods.

## DDC reviews patient care scenario at Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 17

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal reviewed the ongoing progress and activities at Raja Sukhdev District Hospital at a meeting held today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex.

The DDC initiated the meeting with a comprehensive evaluation of achievements under various health schemes, focusing on the hospital's functioning, addressing issues and grievances related to the department, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing healthcare services for patients.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Hospital provided a detailed briefing on the health services and achievements recorded by the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed different operational aspects, including services offered in outpatient (OPD) and inpatient departments (IPD), major and minor



surgeries, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, 108 ambulance services, and staff rationalization.

The meeting also addressed issues projected at different platforms with a commitment to bring in further improvement in the services. The DDC directed to submit a monthly report on the 108 ambulance services provided by health institutions in the district by tomorrow. He further

instructed doctors to prescribe only generic medicines with names written in capital letters.

To rationalize staff, the DDC asked for proposing a rotation-wise system for underserved areas and instructed the cancellation of any staff attachments.

Reiterating the importance of meeting patient expectations, the DDC emphasized delivering quality, accessible and affordable healthcare ser-

vices. He also directed the ACR Poonch to retrieve encroached land within the District Hospital premises.

The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Mohd Sayeed, PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa, CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Executive Engineer of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Medical Superintendent DH Poonch and other concerned stakeholders.





# STOP...!

## MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA AND STAY HEALTHY




- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

In case of positive result get free treatment from the nearest Health Institution

STATE MALARIOLOGIST/STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER,  
NATIONAL VECTOR BORNE DISEASES CONTROL PROGRAMME [NVBDCP] J&K  
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

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