

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Dizziness
- Steady but painless or mild bleed in skin, nose or stool

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

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2 criminals detained under PSA in Jammu, Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

Two suspected criminals, including a cattle smuggler, were detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu and Udhampur districts on Friday, police said.

Lakshit Ali alias Liaqat, a resident of Sira Manjla village in Ramnagar and a cattle smuggler, was detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on the orders of the Udhampur district magistrate, a police spokesperson said.

The accused stands booked in a number of cases related to cattle smuggling and has become a threat to the peaceful atmosphere in the district, he said.

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Smugglers, narco-terrorists using Crypto Currency to evade law: LG Manoj Sinha

JJ NEWS SERVICE
MANIGAM (GANDERBAL), APR 18 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that smugglers and narco-terrorists are using Crypto Currency to carry-out illegal transactions and evade law.

Addressing a passing out parade of the 16th Batch of Basic Recruit Training Course (BRTC) of J&K Police constables here in Central Kashmir,



LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "Technology is changing at a very rapid pace and the use of new technology outside the training schools, and upgradation of skills to tackle the challenges put up by enemies are the need of the hour."

He said, "The threat of drug smuggling has not remained conventional now. Smugglers and narco-terrorists are changing their ways of communication every day. Dark web is

emerging as the new marketplace for drug trade, and cryptocurrency is being used in place of conventional transactions."

The LG said the misuse of new technologies has expanded organised crime and increased the number of cybercrime incidents as well.

"In such a situation, you have to implement a policy of continuous innovation to remain a step ahead of the criminals.

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DGP Prabhat thanks MHA, Centre for support

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APR 18 (KNO)

Asserting that efforts are on to strengthen the counter terrorism grid and tackle the cyber criminals in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday thanked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Centre for their support.

Addressing a passing out parade here in Central Kashmir, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency said, "The counter terrorism grid has been



Ministry of Home Affairs for providing us with all the support and help.

"I feel proud addressing the new recruits. The J&K policemen are being trained to the core along with physical fitness, they are being equipped with new skills and techniques to fight terror and other crimes."

The DGP said, "J&K Police are committed to stand by with the families of martyrs. They are being provided with all the possible assistance."

Congratulating the
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

'BOOK BOMBHELL: THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE SPY'

Dr Saheb is a legend; story is about tallest leader of Kashmir, one of India's tallest: Dulat

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 18 (KNO)

The launch of former RAW chief Amar Singh Dulat's explosive memoir "The Chief Minister and The Spy" in New Delhi on Friday has reignited political tensions, with the book making startling claims about National Conference (NC) patriarch Dr. Farooq Abdullah's role during the abrogation of Article 370.

Addressing the audience during the book launch, Dulat dismissed the brewing controversy:



"Dr. Saheb [Farooq Abdullah] is not here. I don't know how this started, but few have read the book. Someone picked one paragraph from page 208 and

twisted it - English is a difficult language," Dulat said in his speech, as per the news agency.

"This book isn't about that paragraph. Read

what comes before and after. The story is about a great man - the tallest leader of Kashmir, one of India's tallest. He's among the world's tallest leaders. Dr. Saheb is a legend. That won't change," he said.

When pressed about allegations that Abdullah tacitly supported the Article 370 revocation, Dulat was unequivocal. I really don't know what transpired. I did ask Dr. Sahab and Omar as well, and they said, "We were told nothing at all.

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Army orders inquiry after university professor claims assault by troops in Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JAMMU, APR 18

The Army on Friday ordered an inquiry after a university professor accused the troops of assaulting him during a checking of vehicles in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The professor, Liaqat Ali, suffered head injuries in the alleged assault near the border village Laam late Thursday night and a purported video showing the bleeding professor surfaced online.

"An incident has come to light wherein certain individuals were allegedly manhandled by Army personnel in

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Security agencies identify areas with terrorist presence as combing ops enter 5th Day in Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

With the operation to track down terrorists who escaped after an encounter in Poonch district entering the fifth day on Friday, a senior police official said security agencies have formulated an action plan by identifying areas with suspected terrorist presence.

He said terrorism, which has re-emerged over the past one-and-a-half to two years, remains a reality in the region.

"The combing operation at the Lasana belt

of Poonch district has entered its fifth consecutive day on Friday," said Jammu region Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti.

Troops of counter-insurgency force 'Romeo', Special Operations Group of the police, and Central Reserve Police Force are conducting search operations supported by sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance equipment, he said.

A brief exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in Lasana village in the district on Monday.

IGP Tuti, who toured

Poonch, said the district has been dealing with a new wave of terrorism.

"Terrorism is a stark reality here. It has resurfaced over the past one-and-a-half to two years. We have enhanced our capacity," he told reporters.

Tuti said all necessary steps are being taken to combat terrorism and the police force is performing commendably.

He said a few days ago an incident occurred in Lasana, and a coordination meeting was held with security forces to formulate an action plan.

"Areas with suspected terrorist presence have been identified. We are taking action. You will see the results in the coming days," he said.

The IGP maintained that infiltration routes are under constant monitoring.

He further emphasised that intelligence inputs and ground assessments are utilised to realign operational strategies, and there is heightened surveillance and enhanced coordination among all agencies. Stressing that terrorists aim

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Individual allegedly manhandled by Army tried to snatch weapon from soldiers on duty

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18 (UND)

In the backdrop of the alleged manhandling of a civilian by the Army in Nowshera area of Rajouri district, the Indian Army on Friday in an official statement said that the individual tried to snatch the weapon of soldiers and initiated a scuffle with them.

"An incident has come to light wherein certain individuals were allegedly manhandled by Army per-

sonnel in Rajouri District," the Army said in a statement.

It further said that the Army had input on the likely movement of terrorists in a vehicle in this sensitive area, adding, "Accordingly, search operations were being conducted."

Preliminary information suggests that on being stopped, the individual tried to snatch the weapon from the soldiers on duty and initiated a scuffle with them, it further read.

It stated that, however, an enquiry has been initiated, and if any personnel are found guilty of misconduct, strict action will be taken as per the existing law.

"The Indian Army remains steadfast in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and discipline in the conduct of counter terror operations," the statement read, adding, "all sections of the society are requested to continue

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Rains lash Valley, hail storm wreaks havoc in South Kashmir

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 18 (KNO)

Rains lashed different parts of Valley on Friday, while the hailstorm wreaked havoc in South Kashmir.

Amidst two-day yellow and orange alert issued by the MeT Department the parts of Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir were lashed by the rainfall from late afternoon.

Reports of hailstorms in South Kashmir areas in Shopian district were also received, causing extensive losses to the orchardists and fruit growers.

According to the news agency, the next three days upto April 21 would likely witness more rains and snow across Jammu and Kashmir as the weatherman has stated that

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Dr Jitendra Singh's phenomenal announcement, international mission with Indian astronaut scheduled next month

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 18

India is poised to script a defining chapter in its Space journey, as the international Space mission carrying Indian astronaut has been scheduled for next month.

Making this phenomenal announcement after a high-level meeting to review major future plans of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the coming months, Union Minister of State (Indepen-

dent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the mission will mark the visit of first Indian ever to the International Space Station (ISS) and the first Indian astronaut to travel to Space in over four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic 1984 flight aboard a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft.



The announcement comes amid a flurry of activity in India's Space sector, which is gearing up for an ambitious slate of missions in the coming

months.

Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman of ISRO, made a presentation elaborating the status of various upcoming Space missions.

Chairman ISRO informed that Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force is all prepared to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) next month as part of Axiom Space's Ax-4 mission.

Group Captain Shukla's

mission, scheduled for May 2025, marks a milestone in India's expanding international space collaborations. A decorated test pilot with the Indian Air Force, he was short-listed under ISRO's Human Spaceflight Program (HSP) and is among the top contenders for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first indigenous crewed orbital flight. His journey aboard the Ax-4 mission is expected to provide critical hands-on

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DC reviews implementation of Self Employment Schemes in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 18

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today assessed the implementation of self-employment schemes including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Tejaswini, Mumkin and other initiatives in the district here at a meeting of stakeholder departments.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of sanctioned cases and disbursements under these schemes for the financial year 2024-25. Officers from relevant departments provided updates on the status of beneficiary coverage in the district.

The DC emphasized



the need for spreading mass awareness to maximize coverage of unemployed youth and to provide proper guidance to potential beneficiaries. He instructed officers to collaborate effectively to enroll the maximum

number of youth under these self-employment initiatives. The meeting also addressed issues related to disbursement to avoid pending cases, ensuring the swift implementation of employment-related programs.

MLA Kupwara reviews developmental scenario of Kupwara town

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 18

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kupwara, Mir Mohammad Fayaz today chaired a meeting of concerned officers and stakeholders here at D.C Office Kupwara to review the developmental scenario of Kupwara town.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was also present in the meeting.

On the occasion, MLA emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to improve public infrastructure, sanitation, road connectivity, and overall urban services in the town. He reviewed the status of key projects including road macadamization, drainage improvement, solid waste management, street lighting, and ongoing works under the



District Capex Budget.

Stressing on the need for accountability and transparency, MLA directed concerned departments to strictly adhere to timelines and maintain quality standards in all works. He also called for expediting the completion of pending projects and initiating new development works in response to public demands.

During the meeting, Mir Fayaz took note of several public grievances related to basic amenities and directed officials to ensure swift redressal. He assured

that the government remains committed to the holistic development of Kupwara town and urged officials to work with dedication and a people-first approach.

Deputy Commissioner also spoke and emphasized the importance of coordination among various departments for achieving better results on the ground.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara, Executive Officer MC Kupwara, officers from R&B and representatives from traders and other associations.

Poshan Pakhwada celebrated in AWCs across Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 18



Poshan Pakhwada was celebrated in different Anganwadi Centers (AWC) of Poshan Project Udhampur featuring series of activities including Godh Bharai of PLs, dance and poem recitation by pre-schooling children and healthy baby competitions.

People were also made aware regarding personal health and hygiene, inclusion of local fruits and vegetables in their diet and CMAM practices. Later, School bags were presented to children, while refreshment was distributed among the present people. Poshan rallies were also organized to sensitise people regarding "SAHI POSHAN DESH ROSHAN".

DDC Reasi reviews implementation of HADP

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, APRIL 18

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Nidhi Malik convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) across the district. The DDC conducted a detailed review of the department-wise progress in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and other allied sectors.

The DDC emphasized the importance of farmers leveraging the learning resources available on the Daksh Portal. She directed concerned officers to ensure maximum outreach so that farmers can benefit from instructional videos in Daksh Portal aimed at improving farming practices and productivity. The DDC highlighted the need for better



synergy and enhanced coordination between banking institutions and agriculture departments. She instructed bank officials to share updated lists of beneficiaries with relevant department heads to facilitate timely follow-ups and sanctioning of eligible cases.

To boost engagement under HADP, DDC Ms Malik underlined the necessity for intensified outreach efforts. She approved the currently submitted applications on the HADP portal and instructed officials to maintain continuous field visits to promote awareness, encourage new registrations, and

ensure seamless implementation at the grassroots level. Particular focus was laid on increasing registrations of farmers and farms under the Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs).

Further, the DDC stressed the importance of documenting success stories of farmers who have benefited from HADP, encouraging departments to present these as model case studies to inspire wider participation. The meeting was attended by CPO Narinder Kumar, CAO, CAHO, DSHO, LDM, Cluster head and other concerned officials.

CS discusses plans with stakeholders to boost tourism in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

In a significant move towards revitalising tourism in Jammu division, the Department of Tourism today presented a strategic and action oriented roadmap to the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, regarding promotion of tourism across the region, during an exclusive meeting held here in this regard.

Besides Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, PWD and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, the meeting was attended by CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Deputy Commissioners Jammu, Reasi and Udhampur; Director Tourism, Jammu and other concerned officers of the department. In addition, the meeting was also attended by the major tourism and travel operators including hoteliers and traders.

Dulloo impressed on the department to redouble efforts towards vigorous promotion and publicity of the tourism circuits. He enjoined upon them to be proactive across all the social media platforms, using the services of influencers there to reach out to the masses. He asked for starting rafting and paragliding at some of the places across the region, taking utmost care of the safety parameters. He also asked for roping in the professionals in this tourism trade activity to train the youth.

The Chief Secretary asked the department to frame the Homestay policy as soon as possible with other guidelines for registration of BnB enter-



prises. He also directed for devising the loan product for development of Homestays in the region as per the past directions.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, gave a presentation detailing the multifaceted approach focused on thematic circuits, adventure tourism, heritage experiences, infrastructural upgrades and promotion of offbeat destinations, aimed at making Jammu a year-round diversified tourist destination.

She threw light on five major tourist circuits envisaged by the department to make tourism a major activity across Jammu region. These circuits were discussed to ensure multi-day stay of tourists in the region based upon their choice and interests.

Several itineraries were proposed in these circuits based on thematic, heritage, adventure, pilgrim and other offbeat destinations to prolong the stay of tourists here besides encompassing the tourism spots across adjacent districts.

The identified major tourist circuits that were unveiled during the meeting included the

Katra-Shivkhori Circuit, emphasizing on pilgrimage, adventure and border tourism. This circuit integrates spiritual hotspots like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shivkhori and heritage sites such as Krimchi Temples and Raghunath Temple, Ranbireswar besides nature trails of Mantalai and Patnitop and border tourism (Suchetgarh). Chenab Valley Circuit covering Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and Doda and white water rafting at Shibnote, trekking trails and valley tourism (Lal-Draman, Warwan). This route blends adventure, natural beauty and cultural richness with activities like rafting at Baradari and scenic treks through Warwan Valley. The itineraries taps into Bhaderwah, a region with growing tourist footfall and the newly accessible Tatapani, now linked via Sanagdan Railway Station.

Samba-Kathua Circuit focused on religious, heritage and water-based tourism, highlighting Basohli, Ranjit Sagar Lake and Sarthal besides the pilgrim sites of Budha Amarnath and Gurudwara Nangali Sahib.

Similarly, Pir Panjal Circuit encompassing Rajouri and Poonch, this

circuit offers fort tourism, cultural immersion and alpine treks, promoting sites like Peer Ki Gali and Budha Amarnath Ji.

Moreover, a bundle of adventure and offbeat trails to several alpine lakes like Chandann Sar, Nandan Sar, Katoria Sar were proposed. Besides, trekking routes and unexplored valleys were mapped with plans for eco-tourism and sustainable adventure tourism in collaboration with mountaineering institutes.

Additionally, a Rs 4 crore project was proposed under CAPEX 2025-26 to develop a full-fledged paragliding facility, complete with lounges, cafes, sunset points and public utilities at Aithem.

With respect to the iconic Chenab Railway Bridge, it was given out that a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and branding initiatives are underway at the world's highest railway bridge site, with audio-visual content to engage the visitors and enhance their experience on visiting this engineering marvel.

As far as promotion of Border Tourism is concerned, a major upgrade of the Suchetgarh border site including a pavilion

expansion of the capacity of around 3000 persons and establishment of a museum was also revealed to make it a round the year tourism destination.

Regarding the Baradari Rafting Centre, Reasi, it was added that the plan contains institutionalisation of the rafting tourism. This will include forming of rafting associations, fixing rates and reviving UT/National-level competitions there to promote this aspect of the tourism.

With respect to the marketing and promotional strategies, a plethora of material in the shape of high-quality brochures, thematic leaflets and district-specific collaterals were released to bolster visibility across the country.

These destinations were also promoted through participation in leading Travel Marts like SATTE (Delhi) and OTM (Mumbai), the meeting was informed. It was said that hosting of PGTI Golf Tournaments at Jammu Tawi Golf Course for national and international exposure are now a regular feature thereby showing the steady success of the department in showcasing Jammu as an independent tourism place on the map.

The stakeholders, present on the occasion, also gave their inputs and views for making this strategy successful. They praised the department for its efforts and showed enthusiasm in selling these packages and circuits with the active support of the department in the season ahead.

Div Com Jammu reviews restoration of public amenities disrupted by windstorm



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today convened a meeting to assess the damages caused due to Wind Storm and reviewed the status of restoration works.

The meeting attended by Managing Director JPDCL, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Deputy Commissioners from Jammu Division, Chief Engineers of PDD, Jal Shakti, XEns and concerned officials apprised the sectors wise affect of Wind Storm and the damages to their infrastructure.

The Divisional Commissioner took stock of the district-wise damages suffered to power, Jal Shakti and Roads infrastructure, while seeking details from the respective Deputy Commissioners.

MD JPDCL, and Commissioner JMC, also apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the damages caused to Power infrastructure and public amenities infrastructure due to the wind storm and the restoration works thereof.

The Divisional Commissioner was also apprised about the works completed to restore the power infrastructure, water supply schemes and clearing of roads across the division. It was informed that maximum restoration works, in terms of power and water supply, have been done and remaining will be completed by today evening and tomorrow. Chief Engineer PWD apprised that roads have been cleared of fallen trees and landslides triggered by the storm.

The Div Com directed the concerned officials to

restore the power infrastructure for 100% supply to domestic areas by today evening and for agricultural lands by tomorrow. He called for war footing efforts by the ground staff of the power department.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the Deputy Commissioners to closely monitor the restoration works and submit a comprehensive report of the damages and restoration by 7 pm today.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the concerned officials to expedite the repair of damages to public infrastructure and also assess the loss to public property and livestock to provide relief to affected persons from SDRF.

The Divisional Commissioner also asked for cleaning and desilting of drainage networks in Jammu City.

SBI RSETI organises Entrepreneurship Awareness Program at Batote

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APRIL 18

The State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI) Ramban successfully conducted an Entrepreneurship Awareness Program (EAP) today at Haldru Batote.

The program was coordinated by Faculty, SBI RSETI Ramban Rakesh Kumar, and witnessed active participation from aspiring entrepreneurs, local youth, and community members.

The primary objective of the program was to create awareness about

self-employment opportunities, highlight the training programs offered by SBI RSETI Ramban, and provide detailed information on various Government Sponsored Schemes (GSS) available to support budding entrepreneurs.

During the session, the Faculty gave a comprehensive overview of the free skill development training programs conducted regularly by SBI RSETI in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, tailoring, computer education, retail, and service sectors. He also emphasized the importance of skill enhancement, finan-



cial literacy, and entrepreneurial mindset in today's competitive environment.

Special focus was given to Government Sponsored Schemes like PMEGP,

JKREGP, and MUDRA Yojana, under which eligible youth can avail financial assistance and support to set up their own micro-enterprises. The eligibility

criteria, application process, and subsidy components were explained in detail to the participants.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants cleared their doubts regarding training courses, bank linkages, and the process of availing assistance under government schemes.

SBI RSETI Ramban continues its mission to empower rural youth by providing quality training and handholding support to transform them into successful entrepreneurs.

UTRC recommends cases of 4 eligible under-trial prisoners

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 18

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Rajouri under the aegis of NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority conducted 2nd Under-Trial Review Committee meeting in the District here today.

The meeting was convened to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/Prisoners.

The meeting was chaired by Rajinder Sapru, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Shama Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Rajouri, with the



members of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

In the meeting, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Rajouri for consideration. The Committee recommended 04 cases of UTPs/Prisoners out of 05 identified and directed Legal Aid Defense Counsels to take necessary steps and file applications/bail applications.

The meeting was attended by Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri through Virtual Mode, Gourav Sikarwar, Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri, Chander Parkash, Additional Dy. Commissioner Rajouri, Shaheen Khan, Public Prosecutor Rajouri, Sanjeev Kumar, Superintendent District Jail Dhangri Rajouri and Ashfaq Ahmed Lone, Dy. Chief LADC, Rajouri.

Director Horticulture inaugurates District Level Capacity Building Programme at Kathua

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APRIL 18

Director Horticulture Jammu today interacted with the fruit growers and potential orchardists of District Kathua here at a District Level Farmers' Capacity Development Camp.

The programme aimed to chalk out the strategy for the upcoming Rainy season for establishment of new orchards of Exotic as well as market driven fruit crops viz Dragon, Avocado, Kiwi, Grapes, Mango, Litchi and Citrus crops.

The farmers put forth wide range of issues/demands related to machinery, Water Harvesting Structures, Establishment of Nurseries etc.

Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Sharma welcomed the Director Horticulture and all the fruit growers/orchardists of the District. Pest management was addressed by District Officer Bharat Bhushan and schemes/subsidies explained by Varinder Sharma (District Officer). Horticulture Development Officers and other officials of the Department also attended the programme.

The camp was attended by more than 150 farmers and raised issues regarding marketing and insurance. Ex-sarpanches Bholi Singh Jasrotia, Parshotam Singh, Bui Lal (Dragon Orchardist), an Innovative farmer. Vikrant Sharma and Meena Kumari from Self-Help Group, Hiranagar also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Director



inaugurated the Processing Hall in the complex of Manager cum Chemist, Extension Centre for Fruit and Vegetables Preservation Kathua. He then had an interaction with the women trainees at the "One day Training Camp on Fruit/Vegetable Preservation". He asked them to get trained in the art of fruit & vegetables preservation and the department will assist them in setting up of Micro Food Processing units for the value addition of fruit and vegetable products which will provide them employment opportunities. He encouraged the fruit growers for setting up of Processing units, Formation of Self-Help Groups, Establishment of Grading and packaging units, provision for Solar fencing to check wild animals and construction

of Deep Borewell to meet the requirements of Kandi farmers.

Later, the Director chaired a meeting of the District Officers, Horticulture Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of the District. He instructed the officers to organize Awareness Camps, Kissan Goshis, etc. to ensure better implementation of departmental schemes especially HADP for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers.

Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer Kathua, Sh. Ashwani Sharma briefed the chair about the ongoing works and achievements made under different schemes being implemented in the district.

Vote of Thanks was given by Sh. Shakil Ahmed, District Horticulture Officer, Kathua.

Fire Service Week Speech Competition "Unite To Ignite, A Fire Safe India" hosted for students at F&ES Hqtrs.



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Essay cum speech competition was today organized at Fire & Emergency Services Hqrs. Gandhinagar Jammu as a part of Fire Service Week activity, plan devised under the esteemed directions of Director Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Alok Kumar, (ADGP). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing different educational institutions of District Jammu.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services, Command Jammu Raj Kumar Raina. Three member jury headed by Sanjay Nagri, Accounts Officer, Dr. Manju Medical Officer, Himanshu Gandotra, Assistant Director assessed the performance of the participants and allocated five minutes time to each student to speak on the topic referred above.

As many as 19 students from different Schools participated in the essay/speech competition.

The first position was bagged by Aditya class 8th student of Bhartiya Vidya

Mandir Sr. Sec. School, Ved Mandir Amphalla, Jammu. He was awarded a memento, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 3000. The 2nd position was bagged by Akshara class 9th student of Modern Public High School, Channi Himmat, she was awarded a memento, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 2500, while 3rd position was clinched by Pooja class 10th student of Modern Public High School, Channi Himmat, she also received a memento, certificate and cash prize of Rs 2000 in the essay competition.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services Command Jammu Raj Kumar Raina congratulated the students and staff for active participation and advised all students to follow fire safety norms and encouraged all the students to take part in the awareness campaign during fire safety week.

Fire Safety Pledge was taken by all participants during the event and tributes were paid at the Martyrs Memorial by the participating students and the accompanied staff of the respective schools.

DC Bandipora, MD review progress of JJM, emphasise timely completion of works

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 18

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and Mission Director (MD) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today jointly reviewed the implementation status of the Jal Jeevan Mission in a meeting held here.

On the occasion, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Bandipora provided a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing JJM projects in the district, highlighting the current progress and the challenges faced.

It was informed that 121 schemes, with 240 works, are currently underway across the three sub-divisions of Bandipora, out of which 60 schemes comprising 160 works have been successfully completed.

The meeting focused on a detailed review of the progress of civil works, mechanical works, and the status of electric substations under the JJM projects.

The officers also discussed the ongoing efforts towards achieving the 'Har Ghar Jal' target and



reviewed the progress of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC).

MD JJM urged the officers to expedite the work on pending JJM schemes and ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

He emphasized the importance of simultaneous actions, including dumping of filtration media while constructing filtration plants besides instructing the Executive Engineer Mechanical to ensure the swift installation of necessary machinery and equipment.

Shah further emphasized the need for seamless coordination between all concerned departments to resolve any issues that might hinder the smooth execution of the works.

He asked all Executive

Engineers to keep the Deputy Commissioner informed of issues hampering the progress of works for their prompt redressal.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining high quality standards in all ongoing works and ensuring transparency at every level of execution.

He also called for proactive planning and regular monitoring to address ground-level challenges effectively and achieve the targets within the stipulated timelines.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SE Mechanical North, V.K Panditha, CPO Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Executive Engineers, AEEs, JEs, and other concerned officers.

Orientation program for YUVA DOOTS held at Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 18

A day-long training-cum-orientation program for Yuva Doots was successfully organized today by District Employment & Counselling Centre Rajouri here on the ITI campus. The programme was held for training and capacity building of YUVA DOOTS under the directions of District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

The inaugural session was chaired by (Nodal Officer)-Mission Yuva, Additional District Development Commissioner Dr Raj Kumar Thappa. The programme was organized under the supervision of Assistant Director, District Employment & Counselling Centre Pradyot Gupta.

In the inaugural address, Dr Raj Kumar Thappa sensitized the Yuva Doots about their role and responsibilities under Mission YUVA. He said that Mission Yuva is an ambitious initiative to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged the YUVA DOOTS to act as catalysts of change and assured them of full administrative support in overcoming challenges in the field. He underlined the importance of youth-led development and community participation in building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district.

The Assistant Director District Employment & Counselling Centre said



that the training is aimed to equip YUVA DOOTS with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and support potential entrepreneurs in their respective panchayats.

Yuva Doots who attended the training were trained extensively on their roles as grassroots motivators, responsible for spreading awareness about various self-employment schemes and facilitating youth engagement at the village level. The training session emphasized the importance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring the effectiveness of the initiative, ensuring that the YUVA DOOTS remain result-oriented in their approach.

An important highlight of the orientation was the demonstration of the live APP model associated with the Mission YUVA scheme, which will be used for real-time data collection and monitoring. Detailed insights from the baseline survey-conducted earlier to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential were also discussed, enabling the DOOTS to understand the scope and focus areas of inter-

vention. The training covered all relevant parameters including mobilization techniques, scheme benefits, documentation, and reporting formats.

The main speakers of the event included Ujjwal Mahajan, Principal ITI, Rajouri, Sanjeev Bhasin (Lead District Manager, J&K Bank) Rajouri, Rafiq Aziz (Functional Manager, DIC) & Arshad Malik (DNO, JKEDI). These members provided sector-specific guidance and shared their expertise on streamlining efforts for effective implementation of the Mission YUVA scheme.

Under Trial Review Committee meeting held at Pulwama



JJ NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, APRIL 18

In compliance with the directions of NALSA and JK Legal Services Authority UT of J&K, 2nd Under-Trial Review Committee meeting was held today at the Circuit House Pulwama.

The meeting was presided over by Pr. District and Sessions Judge Pulwama and was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, DPO Pulwama, Sessions Judge Pulwama, Secretary DLSA, Sr. Prosecution Officer, Superintendent of District Jail Pulwama and Chief LADC Pulwama.

During the meeting, the list of Under trial prisoners furnished by the concerned authorities was taken up for consideration. A total of 05 cases were taken up and discussed, out of which 03 cases were recommended for consideration by the committee as per the guidelines.

Training program for YUVA Doots inaugurated at Samba

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 18

The District Administration Samba today commenced a comprehensive training programme for YUVA Doots under Mission YUVA. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma in the Conference Hall of the Administrative Complex Nandani Hills.

In his inaugural address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the strategic importance of Mission YUVA in strengthening youth engagement at the grassroots level. The Deputy Commissioner directed the YUVA Doots and Motivators to ensure rigorous implementation of the initiative across all panchayats within the dis-



trict.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Champa Devi Thakur, addressed the gathering and exhorted the participants to utilize the training programme to acquire comprehensive understanding of Mission YUVA's objectives and methodologies. She highlighted the instrumental role of youth participation in advancing developmental initiatives.

The training pro-

gramme, organized under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Director, Employment, Samba, featured detailed presentations from distinguished guest faculty representing various departments, including the Employment Department, J&K Bank, and NABARD. The presentations encompassed multiple domains relevant to youth development and engagement.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 08.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
16.04.2025/ 18:01 Hrs	24.04.2025	08.05.2025/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	03-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Balance work for Replacement of existing 963 nos. steel channel sleepers with H beam sleepers on Br. No. 63 UP line on LDH-GWSB section i.e.w. Upgradation of 52 kg patches for DFC feeder routes over Indian Railway.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		1,39,80,757.79/-	2,19,900.00/-	60 Days	12 Months
		Similar nature of work :- "Fabrication and Laying of channel sleepers in running track."			

Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender No:-03-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR
Date: 17.04.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Smugglers, narco-terrorists...

I hope the J&K Police force is dedicated and ready to tackle all these challenges," he said, assuring that the J&K administration and the Central Government stand with the security forces with full might.

Appreciating the security forces for curbing terror incidents in Kashmir to a large extent, LG Sinha said attempts were being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region.

"In the last few years, J-K Police, Army and other security forces have succeeded to a large extent in controlling terrorism in the Kashmir valley. Attempts are being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region, which was peaceful in comparison. I have faith in J-K Police. It is the collective resolve of J-K Police and other security forces to make both Jammu and Kashmir regions terror-free," he said.

The LG said he was sure the way the security forces succeeded in putting brakes on terror incidents in the Kashmir valley, "you will repeat that resolve in Jammu".

"All the agencies have to come together as a strong team to take a resolve to uproot the neighbouring country's conspiracy," he added.

He asserted that the Jammu and Kashmir Police has to be made a future-ready police force which is equipped technologically, and capable of tackling emerging challenges of terrorism and crime.

LG Sinha said, "Our brave jawans are fighting multiple battles against terrorism, narco-terrorism and invisible enemies."

He said that new technology has thrown up new challenges. "But security forces and agencies have devised strategies and are using innovations to track the criminals and the enemies."

A total of 438 recruits, including 86 women, completed their rigorous training. Among them, 211 constables have previously served as Special Police Officers.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "The nation is grateful to J&K Police for the invaluable sacrifices they have made. Citizens can live peacefully and work freely because they know that our police force is standing firm in protecting the lives and combating terrorism and crime.

"The exemplary courage of J&K Police and their supreme heroism reassures the people that UT is in safe hands. Today J&K Police force is admired across the country for its professionalism, sustained grit and determination," he said.

LG Sinha said that J&K Police, Army and CAPFs are determined to crush terror. "In the last few years, J&K Police Force, Army and CAPFs have succeeded in crushing terrorism in the Kashmir Valley, however, terrorist incidents have increased in Jammu division, which is a matter of concern. Our resolve is to make both Jammu and Kashmir divisions terrorism-free," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on emerging technologies reshaping policing and directed J&K Police Force to adapt to cutting-edge technology and advanced tools and deploy them to enhance their operational effectiveness. "We need a future-ready police force to effectively combat evolving terror and organised crime threats. In view of the rapid changes taking place due to technology, our approach should be on Data-Centric policing to effectively tackle challenges, analyse crime trends and predict the crime patterns and make necessary changes in the investigation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Extending his best wishes to the passing out trainees, the Lieutenant Governor said, the skills, knowledge, and values they have gained during their training will provide a solid foundation and enhance their capabilities to discharge their duty with utmost sensitivity. "I am confident that apart from professional tradecraft, the life values that new recruits have imbibed at the Manigam Police Training School and ideals like courage, valour, patience, self-sacrifice and discipline they have inculcated in life will enable them to face all kinds of challenges in the future," he said.

Zubair Ahmad Khan, Principal PTS Manigam briefed about the program and various activities conducted during the Training course.

The Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial Salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated the new recruits who had excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the new recruits for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

Nalin Prabhat, DGP; SJM Gillani, Chairman & MD Police Housing Corporation; Shri Anand Jain, ADGP Armed; Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; senior officials of Police, Security Forces and civil administration and family members of the passing out Trainees were present. KNO

DGP Prabhat thanks...

passouts, the DGP as per KNO, said, "You have become the part of one of the best police forces in the country. I see discipline and resolve in you and wish you all the best for your future."

It may be recalled that during Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, DGP Prabhat had thanked him for his support and "zero-terror" strategy.

He had said the successful implementation of Shah's decisions like the "zero terror" plan coupled with his support have made the J-K Police strategically a very strong force.

He had thanked the Union Home Minister for meeting the families of the martyrs and personally handing over appointment orders to them. "Our force will not rest till terrorism is completely wiped out of J-K," he said.

The DGP had also praised Shah for his support in conducting general warfare special training, camp security and area domination. KNO

Dr Saheb is a legend...

While writing this book, I again asked Dr. Sahab, and he said, ask Omar, but...The response I got from both

father and son was that they had been told nothing. So, it's got nothing to do with what people are saying today. It's a lot of rubbish—that's all I can say."

As per KNO, Dulat added further that no one in Kashmir supported the 370 repeal. "There was not a single Kashmiri anywhere who supported the abrogation. And there were a lot of Indians who spoke against it—I did. I wrote against it, spoke against it, and so did many others. I remember our former Union Home Minister, Chidambaram, speaking with a lot of passion in Parliament, referring to it as a "monumental blunder." So, there's no question of any Kashmiri supporting it. Now, of course, as time has passed and the Supreme Court says everything is okay, Kashmiris probably feel that 370 is not coming back—though they're still willing to fight for it."

He recounted a poignant February 2020 meeting: "What transpired between Dr. Farooq and me was that he couldn't fathom why, after being with India all his life—his family, his father, everybody—they had to lock him up. That was the crux of it. So he said, "If they had to do this, why couldn't they take us into confidence?" That's the crux of the whole thing."

Dulat blamed media sensationalism, claiming that The Hindustan Times story wrecked everything. "As I said, I don't know who started this deliberately—somebody did, obviously—because that first story in Hindustan Times wrecked everything. It rattled everyone, and I think it probably shook Dr. Sahab too. I don't know what frame of mind he's in, but obviously, it disturbed him. I can't say who is responsible. It's very difficult to say, and I don't want to name names here because I think this is a happy occasion and ought to end happily. But yes, somebody was responsible—I don't know who."

The ex-spy revealed how Kashmir became his life's work. "In 1988, I thought it was a holiday posting. By 1989, bombs were exploding. That winter, everyone fled - we lost four officers in weeks. Jagmohan had me removed, calling me 'Farooq's man.' But Kashmir never left me."

He named three figures, who targeted him: "Jagmohan, Mufti Sayeed, and Arun Nehru - they wanted me out."

Reflecting on the insurgency's origins, Dulat, as per KNO, said: "We wasted a chance in 1989-90. The JKLF boys didn't understand 'azadi.' Pakistan's ISI exploited them - General Durrani told me even they were surprised by the militancy's spread."

On the Pandit exodus, Dulat said that then governor Jagmohan should not be blamed for the exodus of pandits however he was happy about it. "I was there when it started. A prominent Kashmiri Pandit (quoted in my book) came to me desperately, saying, "We have to go." There was so much fear—especially after Judge Ganju was killed on Hari Singh High Street. Nobody came for hours to retrieve his body—he bled to death. A lot of blame is put on Jagmohan—but I don't think he was responsible for the exodus. He was happy with it because if Pandits stayed, more would've been killed, and he'd have gotten the blame."

Recounting the 1999 Kandahar hijacking, Dulat revealed during the book launch that Farooq Abdullah [then Chief Minister] theatrically threatened to resign when Delhi demanded prisoner releases. "We went to Governor Saxena at 10 PM - he served Black Label and said to Dr Farooq, "You're a big man, don't resign.' Farooq relented," claimed Dulat.

In a stunning historical assessment, Dulat, as per KNO, declared that history will judge Farooq Abdullah greater than his father. "He is a man with very strong and good political instincts, but he's also a very brave man to have endured all that he has. As a politician, I think he's one of the best. I've written in the book that he's the Sultan of Politics. When history is written, Dr. Farooq will emerge even greater than Sheikh Abdullah. Now, I'm not saying spending 12 or 13 years in jail is easy, but the Sheikh had Mahatma Gandhi on his side. He had Nehru on his side. You know the story—when the Sheikh was finally released, he came to Delhi and stayed as the Prime Minister's guest. Would that happen today?". KNO

Security agencies...

to create fear through selected targets, Tuti said that the security grid remains robust, alert and responsive.

He reiterated that while the terrorists seek to destabilise peace and tranquility in the region, it is a collective effort to defeat them. (AGENCIES)

Individual allegedly...

to cooperate and collaborate with the Indian Army for collective and comprehensive security in this sensitive area."

Meanwhile, the People's Democratic Party, President, Mehbooba, previously in a post said, "deeply disturbing visuals have emerged from Lam in Nowshera where army personnel were seen mercilessly assaulting Professor Liyaqat Chowdhary."

The Professor, accompanied by his brothers, was en route to attend his sister's wedding when the incident occurred, she said, adding, "This shocking act has shattered a common man's faith-especially painful given that the victim's family has proudly served in the Indian Army."

"I urge senior army personnel to take immediate and strict action against those responsible. Such individuals tarnish the reputation of a respected institution through their unacceptable and high-handed behavior," she said.

Dr Jitendra Singh's...

experience in spaceflight operations, launch protocols, microgravity adaptation, and emergency preparedness - all essential for India's crewed space ambitions.

What sets Shukla's mission apart is its strategic importance. Unlike the symbolic undertones of India's first human spaceflight, this time the focus is on operational readiness and global integration. His participation underscores India's growing engagement with public-private international partnerships in space and its resolve to emerge as a serious contender in human

space exploration.

"India is ready for its next space milestone," said Dr. Jitendra Singh, underscoring the significance of the upcoming human spaceflight and a series of critical ISRO missions. He noted that the collaboration with international partners and the strategic momentum of projects like Gaganyaan reflect India's commitment to becoming a global leader in space technology. The Minister emphasized that these efforts are not only scientific in nature but also aligned with the vision of a developed and self-reliant India.

During the meeting, ISRO updated Dr. Jitendra Singh on several key developments since January 2025. These include the public release of data from the Aditya L1 solar mission, successful demonstration of docking and undocking technologies, testing of the highest thrust liquid engine developed in India, and the historic 100th launch (GSLV-F15) from Sriharikota. ISRO also supported national events like the Kumbh Mela 2025 through satellite-based monitoring and announced a successful demonstration of restarting the Vikas Engine, crucial for future launch vehicle recovery missions.

Among the major missions lined up for May to July 2025, ISRO will launch the PSLV-C61 mission carrying the state-of-the-art EOS-09 satellite. Equipped with a C-band synthetic aperture radar, EOS-09 will be capable of capturing high-resolution images of Earth's surface under all weather conditions, day or night. Another significant milestone will be the Test Vehicle-D2 (TV-D2) mission, designed to simulate an abort scenario and demonstrate the Gaganyaan Crew Escape System. The mission includes sea recovery operations for the Crew Module, mimicking procedures planned for India's first human spaceflight.

June will see the highly anticipated launch of the NISAR satellite aboard the GSLV-F16. This NASA-ISRO collaboration aims to study Earth's ecosystems and natural hazards through dual-frequency radar data, combining NASA's L-band payloads with ISRO's S-band contributions. The LVM3-M5 mission, scheduled for July, will cater to a commercial contract with AST SpaceMobile Inc., USA, launching BlueBird Block-2 satellites under NewSpace India Limited's commercial program.

As India's space strategy matures, Group Captain Shukla's upcoming mission stands as a symbol of a confident, forward-looking nation ready to reclaim its place in the global space race. His journey is more than just a flight - it's a signal that India is stepping boldly into a new era of space exploration.

2 criminals detained...

Raman Kumar, a resident of Kathar village of Arnia, was also detained under the PSA in Jammu district, the spokesperson said.

"Kumar is a notorious criminal with a history of violent and heinous offences. Despite multiple arrests and legal actions, he has consistently shown a blatant disregard for the law and continued his involvement in criminal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace and security," he said.

Routine legal measures failed to deter Kumar's unlawful conduct and, therefore, his preventive detention under the PSA was deemed necessary to protect public order and prevent further criminal acts, the official said.

Multiple FIRs are registered against the accused who was lodged in the district jail, Udhampur, after his detention, he said.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

Army orders inquiry...

Rajouri district. The Army had input on the likely movement of terrorists in a vehicle in this sensitive area. Accordingly, search operations were being conducted.

"Preliminary information suggests that on being stopped, the individual tried to snatch weapons of the soldiers on duty and initiated a scuffle with them. However, an inquiry has been initiated. Should any personnel be found guilty of misconduct, strict action will be taken in accordance with the existing law," the Army said in a statement in Jammu.

It said the Army remains steadfast in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and discipline in the conduct of counter-terror operations.

"All sections of the society are requested to continue to cooperate and collaborate with the Indian Army for collective and comprehensive security in this sensitive area," the statement said.

The alleged incident happened when the professor and some of his relatives were returning to their place Kalakote after attending a pre-wedding ceremony of one of their relatives.

Ali, a professor at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) posted in New Delhi, wrote a post on X saying he was "assaulted" without any reason.

"My entire family is in the Indian Army. I've always been proud of that. Proud of the uniform, the service, the sacrifice. But today, what I experienced shook that pride to the core. Without any reason, without any question, I was assaulted - hit on the head with a weapon by the very people I once trusted blindly," he said in a post that also had a picture showing him bleeding.

"It made me realise one terrifying truth: if the system chooses to, it can 'encounter' any human being - without evidence, without trial, without justice. There's no apology that can undo this wound. Only one haunting question remains - has justice now become the privilege of the uniform alone?" the professor wrote. (Agencies)

Rains lash Valley...

an active Western Disturbance would likely affect the region, bringing widespread light to moderate rain in plains and snow in the higher reaches.

The MeT has issued a warning of heavy rain, snowfall, thunderstorms, and strong winds across Jammu and Kashmir from April 18 to April 20, with peak intensity expected between the night of April 18 and late night

District Social Welfare Department organizes Awareness Programme at AWC Goond 'B', Block Nagri, Kathua



JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APR 18

The District Social Welfare Department today organized a meaningful awareness programme at Anganwadi Centre Goond 'B', Block Nagri, Kathua, under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. The event aimed to highlight the importance of valuing the girl child and empowering women in rural areas.

As part of the programme, baby care kits were distributed to families with newborn girl children, symbolizing the department's commitment to nurturing daughters from the earliest stages of

life. Local women were also sensitized about various women-centric welfare schemes, designed to uplift and ensure equal opportunities for them.

Addressing the gathering, officials reiterated that "girls are the pride of our nation", and emphasized the need for collective efforts to empower them through education, healthcare, and community support. The programme witnessed active participation from local residents and reinforced the department's resolve to build a more inclusive and equitable society where daughters are celebrated and supported.

First Batch of YUVA DOOTs imparted training at Kishtwar



JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 18

A day-long training program for the first batch of YUVA DOOTs was today organized under Mission YUVA here in the Conference Hall of the DDC Office Complex.

The event was held in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal.

The training program was designed to equip YUVA DOOTs—the field-level ambassadors nominated under the Mission—with the knowledge and skills required to support and facilitate the registration process of young entrepreneurs. The sessions covered key aspects such as scheme guidelines, eligibility criteria, and procedural mechanisms involved in on-boarding youth under various components of Mission YUVA.

The ADC emphasized the significance of empowering youth at the grassroots level, highlighting it as a cornerstone for promoting entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and

sustainable development.

He underscored the transformative potential of Mission YUVA in driving inclusive economic growth and creating opportunities for the region's aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Resource Persons from stakeholder departments delivered detailed presentations, shedding light on the responsibilities of YUVA DOOTs and sharing strategies for community outreach.

These included methods for engaging with potential entrepreneurs identified during the baseline survey and providing them with necessary handholding support.

A live demonstration of the YUVA App was also conducted, enabling participants to gain practical exposure to digital tools for data collection, registration, and real-time status tracking. The program concluded with an interactive Q&A session, further reinforcing the readiness of YUVA DOOTs for on-ground implementation.

of April 19. The Pir Panjal range in Jammu and upper regions of Kashmir—especially Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg, and Kupwara-Sadna Pass—are expected to receive heavy precipitation, needs the advisory.

The advisory warns of strong winds reaching 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60-70 kmph, along with the possibility of hailstorms and lightning. The adverse weather may cause significant disruption to surface transport, particularly on the Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh National Highways and other major roads in hilly areas.

The MeT has also cautioned about risks of landslides, mudslides, shooting stones, and a rise in water levels in rivers and streams. Waterlogging in low-lying areas is also expected. Farmers have been advised to suspend all agricultural operations from April 18 until the afternoon of April 21.

DDC reviews achievements of RDD Department, status of PMGSY Projects in Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 18

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various developmental initiatives undertaken by the Rural Development Department (RDD), besides status of PMGSY projects here at two separate meetings.

The DDC evaluated progress of RDD initiatives including works under MGNREGA, construction of houses under PMAY-G, BDC/PRI/DDC Works, CD Panchayats works, SBM works, Panchayat Ghars and execution of Aspirational Block Development Plan.

The RDD officials presented a comprehensive overview of ongoing projects via a PowerPoint presentation. DDC Kundal

inquired about project execution, delays, compensation status, social audit reports, geotagging and payment statuses across all blocks in relation to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). He urged officers to enhance the execution of works under this vital act and directed the preparation of a line listing of pending cases under the Aadhar Based Payment System, ensuring no delays in ABPS across all blocks.

The DDC also reviewed targeted work plans for the fiscal year 2025-26, instructing all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to initiate project execution promptly. He emphasized the need for improved physical performance under the convergence scheme.

Highlighting the



importance of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) housing projects, the DDC encouraged BDOs to expedite works to benefit beneficiaries as soon as possible.

Meanwhile: The DDC convened a meeting with key functionaries from the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to assess the progress of ongoing projects in the district.

The meeting focused on both physical and financial progress of the works. Ex-

cuting officers provided detailed updates on project-wise advancements, including blacktopping of roads, drainage construction, protection works, and constructing bridges across multiple road projects.

The Deputy Commissioner evaluated the status of significant road projects such as Bufliaz to Mandi Phagla, Chandimarh to Dogrian, Sailian to Mahara, KM 7th of TO1 to Behrangalla and Bankhet to Chanansar.

He emphasized the importance of expediting the tendering processes and directed the authorities to complete all ongoing and new works within the financial year 2025-26 to benefit the general public.

Reviewing the progress of work on bridge projects, the DC stated that he will personally visit the sites to inspect the progress and ensure quality standards are met. Furthermore, he urged officers to resolve any outstanding issues promptly to facilitate the completion of these essential projects.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer PMGSY Poonch/Mendhar, as well as all Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Junior Engineers (JEs) from the PMGSY Department.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for conduct of NEET Exam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 18

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2025 in the district which is scheduled to be held on 4th May.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed briefing on various logistical and security measures being put in place at all designated NEET examination centers across the district.

She emphasized the importance of maintaining a conducive and secure environment for the aspirants and directed officers to ensure all the guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA) are followed in letter and spirit. She impressed



upon the officers to ensure fool proof arrangements in place well before the starting of the examination to ensure fair and transparent conduct of the examination.

DC directed the officers to hold a dry run at least one week before the date of examination to sort out any issues well in time.

It was given out in the meeting that a Control Room at district level will

be established for better and timely coordination among the officers. The Control Room shall also monitor the whole examination process through CCTV surveillance.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kupwara, CEO, ASP Kupwara, Dy. SP Handwara, NEET Coordinator, Centre Superintendents and other concerned stakeholders.

Addl. Commissioner State Taxes Jammu reviews performance, enforcement activities of Circle office, enforcement team Jammu North at Udhampur

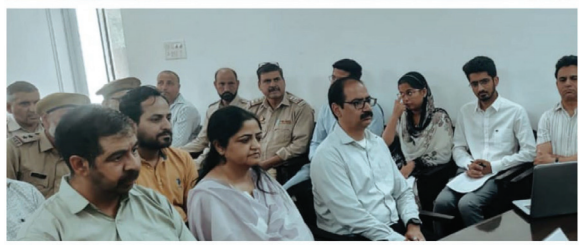
J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 18

Additional Commissioner, State Taxes, Jammu, Namrita Dogra, today conducted a comprehensive review meeting at Dak Bunglow, here focusing on enforcement activities and performance of Circle office and team Enforcement Jammu North.

During the meeting, the Additional Commissioner evaluated the overall performance, revenue achievements and enforcement activities of the Udhampur team. She lauded the outstanding performance of team Udhampur.

"Team Udhampur is number one in the Jammu division, and their dedication is truly commendable", she said.

Namrita Dogra appreciated the dedication and consistent efforts of the officers and officials,



acknowledging their commendable performance in achieving departmental goals and maintaining efficiency in operations.

The Additional Commissioner emphasized the need for continued vigilance, taxpayer facilitation and adherence to compliance measures

to ensure seamless tax administration and revenue protection.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Enforcers) Jammu North, Anil Kumar Chandail, briefed the Additional Commissioner on various enforcement activities undertaken

by team Udhampur, like rigorous market inspections, Data compilation/Analysis, E-Way Bill (EWB) verifications and realization of penalties for violations.

He briefed the Additional Commissioner about the report highlighting significant achievements by the team enforcement, Udhampur like Rs 3.07 Crore with year on year increase of 27% in penalty realization and 3.59 Lakh E-Way Bill verifications with YoY increase of 47% in EWB verifications during the FY 2024-25.

Among others, the meeting was attended by State Tax Officers Babu Pardeep Kumar, Ravi Verma, Ayush Sharma and Sahida Akhtar; Inspectors, Sub Inspectors and State Tax Guards who were recognized for their contributions to the department's success.

DDC inspects status of renovation work on Kishtwar-Paddar Road



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 18

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted an inspection of the landslide-prone area at Singrah Nallah, Patharnaki along the Kishtwar-Paddar Road.

During the visit, officials from the GREF (General Reserve Engineer Force) briefed the Deputy Com-

missioner on the current status of the ongoing restoration and construction works on the said route.

The inspection focused on assessing the vulnerability of the area to landslides and evaluating the progress of mitigation measures in place.

After a thorough examination of the site, the DDC issued necessary directions to the GREF authorities to expedite the work

while ensuring safety and sustainability.

He directed the local administration to stay on high alert and emphasized upon the GREF authorities the importance of strengthening the affected section to ensure uninterrupted connectivity and to safeguard commuters, especially during the monsoon season.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner advised hydroelectric project authorities to strictly adhere to standard operating procedures (SOPs) to minimize further impact and avoid exacerbating existing cracks.

It is pertinent to mention that the Patharnaki and Keru segments of the road are highly slide-prone and remain at constant risk of disruptions. Hence, continuous monitoring and prompt responsiveness from all stakeholders remain imperative. The DDC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Idrees Lone, concerned Tehsildar, GREF officials, and other senior officers during the visit.

GDC Ramgarh hosts documentary Screening on Child Abuse protection

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 18

In a vital initiative aimed at spreading awareness and fostering a safer environment for children and young adults, Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a special screening of a documentary focused on the sensitive and pressing issue of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) under the purview of the National Human Rights Commission.

The event was held under the guidance and leadership of the Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol.

The documentary gave a clear understanding of the serious issue of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). It showed the emotional, legal, and social effects of this crime through real-life stories, expert talks, and the efforts of law enforcement. The screening helped students and teachers understand why it's important to stop the spread of such harmful content. It also explained laws like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the IT Act, along with steps being taken in India and around the world to fight this problem. The programme aimed to foster empathy, digital literacy, and a proactive stance among students, encouraging them to be vigilant, responsible digital citizens.

The event was coordinated by Anjali Devi with dedicated support from faculty members including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, Priya Sharma, Dr. Susheel Kumar and Sayema.

In her address, Anjali highlighted the need to spread awareness about online safety and educate students about the dangers of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and how to report it. She stressed that young people must be aware of the risks they face online and know how to protect themselves. Anjali urged students to speak up if they ever come across harmful or illegal content online and to always report it to trusted adults or authorities.

ADC reviews Revenue Services, JK Samadhan Registrations in Nowshera



J1 NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, APRIL 18

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa today chaired a meeting of revenue officials in his office chamber to review the status of different ongoing initiatives in the revenue department.

The ADC took a detailed review of the online services being provided by the Revenue Department

and emphasised the need for timely and error-free delivery of services to the public.

He also reviewed the progress of registration of citizens on the JK Samadhan portal and exhorted the officers to ensure 100% disposal of revenue-related grievances on the portal for prompt redressal.

Stressing the importance of agricultural documentation, the ADC

directed the field functionaries to ensure timely and accurate entry of Girdawari data. He urged the officers to work with dedication and maintain close coordination to enhance efficiency and transparency in public service delivery. The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawaris and Patwaris of the sub-division.

Training/ orientation program for YUVA DOOTs held at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, APRIL 18

A day-long training-cum-orientation program under Mission YUVA was today held for YUVA DOOTs at Dak Bunglow Khanabal, Anantnag.

The training aimed at enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of YUVA DOOTs in promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment at the grassroots level.

The event was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali.

In his address, Bali emphasized the importance of youth empowerment and their role in driving sustainable development through entrepreneurship.

He motivated the DOOTs to become catalysts of change, and assured them of comprehensive admin-



istrative support in tackling any field-level challenges and stressed the importance of community engagement in fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Assistant Director (AD) Employment Anantnag encouraged the YUVA DOOTs to work with zeal and dedication in achiev-

ing their outreach and support targets under the mission.

Resource persons from various departments including the Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Lead District Manager (LDM) Anantnag, Employment Officer DE&CC Anantnag, and Career Counselling Officer DE&CC Anantnag, deliv-

ered sector-specific presentations. They also demonstrated the features and usage of the Mission YUVA app/portal, equipping the participants with practical know-how.

The interactive sessions facilitated meaningful dialogue, enabling participants to seek clarifications and share insights.

EDITORIAL

Dialogue or Deadlock?

The picturesque region of Ladakh, often portrayed as India's cold desert having important strategic significance, is today grappling with an intense internal political struggle—one that pits the people's aspirations against an opaque administrative machinery. As the next round of talks between the Ladakhi leadership and the High-Powered Committee (HPC) of the Union Home Ministry draws near, the stakes have never been higher. Yet, instead of a unified front working toward resolution, signs of mistrust and friction have begun to emerge between the region's elected voices and its bureaucratic administration. At the heart of this impasse is a four-point agenda championed jointly by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA): demand for statehood, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, a dedicated Public Service Commission (PSC), and two parliamentary seats. These are not whimsical or politically charged demands—they are rooted in legitimate concerns about the protection of Ladakh's fragile ecology, its unique culture, and the socioeconomic rights of its people. However, despite the apparent willingness of LAB and KDA to engage in constructive dialogue—repeatedly affirming their faith in the central government's process—the ground reality suggests a disturbing disconnect. Reports of the Ladakh UT administration moving ahead unilaterally with policies on industrial development and solar energy projects have sparked accusations of sabotage. These moves, critics say, threaten to dilute the core concerns of the people and push the region toward an unsustainable development model that bypasses democratic consensus. It is particularly troubling that such decisions are allegedly being driven by top UT officials, at a time when Ladakhi leaders are preparing for a critical meeting with the Centre on May 20. If these claims hold true, they point to an alarming disregard for the spirit of cooperative federalism and inclusive governance. Moreover, delays in scheduling meetings, lack of follow-through on commitments, and silence on crucial issues like reservations and domicile rights further deepen the trust deficit. The demand that 95% of jobs be reserved for local youth—an idea tied directly to the region's demographic and cultural preservation—is both rational and necessary. Yet, there has been no substantial response from the government since these points were raised in January. The ongoing standoff risks more than just political embarrassment; it endangers the delicate balance of peace and progress in a strategically vital region. The warning issued by the leadership—that they may be forced to take their protest to the streets—is a clarion call that should not be ignored. For the Union government, May 20 is not just another date on the bureaucratic calendar. It is a test of its commitment to democratic dialogue, regional justice, and long-term vision. For the people of Ladakh, it is a chance to reclaim agency over their future. The time to listen is now. Dialogue must not be reduced to a perfunctory exercise; it must be an earnest attempt to co-create Ladakh's destiny with the people who call it home. The government must rein in unilateralism, restore faith, and ensure that the voices of the mountains are not lost in the corridors of power. Because in Ladakh, silence is not peace—it is a storm waiting to break.

Fundamentalism in Bangladesh

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Is Bangladesh moving once again towards becoming a cradle of Islamist fundamentalism and terrorism? Fundamentalism does not always mean terrorism, but it does create a discourse that facilitates the rise of extremism through the promotion of intolerance, leading to hatred towards those considered infidels and violence against them. Now, is Islamist fundamentalism waxing in Bangladesh? One needs to ask this because fundamentalist organisations like the Jamaat-e-Islami (Jamaat) and Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) are having a ball. The Jamaat had fully cooperated with the Pakistani Army during the liberation war of 1971 and was complicit in the latter's mass murders, rapes and other atrocities. Besides, its members and leaders—as well as those of affiliated bodies like Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Razakars—perpetrated unspeakable atrocities themselves. On 1 August 2013, Bangladesh's High Court had cancelled its registration as a political party, upholding a writ petition by an organisation called the Tariqat Federation, saying that the Jamaat was a religion-based political party which did not believe in Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty. It further claimed that the country's Representation of People Order did not allow the registration of a communal outfit as a political party.

The High Court had also observed that the Jamaat had no moral right to be in the country's political arena, given the atrocities it had perpetrated during the liberation war. Following the order, Bangladesh's Election

Commission issued a gazette notification on 28 October 2018, cancelling the party's registration. On 19 November 2023, Bangladesh's Supreme Court dismissed the Jamaat's appeal against the High Court's verdict, as its counsels did not appear at the hearing. As a result of the High Court's order, the Jamaat could not participate in the parliamentary elections of 2014, 2018 and 2024. Besides, four of its top leaders—Abdul Quader Mollah, Kamaruzzaman, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Motiur Rahman Nizami—were executed, and several others given long prison terms, following convictions in cases related to genocide and war crimes by the International Crimes Tribunals established in 2010 and 2012 under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973, as amended in 2009. Finally, Sheikh Hasina's government banned the Jamaat and its students' organisation, Islami Chhatra Shibir (Shibir), on 1 August 2025 under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009. The grounds cited were their responsibility for genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of 1971, and involvement in terrorist activities. On 28 August 2024, the Bangladesh interim government, headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, reversed the order, saying that there was no proof that the Jamaat and the Shibir were involved in terrorist activities. On 23 October 2024, the Appellate Division of Bangladesh's Supreme Court restored the Jamaat's appeal, which the Supreme Court had rejected on 19 November 2023.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat is now politically fully active—hold-

ing meetings, demonstrations, meetings with other parties and foreign diplomats, and projecting itself as a major force to be reckoned with in the forthcoming elections, whenever they are held. Its ideology is quite clear. Its website says, "Jamaat performs as a spiritual party as spiritual life is important in Islam. Jamaat performs in political arena because Islamic law can't be implemented without political force." The Hefazat-e-Islam was formed in 2010 to oppose the Awami League government's women's development policy, promising women equal rights to property. It has considerable power to mobilise in the streets. Its intensely anti-India orientation was reflected in its violent protests against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on 26 March 2021. Thirteen persons were killed and scores injured in clashes between its supporters and members of the security forces and Awami League's supporters. The Hefazat is a hard-core Islamist organisation. This is clear from its 13-point charter of demands in support of which it held a rally in Dhaka on 5-6 May 2013. The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty; exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam"; cancellation of Bangladesh's policy for women's development; bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses"; besides declaring Ahmadiyahs as "non-Muslims."

Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Grievously injured, she was rescued by other journalists.

The rally in May was extremely violent. A BBC report datelined 6 May 2013 cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent". The interim government has close and warm relations with the Hefazat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The Adviser for Religious Affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on 31 August 2024 with Mamunul Haque, the organisation's head. The Hefazat is holding rallies and processions all over the country. Doubtless, neither the Jamaat nor the Hefazat has been resorting to terrorist violence. Their elevated salience, however, gives a certain respectability to fundamentalist doctrines and encourages other fundamentalist organisations to flex their muscles. One of their principal targets is Bangladesh's moderate and liberal ethos—shaped by its rich literary and philosophical heritage, shaped by Rabindranath Tagore and the country's highly talented writers, poets and performing artists. A spiritual leader, philosopher, mystic poet and social reformer, Lalou articulated a weltanschauung, which encompassed the essence of the Bhakti cult and Sufism, rejected all distinctions of caste, class and creed, and opposed theological conflicts and racism. A gathering of sadhus and a Lalou fair was to

be hosted in Madya Narsingpur, Kashipur Union Parishad in Narayanganj, on 22 November 2024.

The district administration, however, ordered its cancellation. According to a report in The Daily Star (23 November 2024), Hefazat-e-Islam leader Maulana Abdul Auwal had warned the administration to stop the event or face intervention by protestors. The celebration of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the annual Bengali calendar, has been an important part of Bangladesh's cultural scenario. However, a stage constructed for the purpose was vandalised on 13 April 2025 in Chittagong city. Earlier, the district administration had permitted the organisers to hold the celebrations but reduced the timings and requested them not to include any song that would be deemed "controversial."

In Dhaka, a theatre group was all set to stage a play titled Shesher Kobita on 13 and 14 April. The authorities of the auditorium concerned, however, decided to cancel the programme on the 13th after receiving a threatening letter from a mob. The police offered protection following a public outcry. The show scheduled for 13 April was shifted to 15 April. Earlier, on 10 February 2025, a group calling itself "Towhidi Janata" attacked a publishing house's stall at Bangladesh's celebrated Amar Ekushe Boimela for displaying Taslima Nasrin's books. Instead of taking action against the attackers, police shut down the stall and detained the publisher, Shatabdi Bobo, at the fair's control room. Whither Bangladesh?

Why we must learn to laugh at ourselves again

ASHA IYER KUMAR

Once upon a time, we laughed without offence or guilt. We laughed at power, at politics, at bureaucracy, and most of all, at ourselves. It was a laughter steeped not in mockery but in a shared understanding of the absurdities of life. Remember R. K. Laxman's Common Man?

The bespectacled, bewildered figure who stood silently witnessing the nation's daily dramas was our collective conscience drawn in ink. His was the lens through which middle-class India smiled at its foibles. No one was spared, and yet no one was wounded. His cartoons, which ran for decades under the banner You Said It, didn't merely capture the socio-political temperature—they made us laugh through the chaos, without cynicism, without rage, and it inspired us to gauge ourselves on the scale of changing times. How far we've come—and not for the better! Just the other day, The Times of India reported that

Western Railway in Mumbai asked for the removal of a hoarding that humorously depicted Mumbai's famously crowded local trains.

Everyone who knows the city even remotely will vouch that the depiction wasn't far from reality. But even reality now seems too irreverent to tolerate. Our thresholds have shrunk. Satire is suspect. Irony is an offence. And humour—a great salve to wounded hearts—has become a minefield. It is as though we have forgotten how to laugh without hurting, or how to be the subject of a joke without taking it personally. The public frame has grown brittle. Everything is either an insult or an agenda. Our collective skin has thinned, and with it, our ability to process humour as a mirror rather than a missile. We have become sensitive to our peril, for laughter now is no more a medicine but an action to be indulged in stealth. We now laugh at our own risk, for not all out there are amused. But let us pause here. What does it mean to laugh at one-

self? And why is it so crucial to the health of a society, and to the sanity of the individual? To laugh at oneself is acknowledging one's imperfections without shame or embarrassment. It is to accept the human comedy in which we are all actors, fumbling, contradicting, faltering and having great falls like Humpty-Dumpty.

It is an act of humility. And humility, unlike humiliation, does not diminish. It enlarges us. It softens the ego, smoothens the sharp edges of pride, and allows us to be more forgiving—towards others, yes, but especially towards ourselves. We are not meant to take ourselves too seriously. The capacity to see one's absurdity, to smile at it, and even to share it with others, is a mark of inner strength.

In that laughter is a quiet wisdom—the wisdom to know that life is far too unpredictable to be lived in perpetual indignation. And as creatures, we are too tiny and insignificant in the canvas of the cosmos. Philosophers

from every tradition have hinted at this. In Zen, the enlightened monk is often depicted laughing. In ancient Greece, Socrates was known for his irony, and his capacity to deflate pomposity through humour. Closer home, the Bhakti poets gently mocked dogma and orthodoxy. Their irreverence was rooted in love, not spite. They knew that humour could illuminate truth in ways solemnity never could, and it was taken in its true spirit. But today, we confuse being offended with being right. And so, we silence the comedian, the cartoonist, the satirist, and slowly, we silence ourselves. We build fortresses around our fragility and call it righteousness. We seek apology where we should seek perspective.

This is not a defence for vulgarity or cruelty masquerading as humour, which too has become abundant in these indiscreet times. We know the difference between crassness and coolness. And we must always be vigilant against humour that punches

down, that mocks the marginalised, that cloaks prejudice in punchlines or masks depravity in insensitivity. But the answer to bad humour is not humourlessness. It is better humour. Finer irony. Truer satire. And most of all, a thicker skin. As a society, we need to grow up. We need to rediscover the art of laughing together and at ourselves.

The Common Man did not need to speak because the society around him understood the language of the silent chuckle. That silent chuckle is now endangered. Let us then re-learn the ability to look at ourselves with a smile, not a scowl. Let us not fear humour; let us fear the day when we lose our humour. When people can no longer laugh at themselves, they are no longer free.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and a writing coach. She has published six books. Views are personal)

India's startup surge: A new innovation powerhouse

VINAY PATHAK AND SANDEEP JOSHI

In just a decade, India's startup ecosystem has emerged as a powerful driver of innovation, employment, and national competitiveness. From a nascent startup scene, India has exploded into one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly expanding startup ecosystems.

The numbers tell a dramatic story, where from approximately 500 Government-recognised startups in 2016, the count surged to over 1.59 lakh by 15 January 2025.

This is not just development, but represents a fundamental change in India's economic structure, making the country the world's third-largest startup hub, after the United States and the United Kingdom. The presence of over 100 unicorns depicts the scale and value being created within this vibrant ecosystem. India's startup boom, from

2014 to early 2025, is not just a result of entrepreneurial spirit but the outcome of a powerful convergence—the drive of Indian entrepreneurs coupled with proactive government policies designed to nurture a thriving ecosystem.

This remarkable growth highlights the synergy between intentional policy and organic innovation, unleashing hidden potential across the nation. It demonstrates how focused efforts have transformed ideas into successful businesses, paving the way for India's emergence as a global startup hub.

The exponential growth trajectory of India's startup ecosystem coincides directly with the rollout of key government programmes and visionary leadership that removed roadblocks and actively fostered innovation. Launched in 2016, these initiatives provided a structured framework that catalysed the entrepreneurial surge. Pivotal

to this transformation was the launch of the Startup India initiative in January 2016.

Envisioned as a flagship programme, its core objective was to cultivate a startup culture, build a robust and inclusive ecosystem, and fundamentally transform India into a country of "job creators instead of job seekers."

India's visionary leadership has transformed the nation from job-seekers to job providers, reflecting its entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to building a self-reliant, job-generating economy. It wasn't just a slogan; it was backed by a comprehensive Action Plan focusing on Simplification, Funding, and Incubation. This framework offered tax exemptions, simplified compliance, and financial support to help early-stage ventures overcome funding and regulatory challenges.

Simultaneously, the Government launched the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in

2016, which fostered a culture of innovation through initiatives like the Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centres. These programmes not only nurtured young talent but also created a robust infrastructure that supported startups across diverse sectors, including technology, healthcare, and manufacturing. AIM's focus on nurturing creativity and research has played a crucial role in strengthening the ecosystem and preparing it for the future.

In 2024, the Indian Government made a transformative decision by abolishing the angel tax in the Union Budget. Introduced in 2012, this tax had acted as a significant obstacle for investors, discouraging investment by imposing levies on capital raised above fair market value, often hindering critical funding at vital stages. This step has cleared the way for a more investor-friendly environment, fostering growth

and opportunity for startups across the nation.

The removal of this tax has been celebrated as a major step towards creating a more investor-friendly environment, helping startups access the funding they need to scale and succeed.

The decision to abolish the angel tax, alongside other reforms, showcases the Government's commitment to providing a conducive atmosphere for entrepreneurship to thrive. The growth of India's startup ecosystem has been far from centralised. While traditional tech hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Gurugram remain significant, a noticeable shift has occurred as entrepreneurs from smaller cities and towns have begun to make their mark.

This democratisation of innovation has been facilitated by the Government's push for a more inclusive startup ecosystem that is accessible to

a broader pool of talent.

Sectors like fintech, healthcare, and agritech have emerged as hotspots for innovation, with over 1,300 active tech startups added in 2022 alone. The Government has played a vital role in fostering growth within these sectors, encouraging investment and providing specialised support to startups that address critical societal needs.

For instance, fintech startups have revolutionised access to financial services, healthcare ventures have improved healthcare delivery, and agritech innovations have brought efficiency to the agriculture sector. Despite facing challenges like funding slowdowns and hiring freezes, the ecosystem demonstrated resilience. In 2023, India added over 1,000 startups, including 400 in emerging areas, underscoring the sector's adaptability.

The journey of our nation from ancient to modern

India is a saga of remarkable achievements and milestones. It begins with the wisdom of great saints, progresses through the profound teachings of Swami Vivekananda and the Upanishads, and extends to the strides of modern innovation like the upagrah (satellite) and the evolution from the traditional Kumbh Mela to the Startup Kumbh Mela. Each chapter of this journey stands as a powerful testament to our nation's relentless hard work, groundbreaking innovation, and unwavering self-reliance.

India is now rapidly emerging as a global leader in fostering sustainable, innovative, and thriving startups. As reported by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on 16 January 2025, the country commemorates nine years of Startup India, a game-changing initiative launched in 2016. National Startup Day marks a key milestone in India's entrepreneurial journey.

Principal Secretary Culture inaugurates 5-Day Photo Exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

A five-day Photo Exhibition titled "Trinity: A Group Show" featuring the works of five leading photographers was inaugurated today at Kala Kendra, Jammu. The exhibition has been jointly organised by Kala Kendra Jammu and Aperture - The Jammu Photography Club in the cherished memory of Shri Chandan Bhadranshastry, a legendary figure in the field of photography.



Culture, including a new Cultural Award Scheme to honour the contributions of photographers, painters, sculptors, authors, and researchers. In a significant development, he revealed plans to establish a dedicated Photography Gallery on the first floor of Kala Kendra - envisioned as a permanent platform for photographers to showcase their creativity.

On this occasion, Aperture - The Jammu Photography Club honoured several eminent photographers for their significant contributions. R.K. Goyal, Afzal Shah, Surjit Singh, Rakesh Bakshi, Rajinder Kitchloo, Pawan Chowdhary, Ashwani Saberwal, and Parveen Sharma.

The event witnessed distinguished guests, artists including Balwant Thakur, Dr. Lalit Gupta, K.B. Jandial, Dr. Raj Kumar, O.P. Sharma, Jang S. Verma, Baljeet Raina, S. Bajral, and others.

The exhibition will remain open in all the galleries of Kala Kendra till 22nd April.

The Photography Club and Prof. Ashok Kumar graced the presidium.

In his welcome address, Mohammad Anwar Al Nasir introduced the concept behind The Trinity: A Group Show and highlighted the ongoing efforts and initiatives of Aperture - The Jammu Photography Club to promote photography as an art form in the region.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, in his remarks, stated that the main objective of the exhibition is to encourage amateur photographers and enthusiasts to learn and grow through such curated experiences. He informed

that live demonstrations on camera handling, framing angles, image mixing, and creative compositions would be held during the exhibition, offering valuable learning for photography lovers.

Addressing the gathering, B.M. Sharma expressed deep appreciation for the powerful and evocative photographs on display. He commended the participating photographers for capturing moments that reflect emotion, culture, and storytelling through their lenses.

He also announced several cultural initiatives by the Department of

Training Programme for YUVA DOOTS held at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APRIL 18

A one-day training programme under Mission YUVA was today organized for Yuva Doots here at the District Administrative Complex under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

The session was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Roshan Lal, who is also the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Director Employment, Ramban, Amit Kumar. The training featured insightful presentations and guidance from key speakers, including District Development Manager,



NABARD, Arshi Sharma, Career Counseling Officer, Ramban, Amir Hassan; and District Nodal Officer,

participated in the training along with officials from the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Ramban. The training aimed to sensitize the YUVA DOOTS about their role and responsibilities under Mission YUVA, ensuring effective implementation at the Panchayat level. The focus areas included youth engagement, career counseling, entrepreneurship development, and livelihood generation initiatives to empower rural youth in the District.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants exchanged ideas and discussed strategies to realize the objectives of Mission YUVA at the grassroots level.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol at Dhanna and Kallar Mohra, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 18, 2025

In an effort to address the healthcare needs of residents in the remote areas of Poonch, Indian Army carried out a Medical Patrol in the villages of Dhanna and Kallar Mohra. This initiative aims to provide basic medicines to the underprivileged communities, fostering health and well-being. Indian Army provided the local populace of both these villages basic health check-ups and dis-



tribution of essential medicines. The Indian Army is committed in ensuring that residents in these remote

areas have access to quality healthcare, promoting a healthier and stronger community. This initia-

tive aligns with the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to serve the nation beyond defence, exemplifying their dedication to the well-being of citizens. A total of 23 locals from both villages were attended by the Indian Army. The free medical support highlights the Indian Army's ethos of solidarity and support, showcasing the positive impact that collaborative efforts can have on the health.

Baramulla District Administration, Indian Army conduct Mega Job Fair

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 18

The District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC) Baramulla, in collaboration with the Indian Army's Chinara Corps, organized a Mega Job Fair on April 17 at the Chinara YUVA Centre, drawing a strong response from job seekers.

The GOC, Chinara Corps alongwith the GOC, Dagger Division visited the same, wherein he appreciated the efforts & expressed satisfaction on the success of the event which connected



youth of the valley with leading employers from 28 reputed companies such as PhonePe, Kia, SBI Life, Tata Winstron, ICICI Bank, Honda, PNB Metlife, Mahindra Motors, LIC

India etc across IT, Healthcare, Banking, Hospitality, Retail and Manufacturing Sectors. On-the-spot Interviews, Career Counselling and Upskilling workshops were conducted for the

Participants. Additionally, self-employment programs and loan schemes were introduced to support aspiring Entrepreneurs.

The initiative reflects a continued commitment to youth empowerment, employment generation and economic growth in the region. Indian Army remains steadfast towards its commitment to promote peace, impart skills and integrate the youth of the valley into the mainstream thus helping them to contribute towards Nation Building.

Dy CM reviews progress on water supply projects in Nowshera Constituency

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Aiming smooth water supply in Nowshera Constituency in ensuing summer season, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also the local MLA, today reviewed functioning of Jal Shakti department besides assessing progress on works being executed under JJM, NABARD and UT Capex during a meeting held here in this regard.



The Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, apprised that there are total 70 schemes functioning in the constituency including 51 under Jal Jeevan Mission, 18 under Languishing/UT Capex and one under NABARD to overcome the water crisis in Nowshera.

It was also informed in the meeting, that out of 18 schemes under UT capex, 11 have been completed while 7 are under process. Similarly, 75 percent of the work has been completed on the only scheme under NABARD.

achieved on procurement of material and development of infrastructure. He said that remaining work on most of the schemes shall be completed soon and will be commissioned in next month. It was further informed that there are three schemes of irrigation sector, one of flood control under NABARD in which two DPRs of Irrigation sector are under process and one DPR of Flood control has been submitted.

The Dy CM, after taking scheme wise review of all sectors, instructed the officers to strictly adhere to quality parameters and complete the projects within the stipulated time-frame.

Choudhary emphasized that the only priority should be maintaining regular supply of water in view of ensuing summer

season. He asked all the departments including Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, JPDCL, Ground Water to work in synergy providing maximum relief to the people.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked to expedite pace of progress on various developmental initiatives, focusing on timely commissioning of schemes. He also stressed upon them to ensure that public service deliverance mechanism shall be speeded up so that the people do not face any inconvenience.

He said that measures are underway to further improve and upgrade the existing infrastructure of PHE and PDD departments. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister chaired a meeting to review the legal cases of Industries and Commerce, Geology and Mining, Public Wel-

fare Works and Labour and Employment departments pending in the High Court and CAT.

The Senior Law Officer apprised the Dy CM that a total of 1083 cases of I&C are pending, of which, objections have been filed in 946 cases while out of 321 cases of G&M pending in court, objections have been filed in 58 cases. It was also informed that there are around 2200 cases of PWD pending in the Court which are mainly pertaining to land acquisition, services matter and contractual liabilities among others.

The Dy CM asked the law officers to focus on disposal of cases in favour of their respective departments. He exhorted that all the cases should be dealt with sincerity to enhance the disposal rate.

One-week Management Development Program for entrepreneurs begins at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 18

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with District Employment Centre today launched a one-week (30-hour) Management Development Program (MDP) for local MSME Unit owners under the Raising and Accel-

erating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The program was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh and organised under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative aims to build the managerial capacity of local entrepreneurs, MSME owners,

and budding business leaders. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and generating employment in the region. He appreciated the efforts of JKEDI in promoting a vibrant entrepreneurial culture across the district.

The DC interacted with the participants, encouraging

them to make full use of the opportunity. He emphasized the critical role of the MSME sector in driving local economic growth and assured full support from the district administration in promoting entrepreneurship. He also lauded JKEDI's continuous efforts in nurturing the spirit of self-employment and skill development in the region.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL UFAQ MODEL SCHOOL ASSAR (DODA)										
LIST OF GENERAL BODY MEMBERS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE										
S. No.	Name of the Member	Parentage/Spouse	Residence / Address	Occupation/ Profession	Position	Qualification	Tehsil	District	Aadhar Number	Contact No.
1	Sushheel Kumar	Sh. Bimla Kumar	Assar	Principal in UMS	President	M.A. B.Ed.	Assar	Doda	583181387609	8082794656
2	Mushtaq Ahmed	Lt. Sh. Abdul Aziz	Assar	Contractor	Sponsor	10 th	Assar	Doda	732314848911	7006810007
3	Pritam Singh Shivshah	Sh. Baldev Singh	Assar	Chemist	Vice-President	B.Sc.	Assar	Doda	588909355852	9906142617
4	Shaista Kousar	Sh. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather	Assar	Teacher in Pvt. School	Chairman	10 th	Assar	Doda	343507610994	9596640064
5	Rajiv Sharma	Lt. Sh. Om Parkash	Assar	Shopkeeper	Secretary	10 th	Assar	Doda	642191786654	7889354097
6	Vishal Kumar	Sh. Bimal Kumar	Assar	Chemist	Member	12 th	Assar	Doda	955148360585	8491090232
7	Dilbir Singh	Sh. Brij Lal	Halyan (Assar)	Principal in Pvt. School	Member	M.A., B.Ed.	Assar	Doda	683474093768	6006550702
8	Ajaz Ahmed	Lt. Sh. Abdul Majid	Assar	Shopkeeper	Member	10 th	Assar	Doda	489255589835	9596836701
9	Kuldeep Singh	Lt. Sh. Punjab Singh	Assar	Businessman	Member	10 th	Assar	Doda	253848035337	9906136242
10	Ravi Kumar	Sh. Rajinder Kumar	Assar	Driver	Member	12 th	Assar	Doda	450347410534	9596408599

Sd/- ZEO

Sd/ Principal

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONAL ACADEMY SCHOOL HALYAN ASSAR (DODA)										
LIST OF PROPOSED MEMBERS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN FAVOUR OF ULFA MODEL SCHOOL ASSAR (DODA)										
S. No.	Name of the Member	Parentage/Spouse	Residence / Address	Occupation/ Profession	Position	Qualification	Tehsil	District	Aadhar Number	Contact No.
1	Dilbir Singh	Sh. Brij Lal	Halyan	Principal in NAS	President	M.A., B.Ed.	Assar	Doda	683474093768	6006550702
2	Sapna Devi	Sh. Dilbir Singh	Halyan	House Wife	Chairman	B.P.Ed., M.P. Ed.	Assar	Doda	243044362567	6006275061
3	Pardeep Singh	Sh. Bodh Raj	Halyan	Farmer	Vice-President	12 th	Assar	Doda	379947764277	9149758998
4	Sujeet Singh	Sh. Bodh Raj	Halyan	Businessman	Secretary	10 th	Assar	Doda	383263650396	9906309833
5	Inder Singh	Sh. Kartar Singh	Bray (Halyan)	Electrician	Member	12 th	Assar	Doda	528309049196	9596693454
6	Sushheel Kumar	Sh. Bimla Kumar	Assar	Principal in Pvt. School	Member	M.A. B.Ed.	Assar	Doda	583181387609	8082794656
7	Balwinder Singh	Sh. Shadi Lal	Halyan	Farmer	Member	12 th	Assar	Doda	506820468326	9622570131
8	Hans Raj	Sh. Shiv Nath	Halyan	Businessman	Member	10 th	Assar	Doda	379947764277	9149758998
9	Kulbinder Singh	Sh. Some Raj	Halyan	Teacher in Pvt. School	Member	M.A.	Assar	Doda	617259817233	9682649313
10	Sunil Kumar	Sh. Kaku Ram	Bray (Halyan)	Farmer	Member	10 th	Assar	Doda	254454944317	9103141072

Sd/- ZEO

Sd/ Principal

Škoda Auto India follows successful launch of Kylaq with all-new Škoda Kodiaq at top of range

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

After the successful launch of the Škoda Kylaq range, Škoda Auto India is now announcing a new car at the other end of the spectrum - with the launch of the all-new generation of its luxury 4x4 SUV, the Kodiaq. Into its second generation in India and internationally, the brand-new Kodiaq arrives in India with its signature blend of luxury, refinement, off-road ability, on-road dynamics and seven-seat versatility.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India shares, "In March, we recorded our biggest ever monthly sales in India, driven by the Kylaq launch, and supported by the Kushaq and Slavia. This is one of many new records we aim to set this year. In line with our product offensive strategy, the launch

of the all-new Kodiaq showcases the other end of our product spectrum with Škoda's luxury and technology prowess. The Kodiaq has now grown to be an important legacy name for us like the Octavia and Superb. The Kodiaq offers the ultimate luxury and handling for city roads and also packs in versatile all-terrain capabilities."

Škoda Auto's premier 4x4 is powered by a 2.0 TSI engine making 150kW and 320Nm of torque. This power and torque is distributed to both axles through a seven-speed dual clutch DSG automatic. It is based on the MQB37 Evo platform and is available in the Sportline and Selection L&K variants with both offering seven seats. Assembled in India at the brand's facility in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, the Kodiaq has been rated to provide fuel efficiency of 14.86 km/l by ARAI.

The all-new generation of the Kodiaq is 59mm longer than its previous generation. It has a length of 4,758mm and height of 1,679mm. It is 1,864mm wide and has a wheelbase of 2,791mm. Fully laden, the all-new Kodiaq stands 155mm off the ground. The three-row luxury 4x4, like before, offers a lot of luggage capacity in its versatile interior. With all three seats up, the Kodiaq offers 281 litres of luggage space. With the third-row seats folded to the floor, this luxury SUV can carry 786 litres of luggage, and with both the rear rows down, the Kodiaq affords a cavernous carrying capacity of 1,976 litres.

The new Škoda Kodiaq continues its tradition of refined luxury with two distinct interior themes, an all-black sporty décor for the Sportline variant and premium Cognac leather upholstery in the



Selection L&K trim. Elevating the cabin's technology and convenience, it now features a 32.77-cm infotainment system, along with multi-function Smart Dials equipped with tactile rotary knobs and touchscreens allowing seamless control over HVAC, seat ventilation, audio settings and drive modes.

Ergonomic enhancements include a newly positioned gear-selector behind the steering wheel for improved accessibility and a tablet holder for rear-seat passengers, adding to their convenience.

The luxury quotient is further amplified with Ergo front seats that offer advanced pneumatic

massage function, ensuring superior comfort and spine support. The inclusion of acoustic package with acoustic side windows helps in reducing exterior noise, creating a serene and premium driving experience. Safety and comfort are paramount, with 9 airbags, a sliding panoramic sunroof, and

a 725W Canton sound system with 13 speakers and a sub-woofer for an immersive audio experience. Additionally, rolling sunblinds in the rear windows further enhance privacy and passenger comfort.

The Škoda Kodiaq stands out with its all-new design and premium styling elements. The LED Beam Crystallinum headlamps now feature a Welcome Effect, adding a touch of sophistication upon unlocking this luxury 4x4. The Selection L&K trim exudes elegance with Dark Chrome accents, while the Sportline variant embraces a sportier persona with Glossy Black highlights. Enhancing its road presence, the Kodiaq sports a front grille with an integrated horizontal light strip, creating a striking visual identity, while a red strip connecting the tail lamps further accen-

tuates the SUV's width, ensuring a distinctive and commanding presence on the road.

The all-new Kodiaq is available in six colour options: Moon White, Magic Black, Graphite Grey, Velvet Red, Race Blue. The Selection L&K gets an exclusive Bronx Gold and the Sportline gets an exclusive Steel Grey.

Škoda Auto India will also be offering some delectable ownership and maintenance solutions for Kodiaq owners. This Škoda flagship will offer a standard warranty of 5-year/125,000 kms - whichever earlier. There is also a 10-year complimentary Road-Side Assistance on offer with this luxury 4x4. Bringing service costs down further is Škoda Supercare, a standard maintenance package, which is available at no cost to the customer for the first year.

Samsung unveils Odyssey Gaming Monitors, First-Ever Glasses-Free 3D & 4K 240Hz OLED in India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the availability of the 2025 line-up of Odyssey gaming monitors, which includes the revolutionary glasses-free Odyssey 3D, the industry-first 4K 240Hz Odyssey OLED G8, and the ultra-immersive curved Odyssey G9. Designed to push immersion and performance, these monitors cater to gamers, content creators, and professionals demanding superior visual fidelity. The new 27" Odyssey 3D (G90XF model) is a game-changer for the Indian market with its ground-breaking Glasses-free 3D gaming experience. Available in sizes of 27" and 32", the Odyssey OLED G8 (G8ISF model) sets a new industry benchmark as the world's first 4K OLED monitor with

a 240Hz refresh rate. The Odyssey G9 (G91F model) delivers an unmatched ultra-wide experience with a 49" Dual QHD display and a 1000R curved screen, wrapping high-quality visuals especially playing 32:9 or 21:9 games. "At Samsung, we have remained committed to democratizing cutting-edge display technology, making world-class innovation accessible to Indian consumers. With the introduction of the innovative Odyssey 3D, Odyssey OLED G8, and Odyssey G9 monitors, we are not just bringing global firsts to India but also elevating the way gamers experience immersion, speed and visual excellence," said Puneet Sethi, Vice President, Enterprise Business, Samsung India. Featuring advanced eye-tracking technology and view mapping algorithms, it delivers high-definition, stunning

3D visuals that make games and video content more life-like. The Reality Hub app detects the video content and offers a choice to run it in 3D. Samsung is actively collaborating with major global game developers, including Nexon for The First Berserker: Khazan to optimize this next-gen 3D technology. Beyond gaming, the Odyssey 3D features AI-powered video conversion, transforming standard content into 3D infusing new energy to almost all content. With 165Hz refresh rate, 1ms response time, AMD FreeSync™ Support, Odyssey 3D ensures smooth, lag-free gameplay. Spatial Audio (built-in speakers) and the Edge Lighting feature further enhance gaming experience, bringing games out of the screen and into your world. Powered by Quantum Dot technology, the Odyssey OLED G8 delivers

enhanced colours, deep contrast, and superior viewing angles. VESA DisplayHDR™ TrueBlack 400 certification ensures near-infinite contrast, making vibrant colours pop even at typical brightness levels of 250 nits.

Samsung's proprietary OLED Safeguard+ and Dynamic Cooling System extend screen longevity that effectively cools down the screen temperature to prevent burn-in by applying the Pulsating Heat Pipe to monitor for the first time ever. The glare-free technology, certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), makes the screen 56% less glossy for distraction-free gaming. With 240Hz refresh rate and 0.03ms response time, the Odyssey OLED G8 ensures a smoother viewing experience eliminating lag time and motion blur for exhilarating game-play

with ultra-smooth action. The Odyssey OLED G8 is designed to upgrade any gaming station with its slim metal body, Core Lighting+ and ergonomic stand. Certified with VESA DisplayHDR 600 and HDR10+ GAMING, the Odyssey G9 enhances brightness, contrast, and colour range for vivid, dynamic visuals. With 144Hz refresh rate, 1ms response time, and AMD FreeSync Premium, the Odyssey G9 ensures seamless gameplay free from tearing and stuttering. Not just that, multitasking is made effortless with Picture-by-Picture and Picture-in-Picture modes, allowing users to view content from multiple sources simultaneously. The Auto Source Switch+ feature further streamlines the experience by instantly detecting and displaying connected devices.

Samsung India enhances Customer Service with AI-Powered Remote Diagnostic, Troubleshooting Tool

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has launched its Home Appliances Remote Management (HRM) tool, a next-generation remote diagnosis and troubleshooting solution that significantly reduces service wait times and enhances customer experience. By harnessing the power of AI-powered remote diagnostics and troubleshooting, Samsung technicians can now resolve issues faster, reducing the need for cumbersome in-home visits. This innovative technology not only enhances customer experience with rapid resolutions and reduced downtime but also sets a new benchmark for the industry, redefining the future of customer care and reimagining the relationship between consumers and their smart home appliances. "Samsung Service is at the forefront of home appliance diagnostics, leveraging advanced tools to identify issues with pinpoint accuracy. Through its smart diagnostics service, customers can get proactive solutions by troubleshooting and resolving problems

remotely, minimizing the need for a technician visit. This breakthrough significantly reduces wait times, ensures faster resolutions, and provides timely updates on product maintenance, ultimately enhancing the customer experience," said Sunil Cutinha, VP, Customer Satisfaction, Samsung India. HRM enables real-time issue resolution with remote counselling, monitoring, and control features for Samsung smart appliances registered on the SmartThings app, which works as an appliance operating tool and captures usage patterns. With this innovation, Samsung continues to lead the way in smart device management, making home appliance maintenance more efficient and hassle-free for consumers worldwide. When a customer contacts Samsung's support team regarding an issue with their home appliance, the HRM system automatically detects the registered device's model and serial number through Samsung's CRM (Customer Relationship Management system). Upon activation, contact center advisors can remotely diagnose,

monitor, and even control certain appliance functions post customer consent, providing immediate troubleshooting guidance. How HRM Resolved an AC Cooling Issue With summer arriving early in Chennai and temperature rising above 35 C, Rohan Luthra's air conditioner was cooling less efficiently. Fortunately, since Rohan had the SmartThings app installed on his smartphone and the AC was already registered in the app, he received an error notification. Immediately, Rohan requested support through Home Care service in SmartThings and got connected to the contact center advisor. Upon consultation, the advisor diagnosed the issue through HRM's remote diagnostics, and informed the customer that its micro-filter required cleaning and provided a step-by-step guide to Rohan over the phone call, restoring the AC's cooling efficiency within minutes without the need for an on-site visit. This real-world example underscores how Samsung's HRM tool is transforming customer support, making smart appliance maintenance more efficient, proactive, and hassle-free.

Movement Kalki expresses gratitude for Waqf Board amendments, demands formation of 'Sanatan Board'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

Movement Kalki extends heartfelt thanks to the Central Government for successfully amending the Waqf Board laws in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. This is a commendable step toward ensuring accountability and transparency in religious institutions.

At the same time, we urgently call upon the Central Government to pass the Temple and Shrine Bill in the Lok Sabha to bring all Hindu temples and their properties under a "Sanatan Board", modeled on the lines of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC).

After the abolition of monarchy in Jammu & Kashmir, properties once managed by the Dharmarth Trust—founded by Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji for the promotion and protection of Sanatan Dharma—have fallen into mismanagement. Thousands of kanals of land attached to temples across and outside J&K have reportedly been sold, leased, or misused for



personal luxuries by a few individuals, with no benefit to the Hindu community or economically weaker Sanatan sections.

Temples are meant to serve the devotees and preserve the spiritual heritage of Sanatan Dharma. However, since the demise of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, the Dharmarth Trust has become a monopoly of one family, controlling 131

temples and allegedly using public offerings for personal gain. There is no transparency, development, or sincere promotion of Sanatan values.

A dedicated, transparent, and autonomous board for Hindu religious trusts, similar to the Waqf Board and SGPC, is essential. The government must ensure strict governance of temple lands and assets to prevent

illegal sales and backdoor deals.

Many valuable temple properties—such as those in Rani Talab—are under threat of illegal sale. Immediate government intervention is required to stop such transactions.

Revive and rebuild traditional institutions like gaushalas, Sanskrit pathshalas, and pilgrim rest houses that historically

served Sanatan Dharma.

Initiate a court-monitored investigation to audit all temple properties from 1947 till date and bring the entire record into the public domain.

Several court orders limit trust property leases to a maximum of three years, yet these rules are being violated. These violations must be addressed without delay.

Those who have exploited temple properties for personal gains must face legal consequences. Temples and their assets belong to the people and the faith—not to private interests.

This is not just an administrative issue—it's about cultural and spiritual legacy. The government must take swift action to protect Sanatan heritage and ensure a transparent, accountable system to manage temples and trusts in Jammu & Kashmir and across the country.

We appeal to all political representatives—especially those elected in the name of Sanatan Dharma—to stand up for their voters and uphold their sacred duty.

Hakeem mourns loss of Renowned Shia Scholar Allama Agha Syed Baqir Al-Moosavi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 18

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of prominent Shia cleric and scholar, *Allama Agha Syed Muhammad Baqir Al-Moosavi.

In his condolence message, Hakeem Yaseen

hailed the late scholar as a towering figure of faith, intellect, and service.

"Allama Al-Moosavi's unparalleled contributions to religious discourse, interfaith harmony, and public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir have left an indelible mark," he said. Hakeem noted that the revered cleric was a beacon of unity whose teachings inspired generations across communities.

"His demise is a monumental loss not just to the Shia community but to all who value peace, wisdom, and spiritual integrity."

Offering his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, followers, and admirers, Hakeem Yaseen prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the mourners to bear the irreparable loss.

PO attends Poshan Pakhwada event at Bhagwah- Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 18

District Programme Officer ICDS S. Paramjeet Singh along with his team joined the celebration of Poshan Pakhwada at AWCs of ICDS/Poshan Project Bhagwah.

The Poshan Pakhwada celebrations emphasized nutrition and health awareness. As part of the program, hygiene awareness sessions are being organized in all Anganwadi Centres of the district to educate mothers, pregnant women (PWs), and lactating mothers (LMS) on infection prevention and the critical importance of hygiene in promoting the well-being of infants and the wider community.

During the visit, the District Programme Officer interacted with the locals and children, reviewed the functioning of the centres, and highlighted the importance of adopting best practices in early childhood Care education and nutrition. The Pakhwada 2025, aims to educate about the importance of maternal nutrition, proper breast-feeding practices, and the role of a balanced diet in preventing childhood stunting and anemia.

Put again under house arrest ahead of Friday prayers: Mirwaiz

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 18 (UNI)

For the third consecutive week, authorities put Kashmir's Chief Cleric and Hurriyat Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest.

Mirwaiz lashed out at the government, alleging that his weekly detention is aimed at silencing him.

"Every Friday I am put under arbitrary house arrest! Putting pressure on me not to speak up, the ban also aims to weaken the centrality of Muslim institutions of the valley, Jama Masjid, office of the Mirwaiz, and cause collective grief to Muslims and all those who oppose this authoritarian and sectarian outlook," Mirwaiz said in a post on X.

Mirwaiz also shared a picture of police deployed outside his Nagin residence, suggesting restrictions on his movement.

J&K police have not reacted to Mirwaiz's house detention claim.

Mirwaiz, who has frequently been detained or restricted from delivering sermons on Fridays at Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid, said his petition challenging the restrictions is still pending before the High Court.

"My house detention case is still pending in court, where I am seeking relief from the Hon'ble High Court, but in such times, patience remains our only strength," he said.

Mirwaiz, who also heads the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU), the largest amalgam of religious organisations in J&K, issued a resolution against the Waqf Act, which Imams read during the congregational prayers.

MLA Arvind holds meeting with Ex Councillors on development, citizens' welfare

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA West Constituency, today held an interaction with several key leaders, including senior BJP leader Assem Gupta, former Mayor Rajinder Sharma, and ex-Corporators Pappu Chudhary, Manto, Succha Singh, Neelam Nargotra, and Nidhi Nargotra.

The leaders present also took the opportunity to discuss strategies for enhancing the party's outreach and connecting with the citizens more effectively, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed in a timely manner.

During the meeting, Arvind Gupta discussed various pressing issues concerning the Jammu



West Constituency, with a special focus on development projects, infrastructural improvements, and ongoing welfare schemes for the residents. The discussions centered on streamlining the execution of essential projects that aim to enhance the living standards and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Jammu West.

Arvind emphasized the importance of strong leadership and teamwork

in ensuring the successful implementation of these initiatives. He noted that with the support of dedicated leaders and local representatives, the BJP government at the Centre is working tirelessly to address the concerns of the public and foster growth in the region.

The meeting also focused on various developmental plans in the pipeline, which include better road connectivity, healthcare facilities, educational infrastructure,

and the modernization of local amenities. The BJP leaders acknowledged the transformative progress Jammu West has seen under the BJP government and pledged to continue striving for further progress.

"Today's interaction was an important step in ensuring that we remain aligned and focused on the welfare of the people. The BJP's vision for Jammu and Kashmir is clear, and we will continue to work relentlessly to provide better infrastructure and services to our constituents," Arvind said following the meeting.

Arvind Gupta emphasized that BJP will continue to prioritize the needs of the citizens, working tirelessly to create a more developed and inclusive Jammu West.

Shri Kaal Bhairav Dham Trust distributes educational materials to Govt School Kalka Colony



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

In a commendable initiative, Shri Kaal Bhairav Dham Trust distributed educational materials to Govt school Kalka colony today. The distribution was carried out with the blessings of Mahant Shri Rahul Giri Ji Maharaj, who continues to inspire such social service efforts. As part of

the event, the children received books and other essential learning supplies aimed at encouraging their interest in education and supporting their academic journey.

Trust members emphasized that this initiative is a step towards empowering underprivileged children by providing them with the tools they need to succeed. They also assured that

similar activities will be organized regularly in the future. The local community expressed heartfelt gratitude towards Mahant Shri Rahul Giri Ji Maharaj for his constant support and guidance. The event not only brought smiles to the faces of the children but also reflected the Trust's commitment to social welfare and the upliftment of society through education.

Bali Bhagat slams Congress for undermining Constitutional values

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APRIL 18

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today strongly criticized the Congress party for its historical track record of constitutional violations, asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party stands as the true guardian of the Constitution as envisioned by Bharat Rattan Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

He was addressing a large gathering during the "Samman Abhiyaan" organized in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by the BJP District Akhnoor unit at Akhnoor. Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma was the chief guest, Local MLA Mohal Lal Bhagat was the guest of honour and mandal president Kuldeep Sharma presided the event.

During his keynote address, Bali Bhagat highlighted the contrast

between BJP's unwavering commitment to constitutional integrity and the Congress party's deliberate attempts to distort and dilute constitutional values for political convenience.

"The Congress, despite its long tenure in power, repeatedly betrayed the Constitution by imposing Emergency, suppress-

ing dissent, and sidelining Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. In contrast, the BJP has honored Ambedkar by safeguarding constitutional institutions and ensuring social justice reaches the last man in the queue," Bhagat asserted.

"Congress divided India, ceded parts of our sacred land to Pakistan and Bangladesh, and even gave away PoJK. Aksai Chin—38,000 sq km—is still under illegal occupation by China due to the



Congress party's weak leadership and indecisiveness," he said.

The former Minister recalled a shocking moment in history when then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, during a Parliamentary debate, downplayed China's occupation of Aksai Chin by saying 'not even a blade of grass grows there'. He noted how Congress MP Mahavir Tyagi had humorously yet pointedly responded by referring to his bald

head and asking, 'Nothing grows here either, should this be handed over too?'

Bali Bhagat further stated that Congress has repeatedly violated the basic structure of the Indian Constitution by carrying out 75 out of the total 106 constitutional amendments through six of its Prime Ministers, often bypassing public interest and weakening democratic values.

In stark contrast, he said, Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi's government has introduced historic reforms that honor the true spirit of Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. He listed major achievements of the BJP government Abolition of Triple Talaq, Passage of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in several states, Amendments to the Waqf Act to ensure transparency, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for persecuted minorities, construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, etc.

"These steps reflect the Modi government's resolve to deliver justice, equality, and respect to every Indian—principles that Dr. Ambedkar envisioned," he added.

The senior BJP leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in mainstreaming Ambedkar's legacy and

implementing pro-poor, pro-backward policies that echo the spirit of the Constitution. Bhagat also hailed the BJP's initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities, especially through targeted welfare schemes and institutional empowerment.

Bali Bhagat called upon the youth to study the real history of India and recognize the BJP as the true torchbearer of Ambedkar's ideology and national unity. He urged the people to remain vigilant against those who manipulate the Constitution for vote-bank politics.

At last, the former MLA Akhnoor Rajiv Sharma delivered the vote of thanks Among the notable attendees were former State Chairman Daljit Singh Chib, District Vice Chairman Panchayats Suraj Singh, Mohan Singh, and other senior BJP leaders.

Balwant Thakur inaugurates Dance Workshop at Natrang

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 18TH APRIL, 2025

Director Natrang Balwant Thakur inaugurated a Dance workshop at Natrang Studio Theatre with the lighting of traditional lamp. Aimed at promoting the art of dance amongst youth this workshop has been organised by Natrang. Speaking on the occasion Natrang Director Balwant Thakur said that in the whole of Jammu & Kashmir we hardly have training opportunities in the field of dance. This has resulted in the promotion of sheer mediocrity in this field. The designated institutions mandated to promote this art are hardly bothered to train the young aspirants in this field. Instead a fashion is being encouraged where untrained dancers are being given the performance opportunities thus resulting in poorest of poor performances on stage. This trend has sabotaged the cause of culture. Natrang has the credit of taking the dances of J&K to national/international dance events. Perhaps Natrang is the only organisation which has taken the dances of Jammu & Kashmir to the majority of International



Festivals held in London, Dubai, Russia, Germany, Bhutan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. For making it to the international events one has to acquire a level of excellence and average level performers have no takers. On the occasion, Balwant Thakur also informed that Natrang is the only cultural institution of Jammu & Kashmir which has been empanelled by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs for international performances. To make it to that level, the group and its performances are required to achieve that level of world excellence. Natrang also takes pride in the fact that the most prestigious festival of the post India independence period, G20 Cultural show was devised, designed, executed, performed and presented by Natrang.

In the current dance workshop which is being conducted by the ace choreographer Sunny Mujoo

a diverse range of dance practices are being introduced. Jammu & Kashmir being multi-cultural and having a diverse range of dance traditions, an effort is being made to introduce all the participants to the entire diversity of the region. On this occasion Balwant Thakur desired that all those young aspirants who wish to join this training programme may avail this opportunity free of charges and may contact Natrang immediately or may call 8713049875 or 9906048670.

Those who are taking part in this workshop include Muskan Thakur, Isha Sharma, Amit Rana, Arun Sharma, Kangana Pradhan, Vishvjeet Singh, Anuradha, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Mahi Thakur, Radhika Khajuria, Suhani Bhasin, Vrinda Gujral, Kunal Singh Jamwal, Aryan Sharma, Vanshika Manhas, Manvi Devi, Kartik Kumar and Boomika Pandita.

Rattan Lal hits back at BJP's misinformation campaign, reaffirms NC's stand on Art 370

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Countering the baseless allegations and fabricated narrative spun by BJP leaders, Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has strongly criticized the BJP for running a politics based on falsehood and deceit.

Reacting to the recent statements made by BJP Chief Spokesperson, Rattan Lal Gupta said, "The BJP thrives on a fake and fabricated narrative, and this is yet another desperate attempt to divert attention from its colossal failures in J&K."

Taking a strong exception to the reference made to former RAW chief A.S. Dulat's recent book, Rattan Lal said the BJP is deliberately twisting facts to suit their agenda. "Mr. Dulat himself has publicly clarified and denied making any such statement that would imply Great leader endorsed the abrogation of Article 370. It is shameful that the BJP is now relying on half-baked interpretations of a book to malign a Great NC leader stature," he stated.



The Provincial President reiterated that the National Conference's stance has always been consistent and unambiguous. "Our motto has always been clear—restoration of Article 370 and the special rights of the people of J&K. No propaganda can dilute our resolve. The National Conference will continue to fight—democratically, constitutionally and resolutely—for the rights that were snatched from us on August 5, 2019."

Questioning the BJP's doublespeak, Rattan Lal Gupta further reiterated

the demand of the people for the restoration of Statehood as promised by Prime Minister of India on the floor of the house. Despite claiming normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir on multiple occasions, he asked BJP leadership about the reasons behind delaying statehood to J&K, terming it as a betrayal with the public.

He further added that the people of J&K are well aware of the BJP's duplicity. "On one hand, they claim a new era of development post abrogation, and on the other hand, they have failed to bring back statehood, or restore democratic rights to the people. Who is running a double-sided narrative now?"

The Provincial President affirmed that no misinformation campaign can erase the history of struggle and sacrifice made by the National Conference for the dignity, identity, and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Truth shall prevail, and NC will always stand with the people and will continue its fight in restoring the special rights of J&K people."

Be alert amid heavy rains, storm: Commissioner to JMC officers, officials

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18:

Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, has issued directives to all departmental officers and officials to remain on high alert in view of the heavy rains and storm forecast for Jammu.

Special instructions have been given to transport officers to ensure the prompt removal of fallen trees, poles, and other damaged infrastructure/debris from roads to prevent any untoward incidents. "There should be no loss of life or property during this period," the Commissioner emphasized.

The heightened alert applies specifically to Zones 1, 2, and 3, with the Corporation actively monitoring the situation and coordinating efforts to ensure public safety.

To support citizens during this time, JMC has provided two dedicated helpline numbers for emergency assistance:

94697 48042, 94193 72824

Residents are strongly advised to stay indoors during severe weather and to report any emergencies or infrastructure-related issues to the helpline numbers provided. The Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to the safety and well-being of its citizens and urges everyone to remain vigilant and cooperate with local authorities.

It is also pertinent to mention that separate JMC teams have surveyed affected areas, identifying fallen trees and damaged infrastructure. These teams are actively engaged in clearance and restoration work across roads and lanes in the city.

GGSCMT, Giddarbaha, hosts Dynamic Industry-Academia Meet

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GIDDERBAHA (PB), APRIL 18

In a visionary step towards reinforcing the synergy between education and enterprise, Guru Gobind Singh College of Management & Technology (GGSCMT), Giddarbaha, in association with its Institution Innovation Council (IIC) and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), successfully hosted a high-impact Industry-Academia Meet on the theme: "Bridging the Gap: How Industry-Academia Collaboration Drives Innovation and Practical Learning." The event brought together a diverse array of industry stalwarts, academicians, and thought leaders, who engaged in enriching dialogues aimed at enhancing student employability, practical knowledge, and research-oriented skill development. Campus Director highlighted the significance of such activities. The event was graced by Dr. Jaswinder Singh Sandhu, Principal of RPC Regional Polytechnic College, Behman Diwana, who served as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the pivotal role educational institutions must play in preparing industry-ready



professionals. He emphasized the integration of industrial exposure with academic learning to develop holistic and skilled graduates. A host of Guests of Honour and industry stakeholders further elevated the program with their insights and experiences. The event saw participation from the following dignitaries: Assistant Professor Sahil Sidana, Department of Management, Baba Farid Group of Institutions, Pallavi Chalana, Soul Saparsh, Malout, Tosh, Owner, Akarsh Surya PVC Pipes - Arihant Trader, Giddarbaha, Devraj Goyal, Distributor, Jindal Pipe Industry, Malout, Naresh Kumar, Owner, Satguru Cattle Feed Industry & Chhabra Trading Company, Giddarbaha, Ajay Thakur, Workshop Manager, Hera Autom-

obile, Giddarbaha, Skruti Malik, Ambuja Foundation, Bathinda, Raminder Singh and Pritpal Singh, Quantet Engineering, Bathinda, Jaswinder Kaur and Sunil Kumar, Midland Microfin Ltd., Jalandhar, Gurpreet Singh, Dean, Baba Farid College of Education, P.L. Allahabadi, LIC Advisor, Malout, Jagdeep Dhawan and Rajesh Kumar, Focus Time India Channel, Malout and Dr. Zavid Ahmad Khan, Owner, Snaptic Exis Pvt. Ltd. These esteemed professionals engaged with faculty and students through keynote sessions and interactive discussions, fostering a rich exchange of ideas on aligning academic curricula with industry expectations. In his keynote address, Dr. R.K. Uppal, Principal of GGSCMT and renowned educationist, empha-

sized the critical need for collaborative platforms to bridge the disconnect between classroom learning and industrial practices. He called for sustained dialogue between academia and industry to craft future-ready graduates who can thrive in dynamic professional environments. The seamless execution of the event was spearheaded by Prof. Neeru Bansal and Prof. Gurpreet Kaur Sidhu, faculty coordinators from the Department of Commerce & Management. Their leadership ensured the event remained well-structured, interactive, and impactful. The meet concluded with a vibrant networking session, fostering new relationships and ideas for joint initiatives. Participants expressed a shared commitment to future collaborative projects, internships, and training modules designed to equip students with real-world competencies and entrepreneurial mindsets. The event stands as a testament to GGSCMT's proactive approach in redefining academic excellence through industry collaboration, innovation, and student empowerment.

Cong era has ended in country; BJP leading India towards Viksit Bharat: Kavinder

JJ NEWS SERVICE
Jammu, April 18

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today asserted that the Congress era has come to an end in India, as the people have overwhelmingly rejected its outdated politics.

Addressing media persons after chairing a crucial meeting at the Party Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder said that the Congress party, which once held a central position in the nation's political landscape, is now reduced to a crumbling entity marked by internal discord, lack of vision, and diminishing public trust.

Kavinder criticized the recent statement made by the newly appointed AICC general secretary and in-charge of Jammu and



Kashmir, who accused the BJP of vendetta politics. He termed these allegations as desperate attempts by a party that has lost its political foothold to remain relevant. "It's both ironic and laughable that a party entangled in internal factionalism and leadership confusion is attempting to lecture others on democratic values," he remarked. He further emphasized that the Congress should introspect on its repeated electoral failures and acknowledge the growing disconnect it has with the people.

Kavinder highlighted

that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP-led government has ushered in an era of transparency, accountability, and fast-paced development. "Unlike the Congress, which thrived on dynastic politics and appeasement, the BJP is focused on empowering the common citizen and delivering good governance. Our commitment is towards nation-building and not settling political scores," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader also underscored the party's initiatives in strength-

ening grassroots democracy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that Panchayat and DDC elections were successfully held in the region, which had long been neglected by successive Congress regimes. "It was the BJP that brought the people of J&K into the mainstream democratic process and gave them a voice in governance," he stated.

Kavinder emphasized that the people of India have moved beyond the politics of entitlement and now aspire for progress, opportunity, and decisive leadership. "The BJP represents the new aspirations of India. The Congress era is over, and the future belongs to a stronger, self-reliant, and empowered nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi," he added.

Channi Himmat Brahmin Sabha demands gazetted instead of restricted holiday on Parshuram Jayanti



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

The Channi Himmat Brahmin Sabha today organized meeting under Chairmanship of Inder Dev Sharma in Channi Himmat today. The meeting unanimously passed resolution to demand Jammu and Kashmir government to declare a gazetted holiday for Parshuram Jayanti on April 29th 2025 instead of a restricted holiday claiming this move aims to benefit the Brahmin community and inspire younger generations to follow Bhagwan Parshuram's teachings.

Inder Dev Sharma speaking on the occasion Sabha requested Omar Govt declaring gazetted holiday to give due importance to Parshuram Jayanti, a significant festival for the Brahmin community. Currently, the Jammu and Kashmir government declares restricted holidays, allowing employees to observe

specific festivals. A gazetted holiday would bring the community together, promoting cultural and spiritual values. By observing Parshuram Jayanti as a gazetted holiday, younger generations may be encouraged to learn about and follow Bhagwan Parshuram's teachings, added Inder Dev Sharma.

Inder Dev Sharma expressed hope and confidence that Jammu and Kashmir government considers various requests for declaring holidays, taking into account cultural, religious, and social significance and declaring a gazetted holiday for Parshuram Jayanti on April 29th 2025 will be huge favour to Brahmin community in J&K.

He urged government to respond to the Channi Himmat Brahmin Sabha's appeal. Declaring Parshuram Jayanti as a gazetted holiday could foster community spirit and promote cultural heritage in Jammu and

Kashmir. The Brahmin community would be highly appreciative if their long-pending demand for declaring Parshuram Jayanti a gazetted holiday is fulfilled. This gesture would serve as a significant morale booster for the community, added Inder Dev Sharma.

Sharma further said that community would feel valued and recognized if their demand is met. Declaring Parshuram Jayanti a gazetted holiday would enhance community morale and pride. This move would underscore the importance of Bhagwan Parshuram's teachings and cultural heritage. By addressing this demand, the government can promote community harmony and cultural preservation, said Sharma.

Others Present in the meeting include Jagdish Dogra, yashpaul sharma Chamanlal sharma subash Shastri sunil sharma and ors.

Dr HK Bali to honour leading people from health in J&K and Ladakh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

World-renowned interventional cardiologist, Dr Harinder K. Bali, will be honouring the best of health care providers from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through Heart Foundation Awards 2025 for J&K, Ladakh.

In a press statement issued here today Dr Bali said that The Heart Foundation has been holding international conclaves on heart diseases and been honouring aces in field of health with Heart Foundation Awards for the past one decade.

He said that holding this event at Jammu is his bid to pay back to his motherland Jammu. Dr Bali studied MBBS from Jammu and then did his MD & DM from PGI Chandigarh.

Dr Bali stated that the Heart Foundation recog-

nizes outstanding performance in medicine, healthcare, education, and sports. He added that all citizens residing in the UTs of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are eligible for awards.

He added that the applicants can either apply themselves or be recommended by prominent personalities in their respective fields. Online applications will be accepted, and they should be submitted to heartfoundation23@gmail.com on or before the 20th of April 2025 by 12 pm.

Giving details about the award categories Dr Bali said that Lifetime Achievement Award will be accorded for Medicine and Healthcare, Outstanding Performance would be accorded to student of +2 Medical Stream, Outstanding Academic Performance Award will

be conferred to MBBS student for his/her performance, Outstanding Contribution in Medicine / Healthcare (National / International Impact will be given, Outstanding Contribution in the field of school education will be given. Besides this Best Postgraduate Award will be given to MD and MS, Best Emerging Sports person and Best contribution in the field of Social Service will be given.

Applications will be scrutinized by a high-level jury-cum-awards committee constituted exclusively for this purpose. He added that the jury-cum-awards committee has the mandate to consider any eligible person (even if they have not applied) with outstanding credentials.

The award ceremony is slated to be held on the 26th of April 2025 at Radisson Blu, Jammu

JKPCC condoles demise of Agha syed Mohammad Baqar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR APRIL 18, 2025

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday condoled the sad demise of eminent religious scholar Agha Syed Mohammad Baqar, terming his demise a great loss. J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra has expressed profound grief over the demise of Agha Syed Baqar Ali Al Aafvi Al Najafi and expressed heartfelt condolences to bereaved family and relatives of the Agha Saheb. Karra prayed for eternal peace to late. Agha Saheb and courage to bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

IYA, VKMI organize seminar on Preventing Morning Stroke & Heart Attack in Washrooms

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

The Indian Yoga Association, in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International, organized a thought-provoking seminar on "Preventing Morning Stroke and Heart Attack in Washrooms" at Sector-5, Trikutanagar.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Narinder Wadhwa, Finance Secretary of Senior Citizens Joy Society, presided over the seminar.

Mr. Rakesh Verma, MD of Cybertech India, welcomed the guests and

participants with warm hospitality.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Jain emphasized that a common cause of early morning strokes occurs when individuals rush to the washroom immediately after waking. He advised a simple, mindful routine to avoid such incidents:

"Stay in the lying position for 30 seconds after opening your eyes. Then, lie on your back and gradually shift to your right side. Sit up slowly and remain seated for another 30 seconds. Check which nostril is active and place that side's foot on the ground first, followed by the other. Stretch your body gently and perform mild twisting



exercises before heading to the washroom. Splash cold water on your eyes to stabilize blood circulation. With this routine, the risk of stroke is minimized."

Dr. Jain also shared valuable health tips promoting yoga, pranayama, and sipping lukewarm water mindfully for holistic wellness.

Mr. Narinder Wadhwa shared his insights on natural and organic farm-

ing, emphasizing the link between clean nutrition and health.

The seminar saw enthusiastic participation from distinguished dignitaries, including:

Mr. Saurabh Bhandari, Joint Director, National Informatics Centre
Mr. Ravinder Verma, AEE, Irrigation & Flood Control
Mr. Rajinder Kotwal, Former GM, SIDCO

J&K Junior Boys Handball team leaves for National C'ship



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

The Jammu and Kashmir Junior Boys Handball team departed today for the 47th Junior Boys National Handball Championship, set to take place in Ambedkar Nager Uttar Pradesh, from April 20 to

24. The team is excited to compete against the best from across the nation and represent J&K at this prestigious event. The players have been preparing rigorously for the championship and the Handball Association of J&K has extended its best wishes to the team for success.

The team's mentor and Faculty GATE coordinator of Architecture, Ar. Vinod Kumar, expressed pride in their achievement, expecting them to inspire their juniors. The students are highly motivated to improve their ranks and aim to secure the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) through good ranks and research work with academic excellence. The Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Head of the School of Architecture, Ar. Abhinay Gupta, and other faculty members congratulated the students on their success, wishing them continued excellence in their academic pursuits. This achievement reflects SMVDU's commitment to academic excellence and its students' potential to excel in their chosen fields.

TPS Aman discusses future strategy to intensify anti-drug campaign, strengthen grassroots engagement

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

A significant meeting of the Youth National Conference (YNC) was held today under the chairmanship of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of J&K YNC, to deliberate on the further course of action with respect to the ongoing anti-drug campaign and to enhance party activities at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of youth leaders and delegates from various districts, the pressing issue of drug abuse among youth was discussed in detail at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today.

The Provincial President YNC expressed grave concern over the rising menace of drugs in society and reiterated the need for collective, coordinated efforts to root out this evil. He emphasized that the Youth National Con-



ference has a pivotal role to play in creating awareness, supporting rehabilitation, and building pressure on the administration to tighten enforcement mechanisms against drug peddlers.

He said that the YNC would soon launch a comprehensive anti-drug awareness campaign across colleges, universities, and rural belts of Jammu and Kashmir. "The youth are the real agents of change, and it is our responsibility to protect future generations from this growing threat," he said. He urged the cadre to conduct seminars, rallies, and interactive sessions involving students, parents, and community elders to generate mass awareness.

The Provincial President YNC also focused on the vital role of youth cadre in strengthening party activities at the grassroots level. It was unanimously resolved to activate youth committees in every panchayat, ward, and block to connect with people directly, understand local issues, and project the National Conference's progressive vision.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman further directed the party cadre to prepare ground reports and feedback mechanisms to ensure the party's message and welfare initiatives are reaching the last person in line.

Nitish Goswami, Vishal Parihar Vice Presidents Jammu Province YNC, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC,

Anoop Gupta District President Kathua Urban YNC, Zamir Quershi and Hamid Ch. they reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to empower the youth of J&K, promote a politics of accountability, and uphold the values and legacy of the National Conference. They encouraged Youth to unite and secure strong representation in upcoming local bodies and Panchayat Polls, reinforcing the party's dedication to their upliftment.

The meeting concluded with a strong message of unity, discipline, and dedication towards building a vibrant and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present in the meeting included: Jaseem Malik, Yashir Ahsan, Mudit Seth, Muzmail Malik, Majid Iqbal Naik, Bilal Malik, Saqib Showket, Veraj Mahanori, Gursharan Singh, Tejpal Singh Gurdev Singh, Atal Singh, Ashraf, Amit Sharma, Saleem Jaffar, Rajat and others.

St. Peter's Catholic Church takes out Good Friday procession

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar organized Good Friday Procession on Friday celebrating the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross following the gracious tradition of the Catholic Church.

The procession began from Candle Church Chowk at Christian Colony, via Shaheedi Chowk, Residency Road and Vivekanand Chowk the sorrowful enactment and prayerful journey on knees reached St. Peter's Catholic Church through Jogi Gate Road.

The Annual commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ by the parish faithful depicted the suffering of Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem to Calvary hills.

A large number of the faithful participated in the procession dressed in a sorrowful manner,



recalling crowds of Jerusalem. As the procession reached the Church, there was a Good Friday service which was conducted by the priests of the community.

Good Friday holds a very important place in the devotions of Christians who make conscious efforts to follow the first Christian community of

Jerusalem to suffer with Jesus and offer pains and difficulties for the good of others like Jesus who offered his life on the Cross for the salvation of the entire mankind.

The procession was organized with the supportive help and collaboration of the Police, Traffic and Municipal forces. The onlookers too joined in the

suffering of Jesus by their empathetic participation. The Catholic Church of Premnagar thanked all the people who helped for the smooth-functioning of the event and participated in the same with faith and devotion. May Jesus' life-giving values help our society and city to grow into a peaceful and harmonious always.

Teachings of Indian saints have impact on our lives: Onkar Seth

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 18

Onkar Seth, former Chairman of Citizen's Cooperative Bank, Jammu, emphasized the profound influence of Indian saints on society, stating that their teachings continue to guide us toward peace, unity, and progress. He highlighted how the spiritual and social messages of great saints have left a deep mark on individual lives and the collective consciousness of the nation.

Onkar Seth, who has also served as a Member of the State Commission for Backward Classes, expressed deep admiration for Guru Ravidass, describing him as a visionary whose teachings continue to hold immense relevance today. He praised Guru Ravidass for advocating values of equality, dignity, love, and compassion—principles that transcend barriers of caste, religion, and geography. According to Seth, Guru Ravidass' message fosters social harmony and unity.

Onkar Seth made these remarks on receiving a portrait of Guru Ravidass from Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch



General Secretary of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and Member of Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha.

Balbir Ram Rattan lauded Guru Ravidass not only as a revered spiritual figure but also as a powerful social reformer. He noted that the portrait presentation was a symbolic gesture of respect for the Guru's enduring legacy, which continues to inspire movements for justice and

the upliftment of marginalized communities. Rattan emphasized the need to carry forward Guru Ravidass' teachings by promoting inclusivity, compassion, and social justice.

Both Seth and Rattan agreed that the messages of saints like Guru Ravidass are more relevant than ever. They called for a collective effort to spread these teachings and work towards a more equitable society.

Combined Annual Training Camp by 1 Girls Bn NCC Srinagar commences at Nagrota

J I NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA: 18 APR 2025

The Annual Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC), organized by the 1 J&K Girls Battalion NCC Srinagar has commenced under the aegis of Col SP Tiwari, as the Camp Commandant from April 17 till April 26, 2025, at the NCC Training Academy (NTA), Nagrota. Approximately 450 girl cadets from various regions of Jammu & Kashmir are participating in this camp. The camp provides cadets with a valuable opportunity to train and live together, promoting the core NCC values of discipline, teamwork, camaraderie, and community service. The aim of this camp is to select Sringar group team for Thal Sainik competition, shooting competition as well as selection of best cadet for Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2026 and cultural team for SNIC Srinagar 2025.

A comprehensive range of activities is scheduled during the camp, including:

- Drill practice



- Rifle firing
- Physical Training sessions
- Obstacle training
- Social service initiatives
- Guest lectures on key topics such as Artificial Intelligence & Cyber Security
- Practical demonstrations on Firefighting and Disas-

ter Management

An Educational excursion has also been planned. On the first day, cadets arrived at the NTA Nagrota and were warmly welcomed by a reception ceremony. On April 18, after the official opening address was delivered by the Camp Commandant in which the cadets were briefed on the training

schedule, administrative protocols, and expectations from the camp.

The cadets have shown immense enthusiasm and are actively participating in all activities. The organizing unit is dedicated to making the camp an enriching experience, aimed at shaping well-rounded individuals and future leaders.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture by Gallantry Awardees at Lam, Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 18 APR 2025

Indian Army organised a Motivational lecture by Hony Capt Ajeet Singh, SM at Government High School, Lam. This initiative aimed to inspire and empower the youth and locals by showcasing real-life examples of courage, resilience and leadership qualities. He shared first-hand experiences of sacrifices and the spirit of valour that Indian Army exhibited during war and operations, which motivated and reminded the youth and locals of the accounts of dedication and courage. Hony Capt



Ajeet Singh, SM encouraged all locals to hoist the national flag in every house symbolizing unity and patriotism. A sense of patriotism was felt in the environment while the lecture was being delivered by the Veteran. Such lectures by the War Heroes have a positive impact on the younger generation and motivates them to join

Indian Army and become responsible citizens of our country. The program was very well received, appreciated and attended by 27 Students and 03 teachers of Government High School, Lam. The event fostered a sense of unity and patriotism, with all sections of society committed to supporting security forces.

Sports are crucial in building a progressive, disciplined, drug-free society: Tony

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

The spirit of sportsmanship and youth empowerment took center stage at the M.A.M. Stadium in Jammu as the 17th Junior National Super Seven Cricket Championship was commenced with great enthusiasm.

On the occasion, Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, was the Chief Guest, who declared the Championship open in presence of Charanjit Singh Raina, Convenor, Jasmeet Singh, State Coordinator, S Jatinder Singh, Surinder Singh, Varyam Singh, Upendra Singh and Ajay Sharma.

The championship is being organized by Rihima Sports Club India in collaboration with Super



Seven Cricket Federation of India which budding cricketers across the country took part, showcasing exceptional talent and team spirit.

Today match was played between Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Besides, budding cricketers from J&K, NCR, Punjab, Puducherry,

Delhi, U.P, Ladakh, Haryana, Madhaya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Maharashtra are also participating.

In his address, Tony emphasized the pivotal role of sports in shaping disciplined, healthy, and future-ready citizens. He commended the organizers for providing a nation-

al-level platform to young cricketers and promoting a culture of competitive sports in the region.

"Sports not only build physical stamina but also instill values like teamwork, leadership, and resilience," he remarked, adding that such championships are vital in identifying and nurturing grassroots talent.

Lauding the efforts of Rihima Sports Club India, Tony urged government bodies and private organizations to support such initiatives that engage youth constructively and keep them away from negative influences.

Tony interacted with the players, encouraged them to pursue their dreams with dedication, and assured them of his continued support for sporting events in Jammu & Kashmir.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture for Local Youth at Mandir Gala, Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 18 APR 2025

In a continued effort to foster a spirit of national integration and upliftment among the youth, the Indian Army organized a motivational lecture at Mandir Gala under the aegis of Operation Sadbhavana. The event witnessed the participation of 20 enthusiastic individuals from the local area. The lecture covered a range of inspiring and informative topics aimed at empowering the local youth. Key areas of discussion included the benefits of joining the Indian Army, guidance on applying for government jobs, excelling in sports, and leading a disciplined, productive and meaningful life. The session was well-received and generated a positive response from attendees who showed great interest and engagement. The aim of the lecture was not only to provide career guidance but also to instil a sense of purpose, national pride, and community responsibility among the youth. The speakers emphasized the importance of self-discipline, perseverance, and making constructive contributions to society. This initiative forms a part of the Indian Army's broader mission under Op Sadbhavana, focused on winning hearts and minds of the local population and facilitating inclusive development in remote and border areas. Through such engagements, the Indian Army continues to bridge the gap between the Armed Forces and the local populace, especially the younger generation.

Inter-School Chess, Carrom & Yoga competitions continue across Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 18

Department of Youth Services and Sports, Baramulla, is continuously organizing inter-school chess and carrom competitions across various educational zones of the district.

As part of the series, Zone Baramulla today kick-started the Inter-School Chess Competition for Under-14 boys at Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla. A total of 50 students from different schools of the zone took part in the event. The winners were awarded with certificates in recognition of their talent and performance.

Similarly, Zone Fatehgarh conducted an Inter-School Chess Competition for Under-14 boys, witness-



ing the participation of 60 students from various schools. The event aimed to promote strategic thinking and concentration among young learners.

Zone Dangiwaacha successfully held Inter-School Chess Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls. A total of 12 girls in the Under-14 category and 7 girls in the Under-17 category showcased their skills on the chessboard.

Zone Chandoosa also

organized Inter-School Chess Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls. Around 45 students participated in the competitions, highlighting the enthusiasm of students for indoor mind sports.

On the second day of competitions, Zone Singpora Kalan hosted Chess Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at High School Singpora Kalan, providing a platform for young girls to explore and

sharpen their intellectual abilities. Zone Uri marked its second day with the successful organization of Inter-School Chess and Carrom Competitions for Under-14 girls at Boys Higher Secondary School Uri. The event witnessed active participation and encouraged sportsmanship among the young girls of the region.

Meanwhile, Zone Wagoor successfully concluded its Inter-School Chess Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls at High School Watergam. Winners were felicitated with certificates as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

Zone Sopore also joined in by organizing Inter-School Yoga Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls on its second day. The

event was held at Subhana Stadium Sopore with the participation of 60 girls. Medals were awarded to the top three position holders in each category, acknowledging their excellence and discipline in the art of yoga.

Furthermore, Zone Tangmarg continues to promote student engagement through various intramural sports activities conducted in different schools of the zone.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing competitions, DYSSO Baramulla emphasized the importance of such activities in the overall personality development of students and reaffirmed the department's commitment to providing opportunities for every student to participate and excel in sports.

Education Department launches plantation drive for Academic Session 2025-26

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 18

In a commendable move to promote environmental awareness and ecological responsibility among students, the Education Department has launched a plantation drive as part of the new academic session 2025-26. As part of the initiative, more than 150 saplings were planted by the students, staff, and School Management Committee (SMC) members of MS Dhant, Zone Kanuyian.

The drive was held under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", aiming to connect students with nature while honoring the emotional and environmental value of trees.

Chief Education Officer Iftikhar Ali Shah Kazmi said



that the plantation drive is not just about planting trees; it is about planting hope and awareness. "We aim to educate our students and the wider community about the vital role the trees play in maintaining ecological balance. Initiatives like these instill a sense of responsibility and connection to nature in young minds."

District Nodal Officer of the campaign, Darshan Kumar stated "It was heartening to see enthusiastic

participation from students, teachers, and SMC members, all coming together to plant trees under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. This activity strengthens the bond between humanity and nature, while also creating lasting memories rooted in environmental consciousness."

The Education Department plans to continue similar activities throughout the year to reinforce the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

DC inaugurates Medical Screening Camp at Dak Banglow Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 18

The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Ankur Maitrika Multi-specialty Hospital Jammu, today organized a two day free medical camp here at Dak Banglow, aimed at providing specialised treatment to local patients.

The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, alongside ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Mohd Sayeed and CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan.

A significant turnout of residents participated in the camp, benefiting from free medicines, health check-ups, tests, and screenings.

A team of doctors and specialists from Maitrika Hospital comprising Dr. Ajay Walkhloo (Gynecolo-



gist), Dr. Deepak Pathania (Nephrologist), Dr. Satveer Singh (Orthopedic), Dr. Mehrooz Mirza (Cardiologist), Dr. Anchal Kotwool (Urologist), Dr. Shurya (Pediatrician) and Dr. Varon Pal Singh (Physician) attended the patients.

In his address, the DC emphasized the district administration's commitment to provide best medical practitioners for consultation and treat-

ment of people, particularly for those unable to reach tertiary care and super-specialty hospitals. He highlighted the importance of making government health schemes accessible to the most remote communities.

The free medical camp was part of ongoing efforts by the District Administration to enhance healthcare accessibility in Poonch and improve the well-being of its residents.

DC Kathua reviews summer preparedness

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, APRIL 18

In light of the intensifying heat wave conditions, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a crucial meeting to assess the preparation of departments to meet the challenges of summer season, with a focus on provisions made for adequate water and power supply in the district.

At the outset, the DC underlined the need for meticulous planning and coordinated execution to effectively meet the enhanced demand of water and electricity during the summer season. He emphasized the importance of proactive measures to minimize public inconvenience amid soaring temperatures.

A detailed sub-division-wise review of water and power supply was conduct-



ed, with special attention given to areas identified as vulnerable due to prevailing weather patterns. Officials were directed to flag and prioritize critical areas for immediate intervention.

The meeting was informed that water levels in the Ranjit Sagar Dam Lake are comparatively low this season, which could affect the drinking

The DC was also briefed about the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with over 10 schemes set to be commissioned by the end of this month, bringing much-needed relief to water-stressed regions.

In a citizen-centric move, Dr. Minhas announced the establishment of a 24x7 Combined Control Room/ Helpline. The facility will serve as a unified platform for residents to register complaints related to water and electricity supply, as well as report forest fire incidents.

Besides, the DC directed the Executive Engineer Ground Water to prioritize the repair of non-functional hand pumps to augment local water accessibility. The DFOs of all forest Ranges were directed to remain vigilant and proactive in responding to forest fire incidents. To support

the watering of plantations under Social Forestry, the XEN PHE was instructed to ensure timely water supply through tankers and Trolleys.

Executive Engineer PDD was also directed to ensure round the clock availability of technical assistance in view of snag in power supply especially dedicated feeder set up for PHE Water Supply.

Dr. Minhas called upon all departments to maintain close coordination and work collectively to address public concerns swiftly and efficiently, ensuring minimal disruption to daily life during the summer season.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Surinder Mohan, ADC Vishawjeet Singh, CPO Ranjit Thakur, Executive Engineers of PHE, PDD, DFOs and officials from other concerned departments.

Training/ orientation programme for Yuva DOOTs held at Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 18

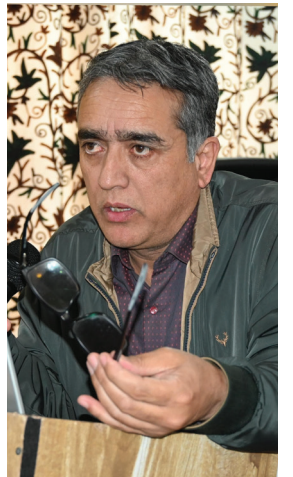
For the training cum capacity building of Yuva DOOTs under Mission YUVA, a day-long training-cum-orientation program was held today for Yuva DOOTs in Conference Hall, Mini-secretariat Kulgam.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, M Altaf Khan presided over the event as chief guest and highlighted the significance of empowering youth at the grassroots level to drive entrepreneurship and self-employment.

The training aimed to equip Yuva DOOTs with the necessary skills and knowledge to connect with and support potential entrepreneurs in their respective panchayats.

They were trained extensively on their roles as grassroots motivators, responsible for spreading awareness about various self-employment schemes and facilitating youth engagement at the village/ward level.

The training session emphasized the importance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for mon-



itoring the effectiveness of the initiative, ensuring that the Yuva DOOTs remain result-oriented in their approach.

At the outset, detailed insights from the Baseline survey, conducted earlier to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential were presented by CCO, DE&CC Kulgam enabling the Yuva DOOTs to understand the scope and focus areas of their intervention. The training covered all relevant parameters including mobilization techniques, scheme benefits, documentation and reporting formats.

Kulgam encouraged the Yuva DOOTs to act as catalysts of change

and assured them of full administrative support in overcoming challenges, if any in the field. He underlined the importance of youth-led development and community participation in building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district.

The interactive sessions held during the training fostered active discussions and allowed the DOOTs to seek clarifications and share suggestions. With a clear action plan and thorough orientation, the YUVA DOOTs are now well-prepared to begin outreach activities in their designated areas and play a pivotal role in nurturing entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA.

Resource persons including DDM NABARD, Nodal Officer JKEDI, LDM Kulgam and Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC Kulgam provided detailed information/sector-specific guidance through Power Point Presentations & live demonstration of the Mission YUVA APP/ Portal.

BHD chairperson's, ACP Kulgam and SDM Noorabad also interacted with Yuva DOOTs and shared their valuable expertise.

Dogra Art Museum celebrates World Heritage Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 18

Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir celebrated World Heritage Day 2025 at Dogra Art Museum, Mubarak Mandi.

From the Year 1983, as declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 18th April has been celebrated as World Heritage Day across the world.

The heritage day is observed to celebrate the diversity of our cultural heritage and the efforts required for the preservation of our tangible and intangible heritage. The theme of this year was "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts".

Dogra Art Museum has organized a special exhibition of Miniature Paintings of Jammu School for the event. A powerpoint presentation on various monuments of Jammu division was also shown to the visitors and students as a special attraction to the event.

The event started with the lighting of the Traditional Lamp by Member



Legislative Assembly Jammu East Yudhveer Sethi and Curator Dogra Art Museum Jammu Mukul Magotra.

While appreciating the efforts of the Department for organizing the event, the MLA applauded the role of Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and his team for the success of the event.

The Department has also organized special events at various historical places viz. Samba Fort, Hari Parbat Fort, S.P.S. Museum, Srinagar, etc.

The schools and colleges of Jammu have been invited to come to the

Museum for familiarization and awareness about Dogra Art and Culture. A number of schools visited the Museum where they have shown keen interest in craft, objects and artefacts which are on display inside the Museum.

The school children were taken for a guided tour of various galleries of the Museum where they were made aware of history and significance of various art objects by well-trained guides. The event was curated by Curator, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu Mukul Magotra under the supervision of Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums K.K. Sidha.

MLA reviews progress of REW Department works



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 18

A significant review meeting was held at Dak Bungalow, Udhampur, under the chairmanship of Member Legislative Assembly Pawan Kumar Gupta.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of ongoing development works and to strategize future projects under the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) in the region.

Executive Engineer (Xen) REW, Block Development Officers of Udhampur and Panchari, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) REW, Junior Engineers (JE), and the Technical Assistant (TA) attended the meeting. The officials presented detailed reports

on various developmental activities in their respective areas.

MLA Gupta emphasized the importance of transparency, quality, and timely execution of all development works. He directed officials to ensure that government schemes and developmental benefits reach every household, particularly in remote and rural areas.

Special focus was given to improving road connectivity, water supply, public amenities, and ensuring the early completion of pending projects. The MLA reiterated his commitment to inclusive and accountable governance aimed at improving the quality of life for every citizen of the constituency.