

**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
- Diarrhoea
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

**JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS**



**BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU**  
Mob. 9419104223

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 96 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## Three dead, property damaged, NH blocked in cloudburst, landslide hit Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Three people have died in the cloudburst, while loss of property for some families due to hailstorm and flash floods, and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway is shut after a landslide triggered due to heavy rains in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here on Sunday said that the National Highway was blocked for vehicular traffic at Panthyal, Seri, and other areas of Ramban district, following heavy rainfall that triggered landslides, flash floods at several places in Ramban District.

"Moreover, three persons are killed as a cloudburst wreaks havoc in the remote Dharamkund area of the district," they said. "Because of constant landslides amid heavy rains, a complete rescue operation cannot be launched by the Quick Response Teams (QRT) and Police," they said.

"Entire districts have been affected due to the flash flood, and there are also reports of damage to private and public properties, and vehicles have been struck in the blocked roads in the town due to the flash flood," said an official.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is a Member of Parliament from Kathua-Udhampur, posted on X, "There was a heavy hail-



storm, multiple landslides, and fast winds throughout the night in the Ramban region, including the areas surrounding the Ramban town."

"The National Highway stands blocked, and unfortunately, there have been 3 casualties and loss of property for a couple of families. I am in constant touch with Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary," Dr Singh posted.

In a post, he said that the district administration deserves appreciation for timely and prompt action, which helped save several precious lives.

"Every kind of relief, both financial and otherwise, is being provided. The DC has been informed that, if need be, whatever more is required can be provided from the MP's personal resources as well. The request is not to panic. We shall all,

together, overcome this natural calamity," Dr Singh posted.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives in Ramban. "Deeply anguished by the tragic loss of precious lives due to the flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," he said, adding that the district administration, SDRF, rescue teams are on the job to ensure swift rescue and relief, and that all possible assistance is being extended to the affected families.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in a post on 'X' said that he is extremely anguished by the tragic landslide and flash flood in Ramban. "My thoughts are with the affected families in this difficult hour. We are in touch with the local administration to ensure

immediate rescue efforts wherever needed," he said, adding, "Later today, I will be reviewing restoration, relief, and repair plans. For now, the focus remains on managing the situation on the ground. Citizens are advised to follow travel advisories and avoid non-essential movement in vulnerable areas."

SSP Traffic National Highway (Ramban), Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie, that some light motor vehicles were damaged after these were hit by landslides, but all the stranded passengers have escaped unharmed. He said that the highway is blocked at five locations including Panthyal, Seri and Kishtwari Pathar due to landslides and shooting stones and once the rains stop, the restoration work will be taken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s BEACON project.

## CM Abdullah, LG Sinha grieve rain-related deaths in Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of three lives due to flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban district while Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary was rushing to the affected areas to take stock of the situation.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said his party's government would request the Centre for financial assistance to provide adequate relief to the families affected.

Three people were killed and more than 100 rescued after heavy rain triggered flash floods at different places in Ramban district early on Sunday, officials said.

The incessant rain also triggered landslides and mudslides at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, prompting traffic to be suspended, they said.

Sinha said in his message, "Deeply anguished by the tragic loss of precious lives due to the

flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief." He said the district administration, State Disaster Response Force and rescue teams were on the job to ensure swift relief.

"All possible assistance is being extended to the affected families," Sinha said.

In a post shared by the Chief Minister's Office on X, Abdullah said he was extremely anguished by the tragic landslides and flash floods in Ramban that caused considerable damage to life and property.

"My thoughts are with the affected families in this difficult hour. We are in touch with the local administration to ensure immediate rescue efforts wherever needed. Later today, I will be reviewing restoration, relief, and repair plans," he said.

"For now, the focus remains on managing the situation on the ground. Citizens are advised to follow travel advisories and avoid non-essential movement in vulnerable areas," the chief minister added. Abdullah's deputy Choudhary said

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## School teacher held for demanding sexual favours from student in Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

A school teacher was apprehended for allegedly alluring and demanding sexual favours from a minor student by threatening to fail her in the internal examination in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Sunday.

The action against the teacher, posted at the Government Higher Secondary School Bharderwah, was taken following registration of a complaint on April 16, a police spokesman said.

He said the complainant alleged that the accused sent messages to the student, seeking sexual favours for facilitating her admission in the medical stream in

a Punjab college and claiming that he had already done so with some other girls as well.

He allegedly threatened the student not to disclose it to anyone, otherwise she would never pass the internal examination, the spokesman said.

A case under sections 74 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) 75 (sexual harassment) and 78 (stalking) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and relevant sections of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered against the accused at the Bharderwah police station and he was taken into custody for further investigation, the spokesman said.

## Security forces continue joint search operation in Poonch for sixth consecutive day to trace terrorists

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, APR 20

The Romeo Force of the Indian Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) continued their joint operation on Sunday for the sixth consecutive day in the forest area of Lasana in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch to trace terrorists believed to be hiding in the region.

The search operations started back on Tuesday following an exchange of fire between the security

forces and terrorists on Monday night. Security forces have cordoned off the area and are conducting extensive search operations in dense forest zones. Additional troops were also called in to assist the search operations.

According to officials, terrorists opened fire on the Romeo Force personnel, in which one of the security personnel got injured near the Lasana village located on the National Highway connecting Poonch to Jammu.

## Search operation underway in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Security forces on Sunday launched a search operation after getting information about movement of three suspected persons near a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

A priest noticed three persons with backpacks moving towards the forest area of Rasana around 3.30 am and alerted the police, the officials said.

They said a special operations group of local police along with army and CRPF troops immediately cordoned off the area and launched a massive search operation to track down the suspected persons.

However, there was no trace of the suspected persons so far, the officials said, adding the search operation was continuing deep inside the forest area when last reports were received.

## Omar lambasts Delhi airport for flight diversion; airport regrets inconvenience

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 20

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has lambasted Delhi airport as his flight was delayed and diverted to Jaipur before landing in the national capital early morning on Sunday.

Delhi airport operator DIAL regretted the inconvenience caused to him and said there are temporary capacity constraints due to runway upgradation and easterly winds.

"Delhi airport is a bloody shit show (excuse



my French but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no

idea what time we will leave from here," Abdullah said in a post on X at 0108 hours on Sunday.

He also shared a selfie from the Jaipur airport standing on the steps of the IndiGo aircraft.

In another post at 0340 hours, Abdullah said that in case anyone is wondering, he got to Delhi just after 0300 hours.

Replying to the chief minister, DIAL said it has issued several advisories regarding the unseasonal changing wind patterns in Delhi.

"Runway 10/28 has been closed for ILS upgradation since 8th April, following consultation with all stakeholders and based on historical wind patterns," it said in a post at 1110 hours.

Additionally, DIAL **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Soldier dies in Siachen glacier

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
LEH, APR 20

A soldier made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Siachen Glacier—the world's highest battlefield, the Army said on Sunday.

They said Naib Subedar Baldev Singh, made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Siachen glacier.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps paid

tribute to Naib Subedar Singh

"GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute Naib Subedar Baldev Singh, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in #Siachen Glacier on 20 Apr 2025 and offer deep condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," Fire and Fury Corps said in a post on X.

The Army, however, did not reveal the exact circumstances leading to the death of the soldier.

## Dr Jitendra interacts with IAS 2023 batch trainees, hails 41% women representation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APR 20

In a thought-provoking and motivating interaction with the Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2023 IAS batch, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space hailed the largest women representation in the history of Indian Administrative Services, with 74 women officers, constituting 41 percent of the current batch of 180

officers. The interaction was part of the ongoing Assistant Secretary programme, wherein the IAS Officer Trainees are attached to 46 Central Ministries for a period of 8 weeks from April 1 to May 30, 2025, giving them early exposure to policy formulation and the workings of the Central Government.

Dr. Jitendra Singh attributed this landmark development to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, under whose tenure women-led initiatives have gained unprecedented



momentum. "The Prime Minister has always been a champion of women empowerment. This

record representation is a testament to his unwavering support for inclusive and progressive govern-

ance," the Minister said. The Minister reflected on the inception of the Assistant Secretary Programme

in 2015, calling it Prime Minister Modi's brainchild to give young officers real-time governance exposure

at the beginning of their careers. "The programme has brought a resurgence of confidence among officers. During the pandemic, many of these officers performed remarkably when called upon for district-level crisis management," Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

As the initiative marks its 10th anniversary, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted its outstanding impact on nurturing capable and confident civil servants. He also celebrated the democratisation of Civil Services, with increasing representation from states like Punjab, Haryana, and

the North-East, regions that earlier saw fewer selections.

The Minister took pride in the academic and professional diversity of the batch, mentioning that 99 officers hail from engineering backgrounds, along with many from medicine and other technical fields. "For years, I wondered why technocrats joined the civil services. But now, I realize the technical nature of flagship Government programmes—from Digital India to Smart Cities—makes their presence a national asset," he said.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

# Natrang stages hilarious satirical play 'Commission'

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Natrang presented a hilarious play 'Commission' written by Saadat Hasan Manto and directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series, 'Sunday Theatre'. This play showcases the magic of satire, that how a modern emperor, living in the era of social media deals with his people, and how an emperor can easily escape from his responsibilities by forming commissions after commissions.

The play opens in the modern court room of a modern emperor along with his two head butlers. The emperor is a satirical being who brags how he has developed a friendly relationship between the goats and lions in his king-



dom to erase their hostilities. The play showcases, the emperor doesn't share a good relationship with his empress and is going through a bad phase in his love life. The plot twist comes when a 'Fariyadi' comes to seek justice for his workers who have been killed by the sevikas of the empress, who were prac-

ting archery in an open place. The emperor promotes his head butlers to ministers and asks them to go through the matter and come up with a proper report. After a two month long process, the newly appointed ministers comes up with a gigantic report of one lakh words and presents the whole story before

the emperor. The emperor on listening about this massacre satirically boasts that he is a better emperor than Jahangir and his philosophies doesn't make sense in modern era and asks his ministers to behead all the girls who were involved in the massacre, but before the culprits are executed, a commission needs to be formed to deliver justice. The play is full of humour and satire, and the characters are a caricature of mughal era.

Natrang's young actors who performed in the play included Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Manvi Devi, Adaksh Bagal and Krishay Bhatia. Lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant and presented by Meenakshi Bhagat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Metabolic Syndrome: The Silent Catalyst of Cardiovascular Catastrophes- Dr Sushil

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 20 APRIL



With pandemic of metabolic syndrome looming over urban as well as rural population Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Shri Dogra Brahman Pratiniidhi Sabha Parade Jammu with main motto of educating people about the ill consequences of metabolic syndrome and remedies there off so as to adopt a cardiac friendly lifestyle.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that Metabolic syndrome is a growing global health concern characterized by a cluster of metabolic abnormalities that significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), type 2 diabetes mellitus, and overall mortality. This condition is not a single disease but a group of interconnected factors, including abdominal obesity, insulin resistance, elevated fasting glucose levels, high blood pressure, elevated triglycerides, and reduced levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. When a person exhibits at least three of these five abnormalities, they are diagnosed with metabolic syndrome. This condition is often driven by sedentary lifestyles, high-calorie diets rich in refined sugars and saturated fats, and genetic predispositions, and it is particularly prevalent in individuals who are overweight or obese,

especially with central (visceral) fat accumulation.

He elaborated that Dyslipidemia, a major component, involves elevated triglycerides and low HDL levels, both of which contribute to the accumulation of fatty deposits in arterial walls. These lipid imbalances promote inflammation and oxidative stress within the vascular system, further accelerating plaque development. Hypertension adds another layer of risk by increasing the mechanical stress on arterial walls, which not only contributes to vascular injury but also forces the heart to work harder, potentially leading to left ventricular hypertrophy and heart failure. Epidemiological data show that the prevalence of metabolic syndrome is increasing globally, affecting nearly a quarter of the adult population, with even higher rates observed in certain countries and demographic groups, particularly among those with sedentary lifestyles, poor diets, and genetic risk factors. Men tend to be more affected than premenopausal women, though the risk in women increases substantially after meno-

pause due to hormonal changes that favor fat accumulation and metabolic imbalance.

He added that The link between metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular diseases is well-established, with studies indicating that individuals with metabolic syndrome are at least twice as likely to develop heart disease and up to five times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes compared to those without the syndrome. Moreover, metabolic syndrome increases the risk of coronary artery disease, stroke, myocardial infarction, and heart failure. It is also associated with worse outcomes in individuals who already have cardiovascular conditions, making it a powerful and independent predictor of mortality and morbidity. Preventing and managing metabolic syndrome requires a comprehensive and multifactorial approach, He Said .

In his concluding remarks Dr Sushil said that metabolic syndrome is not just a matter of personal health, but a critical step in reducing the global impact of cardiovascular disease. By taking proactive measures today, individuals

and societies can prevent countless lives from being claimed by this silent and deadly syndrome.

Management Committee of the Sabha Shri Ved Prakash Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Chandan Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, Prem Sharma, Krishan Sharma, Vijay Sharma, M.L.Padha, Barita Ram Sharma, Raman Sharma, Ritz Khajuria and Nanak Chand Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for accepting their request and conducting cardiac awareness cum health Check up camp in their premises and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Rakesh Sharma ( Orthopaedics ), Dr Yashwant Sharma, Dr Dhaneshwer Kapoor and Dr Vikas Chandan. Paramedics and volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Rajkumar , Amnish Datta , Mahkan Sharma , Nitish Mahajan , Sunny Singh , Arun Singh , Rahul Vaid, Rohit Nayyar , Maninder Singh , Gourav Sharma , Shubham Sharma, Supriya Chadda, Deepika Sambyal, Mohd Nadeem and Vikas Kumar .

# Congress honours Veteran leader Ex Minister Sdr Gurmukh Singh for long services in public life

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Veteran Congress leader, former minister & former Deputy Chairman J&K Legislative Council, Sdr Gurmukh Singh was felicitated & honoured in a party function in Jammu, for his long, uninterupted & selfless services to the party & people for around sixty years .

The AICC General Sec-



retary I/C J&K Affairs Dr Sayed Naseer Hussain alongwith JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra & AICC General Secretary

G A Mir felicitated him in a party function in Jammu, last evening as part of the programme of JKPC " Back to the roots" taken up by the party in J&K, to remember & respect the Veterans of party under the aegis " Bazurgon ka Samman" karyakram.

Sdr Gurmukh Singh who is over 90 years, is

still active in the party & public life and Chairman of JKPC Senior Citizen Congress of the party. An advocate by profession , Singh become active in politics in fifties and worked under the progressive guidance of former Prime minister and then Chief Minister GM Sadiq. He became member of upper house in early sixties , then minister of state and served as Dy Chairman Leg council .

# Rajeev Charak expresses deep condolences for lives lost in Ramban cloudburst and landslides

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajeev Charak has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of three lives and widespread destruction caused by a cloudburst and subsequent landslides in Ramban district. The disaster, which struck Seri Bagna village, has also severely impacted homes, livestock, and infrastructure, while blocking the critical Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44). In a heartfelt statement, Rajeev Charak said, "I am deeply saddened by the devastating cloudburst and landslides in Ramban that have claimed precious lives and caused immense suffering. My thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones



and those affected by this calamity. The BJP stands in solidarity with the people of Ramban during this challenging time."

Charak commended the swift response of the local administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and community volunteers in evacuating over 100 villagers and providing immediate relief. He urged for expedited rehabilitation efforts, stating,

"The affected families need comprehensive support to rebuild their lives. I appeal to the administration to ensure timely compensation and long-term rehabilitation for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods."

Addressing the highway closure, Charak emphasized the urgency of restoring connectivity, saying, "The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the lifeline of the region. I urge the National Highways Authority of India

(NHAI) and concerned agencies to prioritize clearance operations to restore access and ensure the smooth flow of essential supplies."

Charak also called for a geological assessment to identify the causes of recurring landslides in the region, adding, "We must take proactive measures to prevent such tragedies in the future. Expert intervention from the Geology department is critical to safeguard vulnerable areas."

The BJP leader extended his gratitude to the district administration and rescue teams for their tireless efforts and assured that the party remains committed to supporting the affected communities. "We will work closely with the government to ensure all necessary aid reaches those in need," he affirmed.

# Shiv Sena Hindustan holds meeting in Arnia to demand relief for cloudburst victims

J I NEWS SERVICE  
ARNIA, APR 20

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Unit under Chairmanship of President Rajesh Kesri Sunday organized a meeting in Arnia Block to discuss the recent cloudburst in Ramban that resulted in loss of life and property. The party's workers and leaders demanded that the government provide immediate relief to the victims and their families. The meeting was attended by prominent leaders and workers of Shiv Sena Hindustan, including Balvir Kumar, State Vice President, Satpal, Dhiraj Kumar, Guru Dayal, Ravi Kumar,



Amit Kumar, Darshani Devi, Vijay Kumari, Neeru Devi. Kesri demanded that the government provide fair and prompt compensation to the families of those who lost their lives and to those who were

injured in the disaster. He also demanded that the government provide a job to one member of each family that has lost a loved one, considering the financial difficulties faced by these families. Kesri said

cloudburst in Ramban has caused significant damage to life and property, leaving many families struggling to cope with the aftermath. Shiv Sena Hindustan's demand for relief and support aims to alleviate the suffering of these families, said Kesri.

Kesri urged the government to take immediate action to provide relief and support to the victims of the cloudburst in Ramban. The party believes that prompt compensation and government jobs for affected families will help alleviate their suffering and provide them with a sense of security, added Kesri.

# Inclement Weather/Incessant Rains; Police provides helping hand to the needy in Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, APRIL 20

In view of the ongoing inclement weather and incessant rainfall across various parts of valley, the J&K Police have come forward to provide timely assistance to the needy people in Kulgam.

During the intervening night of 19/20-04-2025, Police Post Jawahar Tunnel received the distress call for assistance from the residents of



Gulabagh stating therein that due to clogging of water flowing in a stream there, the flood water has entered into the residential houses. Promptly, a

Police team of Police post Jawahar Tunnel under the supervision of SSP Kulgam was constituted who swiftly reached the spot. With strenuous efforts and by

using all available means, the water was diverted in the main stream which not only retarded flood water from entering into the said village but safe guarded the property and lives of the said area.

General public especially the residents of the said village thanked the Police for prompt response and assistance at a crucial juncture. Police reiterates its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents.

# We all stand together to help the flood affected people: Devraj Thakur

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20, 2025

Devraj Thakur, National Joint Secretary of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shikshak Mahasangh (ABRSM), expressed deep concern over the alarming flood situation in Ramban district. In an urgent meeting with the district unit of ABRSM Ramban, Thakur, along with District President Vippan Sharma and General Secretary Dr. Ram Parshad Singh Manhas, appealed to volunteers and the public to actively support ongoing rescue operations across the district.

Expressing solidarity with the flood-affected communities, Thakur



said, "We are always with the people affected by this disaster."

He emphasized the Mahasangh's unwavering commitment to support relief efforts, assist rescue teams, and protect the lives and property of those impacted.

Continuous heavy rainfall in the Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar districts over the last two days has caused large-scale devastation, affecting thousands of residents. With forecasts predicting further rain, the risk of more destruction looms large.

Thakur noted that

Ramban and Doda districts are the worst affected, with thousands in dire need of shelter, food, clean water, and essential supplies. He highlighted the seriousness of the situation in Ramban, describing it as "unprecedented," with hundreds of homes, shops, and vehicles submerged—leading to a massive humanitarian crisis.

He called upon the community, especially ABRSM activists, government officials, security forces, teachers, and volunteers, to intensify their relief efforts. "The generous support of the people can make a significant difference in helping families rebuild their lives," Thakur said.

Visiting several flood-hit areas, Thakur confirmed the complete closure of the highway due to landslides, mudslides, and stone falls. He advised travellers to avoid non-essential movement until weather conditions improve. The inclement weather has severely damaged roads, bridges, and communication lines, cutting off many remote villages.

Thakur also stressed the urgent need to restore communication and power in affected areas to aid rescue and relief operations. He urged all stakeholders to come together during this crisis and provide immediate and sustained support to those in need.

## SMVDU Research Team Awarded Prestigious Grant under ANRF-PAIR in Collaboration with IIT Ropar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has achieved a significant research milestone by securing a prestigious grant under the Advanced National Research Foundation - Partnerships for Advancing Interdisciplinary Research (ANRF PAIR) program. The PAIR initiative is designed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among premier research institutions in India. The funded project, focused on the cutting-edge area of Advanced Materials, is in collaboration with IIT Ropar as the hub institute. Under this PAIR grant, SMVDU will receive a funding of around 10 Crore. Prof. Pragti Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, expressed his satisfaction on achieving the milestone and said that "This achievement reflects SMVDU's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the national R&D ecosystem. We are proud to be a part of this prestigious initiative, and we look forward



to impactful outcomes through this collaboration with IIT Ropar and other SPOKE institutes." Dr. Ankush Raina, Principal Investigator from SMVDU, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration with IIT Ropar and other leading institutions under the ANRF framework that allows SMVDU to push through interdisciplinary collaboration. The Co-PIs from SMVDU includes Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Dr. V. Tyagi, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Dr. Ram Prakash, Dr. Pankaj Biswas and Dr.

Indu Bhushan. Under this scheme, SMVDU will serve as a vital partner, contributing through its expertise in materials synthesis, characterization, 3D Printing of Functional Materials, Sliding Wear Applications of various materials, and Energy Systems and Conversion Technologies. Prof. A K Das, Dean, Research and Development, SMVDU congratulated the team for the research grant by ANRF and expressed that this grant will strengthen the research ecosystem in the region. This national-level recognition was

granted following a rigorous selection process involving India's premier academic institutions. Pertinent to mention, out of the 30 HUB applicants, only seven were selected to receive the research funding. This achievement once again places SMVDU and its HUB institute among the notable research institutions of the country. This partnership under the PAIR program aligns with India's vision to strengthen its global research profile in science and technology through strategic academic alliances.

## KCCI Urges Crop Insurance, Compensation for Fruit Growers Hit by Severe Weather

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 15

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) expresses profound concern regarding the substantial losses suffered by fruit growers across Kashmir following recent severe weather conditions and flash floods in Ramban district in Jammu, which have caused devastating losses.

As per reports, numerous fruit orchards throughout the districts of Shopian, Kulgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama, and other areas of the Valley experienced catastrophic damage from intense hailstorms accompanied by

lightning, thunderstorms, and powerful winds. These weather events left orchards blanketed in ice, severely impacting Kashmir's vital fruit industry—a cornerstone of the region's economy.

KCCI has been vigorously advocating for introducing a comprehensive crop insurance scheme for several years. The Chamber has engaged in continuous dialogue with government officials, submitted detailed proposals to highlight the urgent necessity of such protection for the region's agricultural sector.

The absence of a crop insurance scheme has significantly compounded the challenges faced

by orchard owners. The recent weather events have devastated the hopes of fruit growers and dealers across the Valley, creating not only immediate hardships for orchard owners/fruit growers but also triggering wider economic repercussions throughout the horticulture sector.

KCCI urgently calls upon the government to immediately conduct a thorough assessment of the damages incurred across all affected districts and strongly recommends that assessment teams include representatives from both the horticulture department and agricultural experts to ensure accurate evaluation of losses.

Furthermore, we

request that the administration provide prompt and adequate compensation to affected farmers, particularly the marginal growers who lack the financial reserves to absorb such catastrophic losses. Timely disbursement of relief funds is essential to prevent further economic distress and enable orchard rehabilitation.

KCCI urges the administration to expedite the implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance program tailored to the specific needs of Kashmir's fruit industry, ensuring that growers receive adequate protection and compensation during times of natural disaster.

## Police seize illicit timber in Handwara

JINNEWS SERVICE  
HANDWARA, APRIL 20

In a significant operation aimed at curbing the illegal trade of forest resources, Police in Handwara successfully seized a substantial quantity of illicit timber, dealing a major blow to timber smugglers operating in the region.

Acting on specific information, a police party from PS Handwara conducted raids at two locations in the Darashpora area of Handwara. During the operation, a total of 28



illegally felled timber logs were seized on the spot. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 80/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Handwara and investigation is underway.

This action reflects the continued commitment of Jammu & Kashmir Police to protect the environment and preserve the ecological balance of the region and urges citizens to report any suspicious activities related to forest produce or environmental violations.

## Sat Sharma inaugurates MDH Masala C&F Unit at Belicharana, Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, accompanied by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA & General Secretary, J&K BJP and other leaders inaugurated the new Carry & Forwarding (C&F) unit of MDH Masala under the banner of Jai Bawa Enterprises at Belicharana, Jammu.

BJP District Presidents Naresh Singh Jasrotia & Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Social Media Incharge Ankit Gupta, Mandal President Reetika Deewan and senior leader Jaideep Sambhal were also present on the occasion.

The family of the firm's proprietor Tarun Gupta, including his father Sudesh Gupta, Neena Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, and Sunny, also attended the inaugural



ceremony.

Commending the young entrepreneur Tarun Gupta for his initiative, Sat Sharma extended his best wishes and emphasized the importance of business ventures in strengthening the regional economy. He added that many schemes of the Modi Government have created business and entrepreneurship avenues, and added that the enthusiastic youth of Jammu & Kashmir is now moving for-

ward on the party, which is going to boost the economy of the UT and the nation.

"A single business unit supports multiple families and reflects the transformation from job-seeker to job-giver. For a sustainable socio-economic environment in the city, we need successful ventures in industry, business, and commerce," he said. "Such enterprises also help in balancing economic growth, social equity, and environ-

mental responsibility for the long-term prosperity and quality of life of our citizens."

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal appreciated the proprietor, congratulating him along with his family members for the business. He underlined the importance of good public relationship, competitive pricing, and consistent inventory availability for a good sustainable business. He added that this Masala business unit can be a lucrative and rewarding venture, especially given the strong and consistent demand for spices in the domestic market. Expressing his enthusiasm, Tarun Gupta stated that the business represents more than just a source of income, rather it is a path to social recognition and a personal milestone.

## Dr. Narinder Singh demands ST-II status for PoJK refugees settled in Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and Member of Legislative Assembly from RS Pura-Jammu South, has strongly advocated for granting Scheduled Tribe (ST-II) status to the refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) who are settled in the Jammu region.

Speaking on the matter, Dr. Singh highlighted the discriminatory treatment faced by the PoJK displaced community, stating that while those residing in Rajouri and Poonch have been granted ST-II status under the Pahari ethnic group, their relatives settled in Jammu continue to



be denied the same recognition.

"All PoJK refugees are Pahari-speaking and share the same ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds as those in Rajouri and Poonch. It is unjust and discriminatory to exclude them from the ST category solely based on their current place of residence," Dr. Singh said.

As Pahari-speaking people, their historical and

linguistic roots make them equally eligible for the benefits extended to the Pahadi group.

Referring to a response received in the J&K Assembly, Dr. Singh noted that the government had clearly stated that area is not a criterion for granting ST-II status based on Pahari ethnicity. Despite this, the Revenue Department refuses to issue Scheduled Tribe certificates to the eligible PoJK displaced persons living in Jammu.

Dr. Singh said that all the PoJK refugees are Pahari-speaking, and the community should be treated on par with ethnic Pahari tribe. He criticized the selective granting of ST status, which is currently limited to displaced persons from the

Rajouri-Poonch region, as discriminatory and unjust. He said that the displaced community, whose roots trace back to the partition of 1947, has endured immense hardships since their forced migration.

"This deliberate neglect adds to their historic neglect after the tragic displacement triggered by deadly violence, which adds insults to their wounds", said Dr. Narinder Singh. He called upon the government to immediately extend the ST-II status to all PoJK refugees, regardless of their current place of settlement, and emphasized the need for policies that focus on inclusive justice and socio-economic development of all deprived sections of society.

## ABVP Jammu Kashmir stands with Ramban: Relief Efforts Underway, Helplines Activated: Sannak Shrivast

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Kashmir expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the cloudburst incident in Ramban district. ABVP urges the administration to expedite relief efforts and provide all possible assistance to the affected families.

Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary, ABVP Jammu Kashmir, said, "The cloudburst in Ramban has caused immense loss and devastation. ABVP stands in solidarity with the affected families and demands immediate attention from the administration to provide relief and support. We urge the authorities to expedite rescue opera-



tions, provide financial aid, shelter, and medical assistance to those in need. Our Karyakarta are on ground since morning

and also helpline numbers are operational to offer assistance and support to the affected individuals.

In this hour of need,

ABVP Jammu Kashmir has set up helpline numbers to provide assistance to those affected. The helpline numbers are: Ramban: Tarun Dev Singh (+917006511036) Akriti Chib (+916006846140) Ukhral: Sachin Singh (+916006890537)

ABVP karyakartas have been actively involved in relief efforts since morning distributing food packets to affected families and rescue forces. They have also participated in rescue operations and helped to restore essential services in Ramban.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir reiterates its commitment to standing with the people of Jammu Kashmir in times of crisis and will continue to work towards providing support and assistance to those in need.

## Anil unveils priority vision document for Nagrota Bye-Elections "Towards a Stronger, Smarter, and Self-Reliant Nagrota"

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 20/APRIL, 2025

In a significant political development ahead of the upcoming bye-elections for two assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, Anil Sharma, President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) and a prominent grassroots leader, officially declared his intent to contest from the Nagrota Assembly Constituency. At an interactive program with youth and prominent people from over 50 Panchayats of the Nagrota Constituency, Sharma unveiled his Priority Vision Docu-



ment; a roadmap to transform Nagrota into a model constituency. He urged participants to critically evaluate the document

and share valuable suggestions, assuring that meaningful inputs would be incorporated. The document, titled "Towards a

Stronger, Smarter, and Self-Reliant Nagrota", outlines an inclusive plan across key sectors. It emphasizes

## Dy CM visits cloud burst affected areas of Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20

Terming death of three persons in a cloud burst in Ramban district as unfortunate, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary said that the government shares the grief of bereaved families and would provide them all possible support.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this during his visit to cloud burst affected areas in Ramban due to which vehicular movement on National Highway has been stopped.

Reaffirming government's seriousness towards providing relief to affected families, he took detailed assessment of the affected areas and interacted with locals.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that massive landslides triggered by continuous rainfall has severely impacted a section of the



Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district, bringing traffic to a complete standstill.

He directed authorities to indulge in restoration and relief works to expedite their efforts and work round the clock to clear the debris and restore connectivity. He said that Jammu Kashmir highway is the

main source of connectivity and concerned agencies should be working hard to restore the connectivity.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief Minister also advised the travellers to avoid unnecessary movement and stay updated through official channels about the weather forecast and highway updates.

## Javed Dar asks Agriculture, Horticulture Deptts to assess damages caused by recent rains, hailstorms

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, has expressed deep concern over the adversities caused to orchards and farmlands due to the recent spell of heavy rains and hailstorms across Jammu & Kashmir.

The inclement weather has badly damaged the standing crops and horticultural produce, particularly in parts of North and

South Kashmir.

In light of the situation, the Minister has directed the Heads of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to initiate immediate assessment of the losses caused across all districts in J&K. He instructed the concerned to dispatch the joint field teams comprising departmental officials to all affected areas in coordination with the District Administrations, to evaluate the extent of the damage and submit consolidated reports for timely relief processing.

The Minister also emphasized the importance of accurate and prompt damage reporting, urging the officials to ensure diligence in data collection.

He assured that Omar Abdullah led government stands in solidarity with the farming community during this challenging time. The UT administration will remain closely engaged in assessing the situation and exploring appropriate measures to provide relief to the affected farmers, he asserted.

## Three Bangladeshi nationals arrested in Tripura

AGENCIES  
AGARTALA, APR 20

Acting on a tip-off, Railway Police arrested three Bangladeshi nationals, including a young woman, from Agartala Railway Station, as they were on their way to Kolkata.

The trio reportedly entered India illegally. The operation was conducted on Saturday night jointly by the Agartala Government Railway Police Station (GRPS), Agartala Railway Protection Force (RPF), Border Security Force (BSF), and the Intelligence Department.

They were identified as Kamrun Nesa (23) - resident of Dhaka, Bangladesh, who is a Bangladeshi tout, Md. Ismail Hossain (22) - resident of Chittagong, and Mohammad Nur Hossain (25) - resident of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Railway police said Kamrun Nesa intended to travel to Bengaluru via Kolkata, while the two youths were enroute to Chennai, also via Kolkata.

The three are being interrogated in phases at the Agartala GRP police station. Officials suspect the involvement of a larger network and hinted at the possibility of more arrests as the investigation progresses.

Meanwhile, in a separate operation, villagers of Nandalal Das Para, bordering Ishanpur under Mohanpur sub-division of West Tripura, have detained two Bangladeshi thieves, who were handed over to the BSF after being thrashed black and blue on Sunday.

Later, BSF released them to the Border Guard Bangladesh

## BJP spreading confusion, propagating lies: Akhilesh

AGENCIES  
PRAYAGRAJ, APR 20

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of spreading confusion and hiding the truth.

While talking to reporters in Civil Lines before attending a private event, Akhilesh said that the BJP has mastered the art of hiding the truth and propagating lies.

"The Maha Kumbh is a living proof of this. To reach the Maha Kumbh,



the truth was hidden from the devotees and false propaganda of better arrangements was done," he said.

He claimed that earlier in any government, a minister used to do propa-

ganda, but here the entire BJP government is running on that propaganda. He noted that this was not the Maha Kumbh of devotees, it was completely a political Kumbh.

## Malviya demands Mamata Banerjee's resignation for labelling "false" charges against BJP-RSS

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, APR 20

After West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP and RSS of inciting communal violence in various parts of the state, including Murshidabad, BJP it cell chief Amit Malviya on Sunday demanded her resignation for "misleading" the public.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the party's co-incharge for West Bengal wrote, "Using her official letterhead as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee - who is expected to serve all citizens impartially - is instead blaming the principal opposition party and a non-political organisation for her administration's failures."

Malviya's post was in response to Banerjee's



open letter to the people of the state. In it, Banerjee accused the BJP and RSS of stoking violence and appealed for the restoration of peace in the state.

"The BJP and their associates have become extremely aggressive towards West Bengal. They want to bring ED, CBI, and CRPF into Bengal." Among their allies, there is also the RSS. I used to avoid naming the RSS earlier, but now I must say that the RSS is deeply involved in spreading false propaganda across the country. The BJP is using it to do politics.

They want to play a dirty game," the chief minister wrote.

"A phrase she has recently taken to repeating is: 'I hadn't named them before, but I am doing so now.' Ironically, she used the same line just days ago to target Union Home Minister Amit Shah - someone she has previously accused without evidence or restraint. Her allegations against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh follow a similar pattern: frequent, unsubstantiated, and politically motivated," Malviya wrote.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### CM Abdullah, LG Sinha...

he was rushing to Ramban to take stock of the situation.

"We are standing with the affected population in this hour of grief. The chief minister was supposed to visit the affected areas himself but since he had reached Delhi very late due to a flight diversion, I am going there and reviewing the situation," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function organised by the National Conference.

Farooq Abdullah, who was also present at the function, said there was huge damage reported in the Ramban and Banihal areas.

"The government is rushing its ministers to the affected areas and we will also request the Centre for financial assistance so that adequate relief is given to the people hit by the disaster," he said.

The officials said a cloudburst struck the Seri Bagna village of Ramban, resulting in the deaths of three persons, including brothers Aqib Ahmad and Mohd Saqib.

They said about 40 residential houses were damaged after a flash flood hit Dharam Kund village. Ten houses were fully damaged while the rest suffered partial damage.

More than 100 trapped villagers were rescued by police personnel who rushed to the spot despite the continuous downpour and cloudbursts, the officials said and added several vehicles were swept away in the flood caused by a stream overflowing.

A senior government official said there had been massive damage in the entire district due to heavy rain, cloudbursts, high-velocity winds, landslides and hailstorms.

#### Omar lambasts Delhi...

said the shift toward more easterly winds and the use of converging runways for easterly arrivals have led to temporary capacity constraints during this upgradation.

"These conditions at times result in flight diversions to ensure passenger safety. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," it said.

A source at IndiGo said the flight was diverted to Jaipur due to congestion at the Delhi airport.

In recent days, there have been flight

delays at the Delhi airport due to closure of one runway for maintenance works and easterly winds.

#### Dr Jitendra interacts...

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the young average age (22-26 years) of the batch, which provides a long-span career trajectory to contribute to the nation. He urged the officers to stay technologically ahead and make full use of the iGOT Karmayogi platform, a digital learning ecosystem offering continuously updated capacity-building modules.

"You are fortunate to be in the best of times, when India is rapidly moving towards becoming Viksit Bharat @2047," he emphasized.

In an open-floor dialogue with the young officers, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed support for a more dynamic and flexible civil service ecosystem, where officers may be allowed to gain exposure outside government for a few years and return as domain specialists—a model that he termed "a win-win for both the officer and the government."

On the issue of bridging the digital divide, the Minister called technology a great leveler, citing examples like the Swamitva Mission, which eliminates the need for revenue officials by leveraging drone-based property mapping. "This has democratised access to land records and decentralised service delivery at the grassroots," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also stressed the importance of grievance redressal mechanisms, urging the trainees to study the CPGRAMS platform, which he described as a global benchmark. "Nearly 26 lakh grievances have been disposed of with a 98% resolution rate, most within 13 days," he shared.

Yet, he reminded the officers that human intelligence and empathy must complement technology. "Despite resolving grievances technically, many citizens still feel emotionally dissatisfied. That's why we have created a 'human desk' to provide emotional closure, proving that governance is not just administrative but deeply human," he remarked.

In a moving exchange, one of the Officer Trainees quoted Dr. Singh's past speech—

"One retires from service, not from citizenship." Responding to this, Dr. Singh spoke about initiatives to involve retired civil servants through a Digital Repository of Expertise, allowing India to harness their knowledge. He also highlighted the Anubhav Awards, which encourage retiring offi-

cers to document their experiences for the benefit of future generations.

As the interaction concluded, Dr. Jitendra Singh urged the young civil servants to uphold the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and service, aligning their efforts with the spirit of Antyodaya—work-

ing for the last man standing.

"This batch of IAS officers is not only the youngest and most diverse—but also the most representative of New India's aspirations. Let your work reflect the hopes of a billion people," said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL UFAQ MODEL SCHOOL ASSAR (DODA)										
LIST OF GENEARL BODY MEMEBERS 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	Susheel 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 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	343507610994	9596640064
5	Rajiv Sharma	Lt. Sh. Om Parkash	Assar	Shopkeeper	Secretary	10 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	642191786654	7889354097
6	Vishal Kumar	Sh. Bimal Kumar	Assar	Chemist	Member	12 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	489255598935	9596836701
9	Kuldeep Singh	Lt. Sh. Punjab Singh	Assar	Businessman	Member	10 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	253848035337	9906136242
10	Ravi Kuamr	Sh. Rajinder Kumar	Assar	Driver	Member	12 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	450347410534	9596408599

Sd/-  
ZEO

Sd/  
Principal

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONAL ACADEMY SCHOOL HALYAN ASSAR (DODA)										
LIST OF PROPOSED MEMEBERS 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 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	379947764277	9149758998
4	Sujeet Singh	Sh. Bodh Raj	Halyan	Businessman	Secretary	10 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	383263650396	9906309833
5	Inder Singh	Sh. Kartar Singh	Bray (Halyan)	Electrician	Member	12 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	528309049196	9596693454
6	Susheel 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 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	506820468326	9622570131
8	Hans raj	Sh. Shiv Nath	Halyan	Businessman	Member	10 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	617259817233	9797306855
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 <sup>th</sup>	Assar	Doda	254454944317	9103141072

Sd/-  
ZEO

Sd/  
Principal

## Narsingh Seva Kendra at Khoon Celebrated its 2nd Anniversary

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 18

Narsingh Seva Kendra, situated in the heart of Village Khoon in Tehsil Majalta, District Udhampur, celebrated its 2nd anniversary on 20th April 2025 with immense enthusiasm, community participation, and renewed commitment to rural upliftment. The Kendra is established as a registered trust under the Narsingh Gau Seva Samiti, Jammu & Kashmir and has continued to build on its vision of holistic development through Gau Seva, farmer empowerment, education, naturopathy, and sustainable agriculture. It is developed over an area of approximately 150 kanals and stands as a dynamic example of integrated rural development, with its activities expanding and evolving to meet the diverse needs of the community.

The 2nd anniversary celebration was presided over by Sh. Shambu Prasad Giri Ji, Akhil Bhartiya Seh Gram Vikas Pramukh of RSS, who commended the multifaceted contributions of the Kendra and its impact on the local population. Also present as distinguished guest were Shri Arvinder Singh Reen, Director of Agriculture, Jammu, who praised the Kendra's integrated approach to sustainable rural development.

On this occasion, the Kendra proudly announced that its Gau Samvardhan Kendra (Gaushala), originally



established on a non-commercial basis to promote the rearing and preservation of indigenous cow breeds, now shelters and cares for 30 cows. The Gaushala continues to provide Panchgavya items such as milk, ghee, cow dung, curd, and cow urine for both local consumption and medicinal use, symbolizing the trust's commitment to animal welfare, sustainability, and traditional Indian practices.

Further strengthening its focus on health and well-being, the Kendra had organized free medical camps in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super-speciality Hospital and the Department of AYUSH, under the banner of Arogya Bharti. These camps are a major step toward promoting preventive and affordable healthcare for the local population, in line with the Kendra's broader mission of nurturing a healthy society. In addition to this, veterinary camps were also conducted by the Kendra in association with SKUAST, where local

livestock owners received guidance, vaccinations, and animal health services, further enriching the animal husbandry support system of the area.

Highlighting its deep connection with the agricultural community, the Kendra had previously organized an Agriculture Mela in coordination with the Directorate of Agriculture, during which farmers were trained in modern and sustainable farming techniques through practical demonstrations, workshops, and expert lectures. This initiative was widely appreciated and has led to significant adoption of best practices among local farmers, improving both yields and livelihoods. Since its inception, Narsingh Seva Kendra has operated across five vital dimensions—Farmers Training Center and Yoga, Ved Vidyalaya with Gurukul, Gau Samvardhan Kendra, Naturopathy Center, and Education, each of which is designed to address specific socio-economic and cultural challenges.

The Farmers Training

Center, in particular, has empowered many local farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in changing agricultural scenarios, while preserving traditional wisdom. The Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya has emerged as a beacon of India's ancient wisdom, instilling Vedic values, discipline, and spiritual knowledge in its students, thus producing well-rounded individuals connected to their roots. A dedicated Yoga Centre and Naturopathy Centre are currently under construction, aimed at offering enhanced facilities and therapeutic services to the rural population. These developments reaffirm the Kendra's long-term commitment to preventive healthcare and spiritual well-being. The Kendra has also launched an educational institution under the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir banner to ensure quality, values-based education for children in Khoon and nearby areas, blending academics with character development rooted in Indian traditions.

The 2nd Anniversary celebration witnessed participation from a large number of farmers, local residents, self-help groups, which included 24 Gram Samities. The event was marked by a special Vedic Havan for societal welfare as per vedic traditions for the welfare of the society. Several esteemed guests appreciated the Kendra's unwavering dedication to

community welfare, sustainable development, and the empowerment of rural youth.

Earlier, Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Shri Raman Suri and Chain Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, volunteers, and partners for their continued support and reaffirmed the trust's vision to evolve the Kendra as a model center for integrated rural development in Jammu & Kashmir, embodying the spirit of seva (service), self-reliance, and cultural pride. Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Raman Suri also gave an overview of the activities launched by Narsingh Seva Kendra, Khoon.

Large number of dignitaries present on the occasion includes Prant Sanghchalak of RSS Dr. Gautam Mengi, Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Vikram Gujral, Dr. Shiv Raina, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Deputy Director Ayush, Dr. Suresh Sharma, Shushil Gupta, RK Chibber, BJP MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, RS Pathania, Sunil Bhardwaj, Satish Sharma, Kuldeep Dubey, Pardesh Yuva Morcha Vice President Divyani Rana and others. All these distinguished guests praised the ongoing initiatives and pledged their continued support. As the Kendra steps into its third year, it remains committed to expanding its reach and deepening its impact, paving the way for a self-sustaining, healthy, and empowered rural society.

## Dr. Vikas Sharma of SKUAST-J conferred SIDAVES Fellow Award 2025

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Dr. Vikas Sharma S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Sharma and Pushplata Sharma, R/o Channi Himmat, Jammu gets prestigious Fellow Award 2025 of Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences (SIDAVES) for his significant professional contributions of research / academics in the field of Biochemistry. The Fellow Award conferred upon to Dr. Vikas on 17th April, 2025 by Padma Shri Dr. Vijaipal Singh, a renowned Plant Breeder of India at 3rd Annual Convention and National Symposium on

"Next Generation Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock Farming (NGA-25)" organized by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology (SVPUAT) & SIDAVES at Modipuram, Meerut. SIDAVES is a registered professional society / scientific organization, encompassing diverse areas of socio-economic growth of human



society through excellence in science, academics and ecological development with its core contention of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Parma Sukham i.e., the whole world is one family and SIDAVES strives for its sustainable development. SIDAVES with its technocrats and applied knowledge bank is highly competitive body to address the arising problems of food security, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, gender inequality and social unjust across regions of the world. Dr. Vikas Sharma also delivered a lead lecture via power point presentation in the National Symposium Jammu where he highlighted about the use of minor fruits from

the Kandi belt of Jammu region in the management of cancer. He informed that we are in emergent need of drugs that are less toxic, endowed with fewer side effects and more potent in their mechanism of action to treat cancer cells.

Working as a Professor in the Division of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Sharma has guided 10 Ph.D and 07 MSc. students as a Major Advisor, he has published 80 full length research papers in refereed journals of National and International repute and got many prestigious awards from various Govt. Organizations for his contributions in bioprospection of medicinal plants.

## Bimla Kashmiri was first girl from J&K to become actress dancer in bollywood films: R.L. Kaith

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

THE social and political activists tributed the reverence Bimla Kashmiri commanded in her era, recalling 'Back then, other female leads were simply referred to as heroines, but Bimla Kashmiri was the one and only one 'actress dancer' - a title she earned with her extraordinary talent and dedication.

BJP Activist R.L. Kaith while throwing light on her life and activities said that she was born as 'Gulabi' in a Sargotra family of Batwal Community at Bermean, a small village in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. She had four sisters and one brother. She spent her early life in the village. She challenged the regressive practice of child marriage when she was about to be married off with a Nandan caste boy of Narwal Pain at the tender age of twelve. She, however, insisted that she would like to become a dancer. After the untimely demise of her parents while she was in her teens, she was raised by her brother. After the partition of India, during October-November 1947 when a large number of people died in communal rioting, her family moved to Jammu and lived in a refugee camp. One day she alongwith other fans went to Hotel Premier at Residency Road to see Indian film actors who were staying over there. During their audience with the actors, a railway contractor turned actor named Gopal was so enamoured by her fascinating look



having some passing similarities to actress Meena Kumari that he with the permission of her family, took her to Mumbai where she stayed with his family and was renamed as Bimla Kashmiri. Bimla was very enthusiastic in learning dance, so she learnt classical kathak style of dancing and began performing in Mumbai's Shanmukhananda Auditorium and Nobility Hall at the age of nineteen. She had made a record by performing dance continuously for eight hours and very soon her name conjured up an image of an eminent Indian dancer. Bimla also acted in many Hindi films in her career as actress, supporting actress and dancer. Some of her noted films were Fuji Lama (1952), CID (1956), Harishchandra Taramati (1963), Magic Carpet (1964) and Truck Driver (1970). The then Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai had praised her dancing and acting.

Bimla did court marriage with a south indian, Madho Rao at the age of 40 and lived with him happily. Bimla had not a child of her own but had adopt-

ed her niece, Mala whom she raised as a daughter and provided her with the best music education. It pained her when she having married a Muslim boy, ran away from home. This made her life worst. In December 1978, she fell unconscious and ill. She was immediately flown to Bombay hospital by her husband. After thorough investigation, she was diagnosed with cancer which had spread throughout her body to her brain and lungs. After a brave fight with the fatal disease, this great imitable artist died in January 1979 at the age of 48. Her last words said to her husband were, "Money can't buy life". The film industry deprived of one of the greatest performers. Bimla left behind her a huge property that included her having two bungalows one on Warden Road and another at Ganeshpuri, one hotel at Brijesh Puri, one restaurant, one dance school and three luxury cars. The Actor Dharminder when went to Bombay to have his earlier pictures taken in 1952, stayed in her bungalow.

## IGNOU Srinagar "Achievements 2024-25" released: Testament of IGNOU's contribution for Kashmir Valley



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, APR 20

IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar organized a series of events on 20th April 2025 in the auditorium of SKIMS Soura Srinagar which include the releasing of the book called achievements for the year 2024-25 and organised induction meeting for students who took admission for the January 2025 session.

The book release ceremony of "Achievements for the Year 2024-25" was graced by several distinguished personalities, including Prof Dr. Mohd Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS, Prof Naser Iqbal, Registrar, Kashmir University, Prof GH Yatoo head department of hospitals Administration SKIMS, Dr Zafar Incharge CRC Bemina, Dr Aijaz Ashraf Regional Director MANUU, principals of the Govt

Degree College s, and other dignitaries which includes Coordinators from various study centres, academic counselor and staff from Regional Centre Srinagar and above all students. The auditorium was packed.

Regional Director Dr. AH Rizvi is his welcome address highlighted the achievements that have been showcased in the book "Achievements for the Year 2024-25." Dr. Rizvi said that the book highlights the centre's contributions to academic excellence, including Conducting academic counselling sessions for students, Monitoring practicals to ensure hands-on learning experiences, Successfully conducting examinations and maintaining academic integrity. Other Notable Achievements were Providing support services to students, including academic guidance and mentorship,

Fostering a sense of community among students and faculty Contributing to the overall growth and development of the region through education.

The book serves as a testament of the excellent leadership of our Vice Chancellor Prof Uma Kinjilal, Director (RSD) Dr Manorma Singh, various schools, units and centres at headquarters, and to the hard work and dedication of the principals, coordinators and Part time staff of study centres across Kashmir Valley and Regional Centre. Dr Rizvi praised the contribution of Dr Abdullah Asst Regional Director and Mr Bhanwar Singh Assistant Registrar for his outstanding services to IGNOU. The guests praised the Regional Director's efforts in promoting academic excellence and expressed their appreciation for the book, which



serves as a testament to the centre's hard work and dedication. The Coordinators praised the Regional Director for his outstanding services to valley learners in 2024 and for streamlining academic, administrative and financial activities at study centres.

In another event an induction program was also organised for the new students who got themselves enrolled for the January 2025 admission session. The aim of the induction meeting was to familiarize new students with the university's academic programs, policies, and support services.

During the induction meeting Dr Abdullah Asst Regional Director provided valuable insights into academic expectations, student support services, and opportunities available at IGNOU.

The event provided a platform for students to engage with new ideas and perspectives in various fields of study. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many appreciating the university's efforts to create a supportive learning environment. The auditorium was jam packed with the students, officers and other stakeholders.

## Chamber of Commerce & Industry election nominees finalized, polls on May 11

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

A meeting of the Scrutinizing Committee of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on April 20, 2025, at the Chamber House, Rail Head Complex,

Jammu. The committee comprised Sh. Shiv Partap Gupta (Election President), Sh. Manmohan Singh, Sh. Vijay Gupta, and Sh. Kulbhushan Gupta. The purpose of the meeting was to thoroughly examine the nomination papers

submitted by candidates contesting for various posts of office bearers in the upcoming elections of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

After careful scrutiny, the committee announced that the nomination papers of

the following candidates were found to be in order. For the post of President, Sh. Arun Gupta and Sh. Rakesh Gupta (Giga) will be contesting. For the post of Senior Vice President, Sh. Anil Gupta and Sh. Deepak Aggarwal have

filed valid nominations. The candidates contesting for Junior Vice President are Sh. Rajiv Gupta (Kaka) and Sh. Sunil Gupta (Kodha). For the post of Secretary General, the valid candidates are Sh. Manish Gupta and Sh. Rahul Mahajan.

The candidates in the fray for the post of Secretary include Sh. Ashu Gupta and Sh. Rajesh Gupta (Rinku). The position of Treasurer will be contested by Sh. Manik Gupta, Sh. Rajesh Gupta (Raju), and Sh. Rajeev Langer.

All contesting candidates were handed a copy of the Code of Conduct to be followed during the election campaign. The committee urged every candidate to strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines to ensure smooth and

fair conduct of the elections.

The election for the office bearers of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry is scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Chamber House, O.B-31, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

## EDITORIAL

## FADING OPPOSITION, FRAYING DEMOCRACY

BY IBTISAAM CHOUDHARY

## Digitally Empowering Ladakh's Frontiers

In a remarkable stride that marries national security with inclusive development, the Army has extended high-speed mobile connectivity across the entire Union Territory of Ladakh, including some of the most forbidding terrains on Earth. From the icy heights of the Siachen Glacier to the windswept plains of the Galwan Valley, this digital breakthrough is more than just a technological triumph—it is a bold statement of unity, resilience, and forward-looking governance. For the first time, Indian soldiers stationed at locations such as Daulat Beg Oldie, Demchok, Chumar, Batalik, and Dras—posts perched at altitudes exceeding 18,000 feet—can access reliable 4G and 5G mobile networks. These soldiers, often posted at winter cut-off points and enduring months of isolation, can now hear the voices of loved ones, participate in real-time communication, and experience a sense of connection that was once a distant dream. As Lieutenant Colonel Suneel Bartwal rightly noted, this is a historic milestone—one that elevates not just operational efficiency, but also the morale and mental well-being of the men and women in uniform. Yet the significance of this initiative transcends the barracks. By partnering with Telecom Service Providers and the UT Administration of Ladakh under the Whole-of-Government approach, the Indian Army has catalyzed a digital transformation that includes remote border villages—places often regarded as the last outposts of civilization. In doing so, it has effectively turned them into 'First Villages' of a connected and modern India. This connectivity is more than a convenience; it is an enabler. It lays the foundation for telemedicine, remote education, digital banking, e-governance, and entrepreneurial opportunities in regions that have long existed on the margins of development. In bridging this digital divide, the Army has not only enhanced national integration but also helped unlock the socio-economic potential of Ladakh's people. Of particular note is the installation of a 5G tower on the Siachen Glacier—the world's highest battlefield. This feat is not just an engineering marvel; it is a symbol of India's resolve and ingenuity. It demonstrates that even in the most extreme conditions, where nature tests the limits of endurance, the spirit of progress can prevail. What we are witnessing is not merely a technological rollout, but a profound act of nation-building. The Indian Army, through this initiative, has reaffirmed its role not just as a guardian of our borders, but as a catalyst for change and a partner in development. In an era where digital connectivity defines the quality of life and opportunity, bringing the internet to the farthest reaches of the Himalayas is as significant as any infrastructural achievement in the heartland. As India continues its journey towards becoming a global digital power, it is heartening to see that our most remote and strategically sensitive regions are not left behind, but are leading by example. This achievement in Ladakh is a testament to what is possible when determination meets collaboration, and when technology is wielded in service of both security and humanity. Indeed, a new signal pulses through the mountains—not just of data, but of hope, unity, and progress.

India's democratic framework, carefully crafted by the Constituent Assembly and enshrined in what Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called the "cornerstone of the nation," is undergoing profound stress tests. As the world's largest democracy completes over seven decades of constitutional governance, concerning patterns have emerged that demand rigorous examination. The political landscape has witnessed a steady erosion of opposition space, creating what scholars term "competitive authoritarianism"—where democratic institutions exist formally but function increasingly asymmetrically.

This comprehensive analysis goes beyond surface-level electoral politics to examine the structural, institutional, and legal dimensions of opposition decline. We interrogate whether India is experiencing democratic backsliding through multiple vectors: the growing imbalance between ruling party and opposition resources, the weaponization of state institutions, and the systematic constriction of spaces for dissent. The implications extend far beyond partisan politics, touching upon fundamental questions about federalism, separation of powers, and the very nature of representative democracy.

#### Electoral Hegemony and Democratic Consequences

The Bharatiya Janata Party's political dominance since 2014 represents more than routine electoral success - it marks a fundamental reconfiguration of India's party system. The BJP's expansion from 282 seats in 2014 to 303 in 2019, coupled with its penetration into previously impenetrable states like West Bengal and Odisha, demonstrates an unprecedented consolidation of power. While electoral victories are inherently democratic, their cumulative effect raises critical questions:

#### Parliamentary Scrutiny in Decline:

The 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024) functioned for just 34% of scheduled hours, the lowest in India's parliamentary history. Question Hour - the primary mechanism for holding government accountable - was frequently suspended. The opposition's voice diminished as their numbers shrank from 150 seats in 2014 to just 52 in 2019 (excluding allies).

With reduced opposition presence, legislative scrutiny has weakened. The passage of consequential bills like the abrogation of Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act, and farm laws with minimal debate exemplifies this trend. The lack of diverse perspectives risks creating policy blindspots, as seen in the farmer protests that forced repeal of the farm laws.

#### Institutional Pressures on Opposition: The Legal- Investigative Complex

A disturbing pattern has emerged where opposition leaders face disproportionate legal and investigative actions, often timed around elections. While some cases may have merit, their selective application raises due process concerns:

Arvind Kejriwal's Arrest (March 2024): The Delhi Chief Minister's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the liquor policy case came weeks before general elections, despite no charges being framed. The timing followed a pattern - his deputy Manish Sisodia had been jailed for over a year in the same case.

Hemant Soren's Detention (January 2024): The Jharkhand Chief Minister's arrest in a land scam case occurred during crucial election preparations. His predecessor from the same party had also faced multiple cases after opposing central policies.

Rahul Gandhi's Disqualification (2023): The Congress leader's swift disqualification following a defamation conviction stood in contrast to BJP leaders retaining positions despite more serious charges. The Supreme Court's eventual stay highlighted procedural irregularities.

Data from the Association for Democratic Reforms reveals stark disparities:

- 95% of political money laundering cases since 2014 target opposition leaders
- 85% of raids by central agencies focus on opposition-ruled states
- Conviction rates remain below 20% for these high-profile cases

#### The Defection Epidemic: Subverting Electoral Mandates

The phenomenon of political defections has taken a systemic and epidemic form, wherein elected representatives, often from opposition parties, switch allegiances after elections. This practice, far from being a matter of individual conscience, has become a strategic tool used to subvert electoral mandates. The net effect is a weakening of the democratic process, erosion of public trust, and a serious dent in the federal structure envisioned by the Constitution.

#### Madhya Pradesh (2020):

In a dramatic political shift, 22 Congress MLAs, many of whom were loyalists of Jyotiraditya Scindia, resigned and defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This mass defection led to the collapse of the democratically elected Kamal Nath-led Congress government. Significantly, several of these defectors were later rewarded with ministerial positions in the new BJP-led government, indicating a clear quid pro quo and incentivization of defections.

#### Maharashtra (2022):

The Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition government was destabilized when over 40 MLAs from the Shiv Sena broke away under Eknath Shinde's leadership. These rebel legislators joined hands with the BJP, forming a new government. The act not only bypassed voter intent but also fractured the ideological core of the original coalition, reducing the electoral mandate to a numerical game.

Despite the presence of the anti-defection law under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, the law has increasingly failed to act as an effective deterrent. Its key shortcomings include:

#### Speaker's Delays in Decisions:

In several instances, Speakers have sat on disqualification petitions for extended periods, sometimes for years. These delays allow defectors to continue in office and even hold ministerial roles, nullifying any immediate consequences and making the law virtually toothless.

#### Judicial Timing and Fait Accompli:

Even when judicial intervention does take place, it often arrives after political realignments have been formalized. By the time courts adjudicate, the new governments have already consolidated power, making reversal politically and administratively infeasible—a classic case of a fait accompli.

#### The Institutional Erosion - Pillars of Democracy Under Stress

The architecture of Indian democracy rests on strong, impartial institutions. However, in recent years, several such institutions have shown signs of systematic erosion and politicization.

#### Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s Politicization:

Explosion in Cases Since 2014: The number of cases registered by the ED has skyrocketed by over 600% compared to the previous decade. However, this exponential increase has not translated into convictions, which remain below 5%. This indicates that the ED's actions are more about creating a perception of wrongdoing rather than achieving legal closure.

#### Targeting of Opposition Leaders:

Data shows that over 95% of high-profile ED investigations involve opposition politicians, raising serious concerns about selective targeting. The ED, which is supposed to investigate financial crimes without political bias, appears to function as a tool for political vendetta.

#### Election-Time Raids:

Just before the 2021 West Bengal elections, the ED conducted over 200 raids in the state within three months, almost all targeting opposition leaders. The timing of these actions suggests a pattern of intimidation and disruption during crucial electoral

periods.

Income Tax Department's Selective Scrutiny:

Biased Clearance of Political Donations:

Electoral funding scrutiny reveals that nearly 90% of donations to the ruling BJP face no hindrance, while opposition parties are subjected to rigorous and often punitive scrutiny. This not only creates a financial imbalance but stifles the opposition's ability to compete electorally.

#### Freezing of Opposition Accounts:

In an alarming development, opposition party accounts—such as the Congress Party's in the lead-up to the 2024 elections—were frozen by the Income Tax Department, crippling their campaign machinery and challenging the very premise of free and fair elections.

Ø Election Machinery: Questioning Impartiality

#### Appointment Processes:

In 2023, a controversial law was passed to change the method of appointing Election Commissioners. The Chief Justice of India was removed from the selection panel and replaced with a Cabinet Minister, giving the ruling party a majority in the appointment committee. This fundamentally undermines the independence of the Election Commission—an institution meant to be above partisan influence. Similar alterations have been made to the functioning of other oversight institutions, hollowing out their credibility.

#### Operational Concerns: Delayed Action on Model Code Violations:

Instances of ruling party members violating the Model Code of Conduct often result in either delayed or no action from the Election Commission, while opposition leaders face swift penalties, reflecting partiality.

#### Voter Roll Manipulation:

In various opposition strongholds, there have been reports of large-scale discrepancies in voter rolls. Missing names and unauthorized deletions raise concerns about electoral manipulation.

#### EVM Transparency Issues:

Demands for greater transparency in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), including voter-verifiable paper audit trails (VVPAT) and third-party audits, continue to be dismissed, despite growing mistrust among segments of the electorate.

#### Federalism Under Duress: Targeting Opposition States Governor Overreach:

Governors, constitutionally expected to act as neutral constitutional heads, are increasingly seen acting as political agents of the central government.

#### Tamil Nadu (2023):

The Governor withheld key bills passed by the state legislature without offering timely or clear explanations, stalling gov-

ernance and undermining legislative autonomy.

#### Kerala (2024):

The Governor attempted to directly influence the appointment of university Vice-Chancellors, violating the state's jurisdiction and sparking accusations of political interference.

#### West Bengal (2021-2024):

A period marked by near-constant confrontation between the Raj Bhavan and the state government, where the Governor publicly criticized policies and blocked several administrative decisions.

#### Ø India at a Democratic Crossroads

India's democracy isn't collapsing overnight—it's being chipped away, one institution, one law, and one norm at a time. What makes this moment so critical is that all of this is happening within the framework of the Constitution. The rules aren't being broken—they're being bent so far that they're barely recognizable.

From orchestrated defections and a weakened anti-defection law to selective raids, partisan appointments, and financial pressure on opposition states—there's a pattern. It's not about isolated incidents anymore. It's about a consistent tilt in the system, creating an uneven battleground where real democratic competition becomes harder and harder.

#### But here's the silver lining: the system is fighting back.

The Supreme Court has shown flashes of resistance—from scrapping the opaque electoral bonds to granting bail in politically sensitive cases.

Federalism still breathes through states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal that continue to assert their autonomy and push back through policy and the ballot.

And even in a media landscape that often feels captured, digital journalism and civil society voices are keeping the democratic spirit alive—asking the tough questions, exposing uncomfortable truths, and refusing to be silenced.

The results of the 2024 general elections—where the ruling party failed to secure a majority on its own—proved something important: democracy may be down, but it's not out. The Indian voter still holds the power to course-correct.

As historian Ramachandra Guha rightly said, "Indian democracy has shown remarkable resilience, but faces its most serious test since the Emergency." The decade ahead will decide whether we renew the promise of our Constitution—or continue sliding into a future where elections exist, but true choice disappears.

The writer can be contacted at [ibtisaamchoudhary1000@gmail.com](mailto:ibtisaamchoudhary1000@gmail.com)

## Baba Bulletproof: An army of security behind Shraddha

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

"The body is destructible, the soul is immortal. Death is just a change; it should not be feared."

— This sentence is not from any spiritual discourse but is repeated again and again in any program of the country's most popular young Baba, Bageshwar Dham Sarkar Dharendra Shastri. But when the same Baba, whose voice flows with this nectar of freedom from the fear of death, is seen surrounded by the force of four police stations, hundreds of policemen, dozens of bouncers, and private security personnel in Y category security, then the soul of the common man screams, "Baba, what is going on?"

Last week Baba came to attend the 'Praveshotsav' of the newly constructed building of a pious industrialist in the Nokha area near Bikaner. There was such a conflu-

ence of religion, devotion, and pomp that even if the Tridev himself had come, he would not have been able to reach the stage by breaking through the crowd. Flowers were showered in welcome of Baba, slogans were raised, and his darshan, preaching, and security system were glorified on two pages in colored newspapers.

#### The soul is immortal, but a bodyguard is necessary?

The guru whose words claim to remove the fear of death himself travels in bulletproof cars, has an army of personal bodyguards, and gets Y-class security from the government. Has this worldly security become necessary for saints walking on the path of salvation? If the soul is immortal, and death is only the abandonment of the body, then from whom is this security? Whose fear of insecurity? Is this not a betrayal of the pub-

lic's trust?

#### Who is afraid of Baba?

It can be said that saints may be in danger from opponents and antisocial elements. But this argument is refuted by Baba's own teachings. Baba says, "Only the ignorant have fear. When God is with you, what harm can anyone do?" Then, when there is a crowd of devotees, police surveillance, and the protection of the government, then what 'death' does Baba fear?

Is this not the same Baba who declared the people killed in the stampede at the Prayagraj Kumbh as 'salvation-seekers'? If the pilgrims who died in the stampede can go to heaven, then Baba must find bliss in this crowd!

#### Is this spirituality or event management?

It is no longer a rare sight for a sadhu to arrive with such a tight security cover. 'Influ-

How today's spiritual gurus are more involved in event management than religion, and governments provide them security to pursue politics and vote banks. If Baba really believes death to be an illusion and the soul to be immortal, then why does he need security? A real saint is one who stands fearlessly with the truth—not hidden behind a security cover.

encer saints' like Baba Dheendra Shastri now do more events and fewer satsangs. They enter the stage amidst a big LED screen, white lights, and drums, and the entire 'protocol team' follows them—as if a Bollywood superstar is arriving. Will the value of spirituality now be determined not by people's faith but by police force and media coverage?

#### The nexus between power and saints

The question is not just about security. The question is, on what basis is a Baba given Y category security? Is there a dearth of people in the country who are really at risk of their lives—social workers, journalists, women fighting for women's rights? But governments quietly give special security to saints, perhaps out of fear of facing the wrath of their followers. This is a spiritual version of simple 'vote bank' politics.

Faith or blind devotion?

Finally, we have to talk about the common man—the devotee who stands in queue for hours in the hot afternoon, hoping to have a glimpse of Baba. Baba tells him to "leave all attachment and illusion," but the same Baba accepts donations worth crores, sits in AC tents, and gives sermons under tight security. Is this faith or a well-planned illusion? Is this religion or a performance?

#### Sarcasm hits:

> Baba said - "Don't be afraid of death, the soul is immortal."

But we move ahead, as securely as in a fortress.

The devotees said, "Baba, we have come on foot; please bless us."

Baba said, "First cross the security cordon!"

Questions before we conclude:

If salvation after death is

the goal of life, and Baba is the guide, then why should he himself be afraid of death? Why should he not leave his security and trust in the same faith that he preaches? Or should we accept that this whole game is just a stage where emotions are traded and salvation, illusion, and death are all just words?

Be it Bageshwar Baba or anyone else, whenever a saint takes advantage of security, wealth, and power in the name of spirituality, it is natural for questions to be raised on the sanctity of his sermons. Faith gets strength from truth, not security. If Baba really believes in the immortality of the soul, then he should first give up Y category security—because a real saint is one who stands fearlessly with the truth.

Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, University of Delhi Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist

## Babies, kids' mattresses with brain-harming chemicals may raise health risks

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A team of Canadian researchers has found plasticisers called phthalates, flame retardants, and other harmful chemicals in mattresses of babies and young children who are likely to breathe and absorb these while sleeping, increasing several health risks.

Researchers from the University of Toronto said these chemicals are linked to neurological and reproductive problems, asthma, hormone disruption, and cancer.

"Sleep is vital for brain development, particularly for infants and toddlers. However, our research suggests that many mattresses contain chemicals that can harm kids' brains," said Miriam Diamond, Professor at the University of Toronto.

"This is a wake-up call for manufacturers and policymakers to ensure our



children's beds are safe and support healthy brain development," she added.

The review of studies is published in the journals Environmental Science and Technology and Environmental Science and Technology Letters.

In the first study, researchers measured chemical concentrations in 25 bedrooms of children aged 6 months to 4 years. They detected concerning levels of more than two dozen phthalates, flame retardants, and UV filters in bedroom air, with the highest levels lurking around the beds.

In a companion study, researchers tested 16 newly purchased children's mattresses and confirmed that they are likely the major source of these

chemicals in children's sleeping environments.

When the researchers simulated a child's body temperature and weight on the mattresses, chemical emissions increased substantially, as much as by several times.

The phthalates and organophosphate ester flame retardants measured in this study are hormone disruptors and linked to neurological harms, including learning disorders, reduced IQ scores, behavioural problems, and impaired memory, said the researchers.

Some are also linked to childhood asthma and cancer. Several UV filters are hormone disruptors. Children are uniquely vulnerable to exposure, given that they are still develop-

ing, have hand-to-mouth behaviours, and have breathing rates ten times higher than adults.

They also have more permeable skin and three times the skin surface area relative to their body weight than adults.

Flame retardants are linked to neurological, reproductive, and hormonal harm as well as cancer, and also have no proven fire-safety benefit as used in mattresses.

The researchers call for manufacturers to be more vigilant about the chemicals in children's mattresses through testing.

The authors recommend decluttering children's sleeping areas by reducing the number of pillows, blankets, and toys. They also recommend washing and refreshing your child's bedding and bed clothing frequently since this act as a protective barrier to reduce exposure.

## Combining two low-cost drugs may help prevent new heart attack, stroke risk

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Treating patients earlier with a combination of statins and the cholesterol-lowering drug ezetimibe could prevent thousands of new heart attacks, strokes, and death over a decade, according to a new study.

Cardiovascular disease is by far the most common cause of death worldwide, with heart attack (myocardial infarction) being the most common acute event.

For those who survive a heart attack, the risk of a new heart attack is most significant in the first year after the initial event because the blood vessels are more sensitive, making it easier for blood clots to develop.

Reducing LDL or "bad" cholesterol in the blood can stabilise changes in the vessels, decreasing the risk for new events, said researchers from Lund



University in Sweden and Imperial College London.

As per current treatment guidelines, patients are prescribed statins immediately after a heart attack. However, most patients do not reach recommended cholesterol levels using only statins, and so need an add-on treatment, such as ezetimibe, the team suggested.

"The study shows that we could save lives and reduce further heart attacks by giving patients a combination of two low-cost drugs. But at the

moment patients across the world aren't receiving these drugs together.

That's causing unnecessary and avoidable heart attacks and deaths -- and also places unnecessary costs on healthcare systems," said co-investigator Professor Kausik Ray, from Imperial College London's School of Public Health.

"Our study shows the way forward; care pathways must now change for patients after this type of heart event," he added.

In the study, the international team examined out-

comes for heart attacks in 36,000 patients who had a heart attack between 2015 and 2022.

The results show that patients who received a combination treatment of statins and ezetimibe within 12 weeks of a heart attack were able to lower cholesterol to the target level early. They also had a better prognosis and less risk of new cardiovascular events and death than those who received the add-on treatment later, or not at all.

The team said that many new heart attacks, strokes, and deaths could be prevented every year internationally if the treatment strategy were to be changed.

Under a scenario in which 100 per cent of patients would receive ezetimibe early, they estimate 133 heart attacks could be avoided in a population of 10,000 patients in 3 years, they said.

## Eating more bananas, broccoli may help curb high blood pressure

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Eating bananas or broccoli, rich in potassium, may effectively help lower hypertension -- affecting over 30 per cent of adults globally, according to a study on Monday.

Hypertension or high blood pressure is the leading cause of coronary heart disease and stroke and may also lead to other afflictions like chronic kidney disease, heart failure, irregular heartbeats, and dementia.

Researchers from the University of Waterloo, Canada, found that increasing the ratio of dietary potassium to sodium intake may be more effective for curbing blood pressure levels than simply reducing sodium intake.

"Usually, when we have high blood pressure, we are advised to eat less salt," said Anita Layton, Profes-



sor of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Pharmacy and Biology at the University of Waterloo.

"Our research suggests that adding more potassium-rich foods to your diet, such as bananas or broccoli, might have a greater positive impact on your blood pressure than just cutting sodium," Layton added.

Potassium and sodium are both electrolytes --

substances that help the body send electrical signals to contract muscles -- affect the amount of water in your body and perform other essential functions.

The study was published in the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology.

"Early humans ate lots of fruits and vegetables, and as a result, our body's regulatory systems may have evolved to work best

with a high potassium, low sodium diet," said lead author Melissa Stadt, a doctoral candidate in Waterloo's Department of Applied Mathematics.

"Today, western diets tend to be much higher in sodium and lower in potassium. That may explain why high blood pressure is found mainly in industrialised societies, not in isolated societies," Stadt said.

To understand how increasing potassium intake can help control blood pressure, the team developed a mathematical model.

The model successfully identifies how the ratio of potassium to sodium impacts the body. It showed that men develop high blood pressure more easily than pre-menopausal women. However, men were also more likely to respond positively to an increased ratio of potassium to sodium.

## New oral pill offers hope against antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A new pill has shown promise against antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea -- a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) --, according to a study published in the journal The Lancet.

Cases of drug-resistant gonorrhoea have been increasing rapidly in recent years. If not treated promptly, gonorrhoea can result in serious complications, especially for women, in whom it can lead to increased risks of ectopic pregnancy and infertility.

The new pill gepotidacin -- developed by British drugmaker GSK and currently approved to treat urinary tract infections -- could be the new treatment against gonorrhoea, as there have been no new antibiotics since the 1990s for the STI.

The phase 3 trial, including 622 patients,



found that gepotidacin is as effective as the current standard treatment for treating the infection.

It protected against the threat of treatment-resistant gonorrhoea and also improved patient treatment experiences, said the international team of researchers from the US, UK, and Australia.

The phase 3 trial compared gepotidacin, taken orally for uncomplicated gonorrhoea with the current standard treatment --

ceftriaxone, an injection; and azithromycin, a pill.

Importantly, the "new pill was effective against strains of the gonorrhoea bacteria that are resistant to existing antibiotics," said the researchers

including from the universities of Birmingham in the UK and Sydney in Australia. No treatment-related severe side effects were observed for those treated with either medication.

"The new treatment

could be an important tool in combating the rise of gonorrhoea strains that are becoming resistant to the standard treatment. Additionally, treatment as a pill alone without the need for an injection would likely improve patient experiences and reduce health care resources," the team added.

However, the team acknowledged limitations such as the study looking primarily at urogenital gonorrhoea and that most of the participants were white men.

The researchers called for more studies to understand the efficacy of the new pill on gonorrhoea of the rectum and throat, and in women, adolescents, and diverse ethnicities.

The finding was also presented at the annual conference of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) in Austria.

## Gut-brain link behind behavioural symptoms in children with autism

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

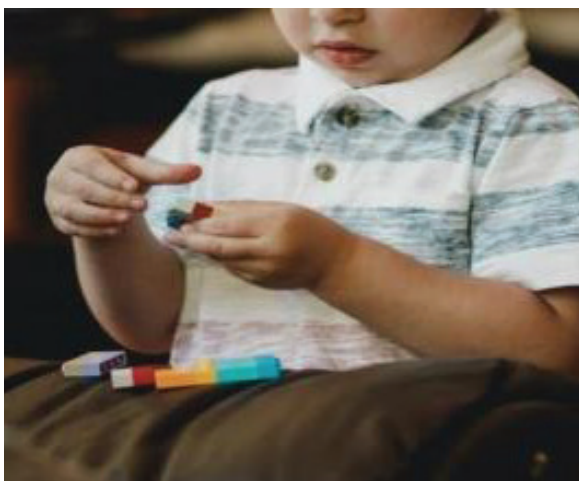
Imbalance in the digestive system may disrupt brain signals and influence behavioural symptoms in children with autism, according to a study on Monday.

Researchers from the University of Southern California (USC) demonstrated that gut metabolites impact the brain, and the brain, in turn, affects behaviour.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, adds to a growing body of science implicating the "gut-brain" axis in autism.

"The brain acts as the intermediary between gut health and autism-related behaviours," said first author Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, Professor at the Brain and Creativity Institute at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

"Previous studies high-



lighted differences in gut microbiomes and brain structures in autism, but our research connects the dots," she added.

For the study, the team collected behavioural data, brain imaging data, and stool samples from 43 children with autism and 41 neurotypical children aged 8-17. From the stool samples, they analysed metabolites produced by gut bacteria that break down food in the digestive

system.

The researchers then correlated these metabolites with brain differences observed in children with autism and their behavioural characteristics. They focussed on the "tryptophan pathway" by which tryptophan -- an amino acid found in many foods -- is broken down into several metabolites, including serotonin.

Serotonin is crucial for emotional processing,

social interaction, learning, and other brain functions. Since much of the body's serotonin originates in the gut microbiome, changes in gut health can influence serotonin production, said the researchers.

"We know that children with autism have brain differences -- certain parts of their brain are either less active or more active compared to typically developing children," Aziz-Zadeh said.

"We also know they often experience gastrointestinal issues, such as constipation, stomach pain, and other digestive problems. Additionally, autism is associated with various symptoms, including repetitive behaviours and social difficulties."

The study may lead to the development of interventions that might target the gut and influence neural activity and behaviour.

## First Baby Born Using Artificial Intelligence in IVF Process

In a historic breakthrough, doctors and researchers have been able to use an artificial intelligence-based fertilization (IVF) system to help bring a baby into the world. This new technology has the ability to transform fertility treatments by enhancing precision, reducing human error, and achieving higher success rates.

**A Technological Leap in IVF**

The AI-IVF system automates the process of sperm injection, which is otherwise left to highly trained embryologists. With the aid of sophisticated algorithms and automated functions, the system can scan and select the optimal sperm cell for impregnation, thereby increasing the chances of embryo formation. Robotic procedures are also utilized to execute precise movements, minimizing errors and making the process uniform.

**How AI Improves the IVF**



**Process**

The AI platform employs deep learning algorithms to assess sperm and egg quality, identify successful fertilization, and move robotic arms to perform the specific task of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). This mechanization reduces reliance on human labor and may help improve accuracy and efficiency in fertilization.

**Overcoming Infertility**

Infertility impacts millions of individuals globally, in many cases leading

to emotional stress and economic hardship. AI-driven IVF offers a potential remedy by increasing the effectiveness and precision of fertility treatment. By streamlining key steps of the process, AI may be able to determine the most likely-to-succeed embryos, enhance the rate of fertilization success, and lower the number of cycles required for conception.

**Ethical and Medical Considerations**

Though the possibilities for AI-augmented IVF are enormous, there are also regulatory and ethical considerations to keep in mind. Critics have argued that complete reliance on artificial intelligence for such a crucial process may prove injurious in unknown ways. Regulatory agencies will have to put in place strict guidelines to ensure the safety and efficacy of AI-augmented fertility treatments.

**Future Implications**

The success of AI-assisted IVF could result in further advances in reproductive medicine. With the advancement of AI, it may be applied to predict the viability of embryos more precisely, tailor treatments for individual patients, and optimize the whole fertility process. This technology can potentially increase the availability and effectiveness of fertility treatment and bring new hope to people and couples who suffer from infertility.

**A New Era in Fertility Treatment**

The arrival of the first baby conceived through AI-augmented IVF is the dawn of a new era in fertility treatment. Though there are issues to be resolved, the future of AI-assisted fertility treatment is bright. As technology advances, it is bound to become more central in helping individuals and couples become parents.

## BJP Nowshera District Organizes Grand Function under 'Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan'



JNEWS SERVICE  
SUNDERBANI, APRIL 20, 2025

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Nowshera District, today organized a grand and dignified function at the District Office in Sunderbani as part of the ongoing 'Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan', commemorating the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The programme was held under BJP's nationwide campaign to pay tribute to Babasaheb's monumental contributions to Indian democracy, social justice, and constitutional values.

Shri Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and State Vice President, BJP J&K, attended as the Key-note Speaker and address to a large gathering of party leaders, workers, and citizens. He described Dr. Ambedkar as a visionary leader whose work laid the foundation of modern India. "Babasaheb was not merely the architect of our Constitution—he was the architect of social transformation. His ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity continue to guide our nation," Shri Sharma

said.

He emphasized that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been unwavering in its commitment to fulfilling Dr. Ambedkar's vision. "The party's development model and governance policies are directly aligned with the constitutional principles drafted by Babasaheb. Programmes like Digital India, Stand-Up India, and targeted welfare schemes are reflections of that vision," he added. Shri Sharma encouraged party workers to actively promote these ideals at the grassroots level and ensure their impact reaches the most marginalized.

District President Shri Preetam Sharma, who presided over the event, called upon all party functionaries to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and make social harmony and constitutional awareness central to their public outreach.

Hon'ble DDC Chairman Jammu, Shri Bharat Bhushan, commended the BJP's commitment to ensuring justice and dig-

nity for all through the application of Ambedkarite principles in public policy.

MLA Sunderbani-Kalakote, Shri Thakur Randhir Singh, highlighted how the Modi-led government has expanded welfare coverage for SC/ST communities in alignment with Dr. Ambedkar's goals.

DDC Sunderbani, Shri Rajinder Sharma, spoke about implementing inclusive policies at the local level and ensuring grassroots governance rooted in equity.

District General Secretary Shri Vikram Sharma praised the overwhelming participation and urged karyakartas to carry forward the mission of 'Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan' with dedication and discipline.

The function concluded with floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and a collective pledge by attendees to uphold the values of justice, empowerment, and national unity. The BJP continues to honor India's icons not only through remembrance but through decisive, transformative action.

## Rahul Gandhi's fear on threat to Constitution BJP's sinister design in attacking SC: Bhardwaj

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 20:

The anti-Constitution face of the BJP is once again at its full display and justifies Leader of Opposition Mr Rahul Gandhi's fight to safeguard the Constitution which empowers and protects the rights of common citizens. The manner in which two BJP's MPs and its supporting authorities holding high constitutional office have targeted the Supreme Court of India, exposes the party's diabolical plan to destroy basic structure of the Constitution.

Whenever the Union Government finds itself on a weak wicket in the Supreme Court, its system

attacks the highest constitutional court of the country. This is an alarming situation.

Expressing shock on the two BJP MP's Mr Nishikant Dubey and Mr Dinesh Sharma attacking the Supreme Court and questioned the wisdom of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Congress leader, former President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu and senior advocate Mr Mohinder Bhardwaj said nothing can be more blasphemous and anti-Constitutional than this. It is appalling that the two MPs have charged the CJ with fomenting ethnic clashes across the country. It is reprehensible and condemnable beyond



words.

The CJ and the Hon'ble judges have only been acting in true bonafide manner to discharge their constitutional duties to protect the laws and constitution and also the rights of the citizens. Obviously, these MPs were not acting on their own or in isolation but as part of the present

dispensation's conspiracy to undermine the Constitution and muzzle the democratic and Constitutional institutions such as the highest constitutional court of the country that is the Supreme Court.

More bizarre is the action of the BJP president Mr J P Nadda in merely dissociating the party from the MPs' objectionable utterances which are nothing short of an anti-constitutional act. It will be construed that the MPs had acted on the directions of the party's top leadership if a serious action is not taken against them. They should immediately resign from their parliament seats and face further action.

Mr Bhardwaj has further said that Mr Gandhi's fears of the Constitution being under grave danger are proving true every day. The condemnable act of the MPs in raising baseless allegations against the CJ, which is a grave contempt of the highest court of the country, and similar insinuations levelled against the apex court by a higher constitutional authority, must be viewed seriously by all right-thinking people and they should join Mr Gandhi in his fight to protect the Constitution. "Strengthen Mr Gandhi's hands to save the Constitution and thereby the nation from slipping into lawlessness," he observed.

## Mahant Lucky Baba organizes 28th Annual Vishal Bhandara at Vaishno Mata Mandir

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

The air was filled with devotion and divine energy as the 28th Annual Vishal Bhandara was grandly organized by Mahant Shri Lucky Baba at the sacred Vaishno Mata Mandir, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The event commenced with a spiritual Langar on Sunday, beginning at 2:00 PM, drawing thousands of devotees from across the region.

Continuing the divine fervour, a grand Jagran is scheduled for April 21,



starting from 9:00 PM onwards, where Bhakti (devotion) will echo through the night in praise of Maa Vaishno Devi. The temple premises are being adorned to welcome an

estimated gathering of over 1,000 devotees, all uniting in a celebration of faith, music, and spiritual upliftment.

The event is set to be graced by several VIP

guests, further adding to the occasion's significance.

Mahant Shri Lucky Baba, known for his deep spiritual insight and selfless service, expressed his heartfelt welcome to

all devotees and spiritual seekers, inviting them to be part of this divine celebration.

The management has made meticulous arrangements to ensure the comfort and safety of all attendees. Media representatives are also warmly invited to cover the event and share the spirit of devotion with the wider community.

With the divine blessings of Mata Rani, the event promises to be a soulful experience—uniting hearts, invoking peace, and spreading spiritual light.

## Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan programme organized at Mandli Billawar

JNEWS SERVICE  
BILLAWAR, APR 20

In continuance of BJP's series of programmes under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan being observed from April 13 to April 25, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, an impressive programme organized at Mandli Billawar. On this occasion, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia participated in Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan as Chief Spokesperson wherein MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basholi Gopal were also present on the occasion besides Sanjeet Sharma, Mandal President Vishal Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi. The programme was also attended by prominent party leaders, social activists and local community members, who paid rich tribute to Dr. Ambedkar.

Honoring the contributions of Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Jasrotia addressed the gathering, shedding light on the Congress party's attempts to distort Dr. Ambedkar's statements and undermine his legacy. He said Congress party consistently opposed Dr. Ambedkar, forcing him to resign from the cabinet and ensuring his defeat in elections. Congress governments denied Dr. Ambedkar the Bharat Ratna until 1990, when a non-Congress government supported by the BJP conferred it upon him.



Congress governments prevented the construction of a memorial for Dr. Ambedkar, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia observed that out of 106 amendments in the Constitution 75 amendments were carried out by the Congress party for the sake of political gains. At the same time, he stressed that the BJP carried out the much-needed amendments in the interest of the nation and its residents.

Jasrotia highlighting BJP's commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's Legacy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, said that BJP government developed Panchteerth, significant sites related to Dr. Ambedkar's life. PM Modi declared November 26 as Constitution Day to honor Dr. Ambedkar's contributions. The BJP government established the Ambedkar International Centre to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. The BJP has strengthened reservation policies, protect-

ing the rights of SCs, STs, and OBCs. While Congress opposed the Mandal Commission report, the BJP supported its implementation. Jasrotia further said that BJP remains committed to upholding the principles of the Constitution and honoring Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. The party's efforts to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and protect the rights of marginalized communities demonstrate its dedication to social justice and equality, said Jasrotia.

MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan in their address highlighted invaluable contributions of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar to the nation. They highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. Ambedkar in the framing of the Indian Constitution. They asked the party activists to connect with the economically weaker sections and other needy persons in the society to aid them and help them in

getting the benefits of the public welfare schemes of the Modi Government. Baba Saheb worked for the upliftment of the weaker sections and all the communities which were oppressed, and neglected. They highlighted the notable contribution of Baba Saheb to ensure the rights of women, SC, OBCs and others.

DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basholi Gopal also offered tributes to Dr Ambedkar and reiterated the party's commitment to his vision of an inclusive and progressive India. They recalled Dr Ambedkar's struggle against social discrimination and his pivotal role in shaping a democratic and egalitarian framework for the nation. They said Dr Ambedkar's ideals remain more relevant than ever and serve as a guiding light for the ongoing mission of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Nitish expresses solidarity with Ramban victims

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Nitish Mahajan, President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, has expressed deep sorrow and solidarity with the people of Ramban in the wake of the tragic cloudburst and flash floods that wreaked havoc in the region, claiming lives and damaging infrastructure.

In a statement issued today, Nitish Mahajan said, "The cloudburst in Dharamkund area of Ramban is a heart-wrenching tragedy. The loss of



three lives and extensive damage to homes and public property is a reminder of the vulnerability of our hilly regions to natural calamities."

He commended the initial response of local authorities but stressed the need for swift and coordinated relief operations, particularly in the remote and badly affected areas. "The government must act without delay. Relief and rescue teams

must be strengthened on the ground, and essential supplies should be rushed to those in distress," he urged.

Nitish Mahajan also emphasized the importance of long-term planning and mitigation strategies. "The damage to the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to landslides at Panthyal and Seri has once again highlighted the need for robust disaster-resilient infrastructure. The administration must conduct a thorough damage assessment and extend appropriate com-

ensation to affected families," he said.

Calling for a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package, he urged the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to not only address immediate needs but also chalk out a sustainable development plan for disaster-prone areas like Ramban.

"The BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ramban in this difficult hour. We will continue to raise their concerns at every platform to ensure justice and support," he added.

## Improved and Metalled roads made Udhampur number one in PMGSY: Pathania

JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 20, 2025:

In a significant stride toward infrastructure development, Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA Udhampur East, inaugurated macadamisation work on key PMGSY road projects including Sundla to High School Sundla and Mahalanga to Chowgan and Sehla-Kouri-Ber roads. With a cumulative project cost nearing Rs. 2 crores, these developments mark a transformative phase in rural connectivity for the region.

Speaking at the inaugural event, Mr. Pathania expressed his unwavering commitment to making Udhampur a model of road connectivity in India. Highlighting the role of Ramnagar's advanced road network during his previous tenure as MLA,



he credited the metal-ling of a record number of roads under PMGSY as the driving force behind Udhampur achieving the top rank in PMGSY road connectivity across the country.

"With the generous support of the Government of India and under the able leadership of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union minister, we are turning our vision into reality. These roads are not just about travel—they're about transforming lives,

connecting people, and unlocking the true potential of our villages," Mr. Pathania said.

He further called for the speedy completion of key infrastructure projects including the Thial to Chountra Mata Road and the Majalta Morh to Gambir Nallah Bridge, emphasizing their importance for regional connectivity and economic upliftment.

Mr. Pathania also said that a Rs. 500 crore aim, by

and large, under PMGSY shall be made available for further upgrading and metalling of roads across Udhampur district. This initiative, he stated, would significantly enhance mobility and access in the hilly terrain, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local populace.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent local leaders including Mohinder Sharma and Mohan Lal Sharma, both Mandal Pradhans, along with a large gathering of enthusiastic citizens who welcomed the developmental push with optimism.

Mr. Pathania concluded by reaffirming his dedication to all-round development and reiterated that connectivity is the cornerstone of progress, especially in rural and semi-urban belts like Udhampur.

## MLA Karnah Javaid Mirchal conducts door-to-door visit across Reddi Chowkibal Block

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KARNAH KUPWARA / APRIL 20

In a spirited outreach initiative following the conclusion of the recent Assembly session, MLA Karnah and senior National Conference leader Javaid Mirchal Sahib visited multiple villages in the Reddi Chowkibal Block – including Kahanabal, Panjgam, Chowkibal, Malasarii, and Tumna.

The visit witnessed door-to-door interactions, with Mirchal personally meeting households, listening to their problems, and inspecting various ongoing and completed developmental works. These included road construction, drinking water facilities, electricity supply, healthcare centers, and educational infrastructure.

Residents welcomed the MLA with garlands and bouquets, expressing their happiness and admiration for his ground-level engagement and consistent dedication to the people's needs. Villagers shared their concerns



related to local connectivity, employment, and basic amenities, and were assured by the MLA that National Conference will prioritize equitable development across the entire Karnah constituency in the coming days.

While speaking to the people, Javaid Mirchal emphasized, "We are committed to reaching the last person in the line. Our vision is inclusive development – every village, every household matters.

Karnah has long been neglected, and this is the time to bring real change.

The visit is part of a broader strategy to strengthen grassroots connection and ensure accountability after the Assembly session. Officials from various departments accompanied the MLA, providing updates and receiving on-the-spot instructions to speed up pending works.

Mirchal further stated that he would soon be visit-

ing Tangdar and other areas of Karnah, ensuring no region is left behind. He reiterated National Conference's renewed focus on the constituency, promising sustained development, increased employment opportunities, and better civic facilities.

This outreach marks a new phase of proactive leadership in Karnah, signaling the beginning of focused governance and people-first politics in the region.

## Jammu Province Bank Employees Federation celebrates 80th foundation day of AIBEA

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Jammu Province Bank Employees Federation celebrated 80th Foundation Day of All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA). The Foundation Day of AIBEA was celebrated by holding a Social Identification program at Balgran - A Charitable Home For Children, Channi Rama, Jammu.

In a colorful program held in the Balgran premises, JPBEF has provided 120 towels, Ration and other daily use items for the children of the Home. The function was presided over by Com. Tara Singh President of the Federation. Besides the Federation leadership the program was also attended by some of the top



dignitaries of the Banks. All of them blessed the function.

While addressing the students Com. Arun Kumar Gupta, General Secretary of the Federation told that AIBEA was founded on 20th April 1946 and to celebrate this day such programs are

regularly held by the Federation in the past also as a part of social responsibility. Earlier such programs were held at for

Specially Aabled Children at Udheywala Jammu, Muskaan Home for specially aabled Children Channi, Balika Niketan, Ved mandir

Amphalla and other such places.

The function was also attended by Com. Ashwani Pradhan, General Secretary, PNBOA, Com. Yogesh Kumar, Com. Jatinder Kumar, Com. Harminder Singh, Com. Lucky Jamwal, Office bearers and Central Committee Members of the Federation and many comrades from all Bank's branches.

The Vote of thanks given by Com. Yogesh Kumar, Secretary of the Federation. The Secretary of Children Home expressed his gratitude to the leadership of Jammu Province Bank Employees Federation for giving lead to other organizations in the matter of social obligations. He hoped for holding such programs in future also.

## BSP will not tolerate any tampering with the reservation given to the backward and Dalit classes: Darshan Rana

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 19

On Saturday, State Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) organized a "Bagidhari" Conference at Bishnah memory of the Bharat Ratan Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, in which the ideology of the Constitution maker Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was discussed and a resolution was taken that BSP will work only under the guidance of his thoughts.

During this one day conference organized under the chairmanship of Bahujan Samaj Party Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana, Former MP and Jammu and Kashmir Coordinator Dr. Avtar Singh Karimpuri was present as the chief guest. Apart from this, a Large number



of party workers including the party State vice President Charanjit Charagotra, State Coordinator Sunil Majotra, Gourav, General Secretary Shashi Bhushan Thapa, Sardar Raja Singh, Tilakraj Bhagat, Haji Shak Mohammad, Tarsem Lal Raman Kumar Davinder

Kumar and Mangal Dass were present in this one-day participation conference. On this occasion, Dr. Avtar Singh Karimpuri said that the aim of Bahujan Samaj Party is to build the India of Baba saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar dreams in which people

of every religion, caste get equal rights. He said that BSP workers need to work together to protect the Constitution. He said that Congress has always worked to weaken Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and has always opposed Ambedkar decision On this occasion, Bahujan Samaj Party's Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana said that no kind of tampering with reservation will be tolerated. He said that the leaders of some political parties give statements every day to tamper with the Constitution and reservation which Bahujan Samaj Party strongly condemns. He said that Bahujan Samaj Party will never let such plans succeed. On this occasion, other people of the party also expressed their views.

## Tony expresses grief over Ramban tragedy; Slams airfare hike amid natural calamity, seeks action

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader and DDC Member from Suchetgarh, has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives and destruction caused by the recent cloudburst and flash floods in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling the incident heartbreaking, Tony said, "The deaths and damage caused by this cloudburst are a grave tragedy. My heartfelt condolences go out to the affected families who have suffered unimaginable losses."

Tony urged the J&K Government, particularly the



In a sharp statement, Tony also condemned the sudden and steep hike in airfares following the disruption of road connectivity due to the calamity. "It is shameful that certain airlines are exploiting a natural disaster to fleece their own countrymen. This is profiteering at the cost of public suffering," he remarked.

He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take strict regulatory action against such airlines, "who are shamelessly overcharging passengers in their hour of need." Tony demanded that such practices be punished sternly and airlines indulging in such

profiteering should face a ban. Furthermore, the senior Congress leader called on the Central Government to prioritize the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, especially roads in hilly regions of Jammu and Kashmir. "Future road projects must be designed and built to withstand natural disasters like cloudbursts. We cannot allow the same tragedies to repeat year after year," he emphasized.

Tony reiterated his party's commitment to standing by the people of Ramban and raising their voice at every level to ensure justice, relief, and long-term protection.

## Indian Army organises medical patrol for youth in Alal, Rajouri

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI 20 APR 2025

With the aim of providing basic medical facilities to the people residing in the village of Alal, Rajouri. The Indian Army organized a medical patrolling programme. The initiative was taken to create awareness amongst the people residing in remote areas regarding various diseases and their symptoms, alongwith pro-active measures to stem the tide of the same. The Indian Army medical patrol interacted with the villagers including Sarpanch and Panches and the local populace. Indian Army representatives provided assistance with free health check-up & medicines were also provided to the people. A total of 16 villagers (including 12 Gents and four Children) were interacted with and were distributed medicines during the medical patrol. Requisite consultation and medicines were provided to the local populace who availed medical benefits.



This programme helped local people to avail medical facilities provided by Indian Army, which is otherwise extremely challenging considering the terrain and remoteness of the area. A Lecture was also organised during this medical patrol to emphasize on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation to increase happiness populace in the area. This event evoked great enthusiasm amongst the local popu-

lation. The genuine effort taken up by Indian Army to organise the medical patrol was appreciated by the entire population in the village. The people gathered at the venue and sought constructive suggestions to improve the livelihood of the residents. This endeavor by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and Awam.

## Bhagat expressed concern over losses caused to farmers by recent havey rains

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 20

Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat expressed concern over the losses caused to farmers by recent havey rains, hailstorm and flood in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone.

The National Confrance leader said that many types of orchards were damaged and trees were blown to the ground, causing loss to farmers and other people involved in the agriculture industry. Walnut trees and fruits orchards have suffered a lot and fruit growers are worried as their income has been badly affected.

Fruit owners have to face huge losses due to natural climate, Large population dependent on horticulture crop in this area has put them in deep trouble.

## Indian Army conducts medical patrol for locals in Keri, Rajouri



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI 20 APR 2025

Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Keri. A total of 58 locals including 23 men, 21 women and

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

## Indian Army Conducts Motivational Lecture for Youth in Patti, Rajouri



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI 20 APR 2025

The Indian Army conducted a lecture on "Motivating youth and fostering associations with locals in Patti Village, Darhal. A total of 50 individual along with the Sarpanch attend the event. The aim of the session was to inspire young minds to adopt values like discipline, patriotism and service to the nation. Interactions with local youth fostered to build trust, understandings and mutual respect among the society for the security

forces. The session also aimed to provide career guidance and skill development opportunities to the youth & promote national pride and social responsibility amongst the local population. It also focused on community development and social cohesion by encouraging youth to become responsible citizens. This session not only benefited the youth but also strengthened the bond between the armed forces and the local community, promoting a sense of unity and shared purpose.

## Nizamuddin Bhat Calls for Immediate Support and Compensation

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20

Senior Congress leader and MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, on Sunday expressed deep concern over the widespread devastation caused by land-

slides and flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district. The natural calamity has resulted in the loss of lives, extensive damage to infrastructure and several vehicles trapped under debris.

"A huge loss has

occurred in Ramban. There are reports of three deaths," Bhat said. Disturbing visuals from the affected area show vehicles buried under mud and rubble, while shops and a restaurant have also been damaged.

# Congress to intensify Samvidhan Bachao, statehood movement from April 22

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

JK Congress will launch an aggressive long drawn Samvidhan Bachao campaign alongwith intensification of Statehood movement in each district and Assembly segments & blocks in entire Jammu & Kashmir & to expose BJP Government for diversionary tactics.

JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra chalked out detailed programme to carry out AICC instructions to adopt State/UT, Provincial, Districts, and Assembly segmentwise campaign to save Constitution and intensify restoration of Statehood movement. A meeting of Senior Congress leaders was held at PCC HQ under the Presidentship of Shri Tariq Hameed Karra to finalise the programme for extended meeting of Senior leaders from all Districts and Blocks on April 22 at Jammu followed by province level protest rally in Jammu on April 29 against the onslaught on the constitution by the Modi Government and it's vindictive politics. The senior leaders



shared their inputs for a detailed campaign to expose BJP for it's failures and diversionary tactics in each constituency level.

The party shall aware the masses about the failures of Modi Government on employment front, price rise, taxations besides it's divisive & communal aa well as vendetta politics.

The betrayal of BJP on the issue of restoration of Statehood and not extending powers to the elected Government to come upto expectations of sufferings of people will be exposed in the one and half month

long programme, the meeting said.

The meeting also took stock of the loss of lives and damages caused during the cloud bursts and strong winds.

The party expressed shock over the loss of lives and property and urged the Government to grant adequate ex-gratia relief to the affected families.

The meeting was attended by working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Ex MP Choudhary Lal Singh, Th. Balwan Singh, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former ministers Yogesh Sawhney, Dr

Manohar Lal Sharma, Yashpal Kundal, I/C HQ Ved Mahajan, Treasurer Rajnish Sharma Incharge Jammu District Rural Hari Singh Chib, Ex MLA Indu Pawar, Namrata Sharma Mahila President Shamima Raina, DCC Presidents Sheikh Mujib, (Doda) Bhupendra Singh Jamwal, (Reasi), Ch Hussain Ali Wafa, I/C ST Dept Bhusan Dogra, IYC Secretary I/C JK Maan Singh Neeraj Gupta, Ashok Sharma, Sanjeev Panda, Sahil Sharma Rajveer Singh, Bhavishya Sudan, Jatin Raina, Social media, Jyant Pathania, Sohan Chand and others.

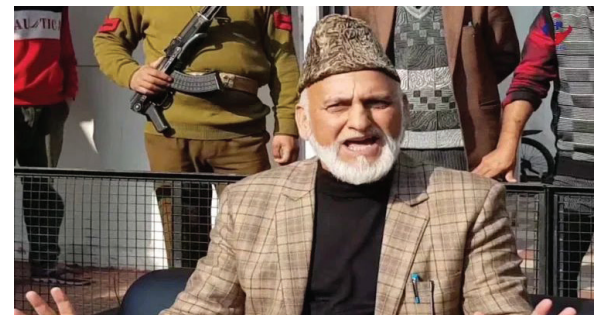
# G M Saroori calls for assistance following Ramban cloudburst

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, APRIL 20

Former Minister J&K, G. M Saroori urged authorities to provide adequate assistance and compensation to those affected by a cloudburst in Chenab Valley.

In his message, Saroori urged the authorities to ensure adequate assistance and compensation for those who suffered losses due to the cloudburst and lightning strikes that hit several areas of Ramban, Reasi and Kishtwar districts.

"Thankfully, there have been no casualties in the unfortunate incident.



However, reports suggest that some buildings, including hotels, government offices, residential houses, have suffered damages due to the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst," he said.

The senior leader said heavy rainfall has caused extensive damage to

paddy fields, and several vehicles have become trapped in the resulting debris.

"In this hour of grief, the administration must ensure all necessary measures are taken to support the victims of this natural calamity," Saroori added. Furthermore Saroori

has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic road accident at Tagood area in Kishtwar district, which claimed the lives of two persons when a vehicle they were travelling fell into deep gorge.

In his condolence message, Saroori termed the incident heartbreaking and extended his sympathies to the bereaved families. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. "This tragedy is truly devastating. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected families. May the Almighty give strength to those who lost their loved ones," Saroori said.

# EJAC Vice President & MI&FCEF Chairman Condolences Demise of Daily Excelsior Video Journalist Javid Dar's Wife

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

Farooq Ahmad Khan, Vice President of the Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) and Chairman of MI&FCEF, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of the wife of senior video journalist and Daily Excelsior cameraman, Javid Ahmad Dar.

In a statement issued here, Farooq Khan remembered Mr. Javid Dar as a sincere and devoted professional whose contribution to the field of journalism has been exemplary. "His commitment to truth and dedication to his profession have always been inspiring. The loss of his wife at such a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy



and our hearts go out to him and his family in this hour of grief," Khan said.

On behalf of MI&FCEF and EJAC, Farooq Ahmad Khan extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He prayed for Dua-e-Magfirat for the departed soul and strength for the family to bear this irreparable loss. "May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bring solace

to the grieving family," he added.

A delegation led by Farooq Khan visited the residence of the deceased to offer condolences and express solidarity with the family. The delegation comprised: Farooq Malik (Chief Spokesperson), Bilal Ahmad Bhat (District President, Srinagar), Nasir Ahmad Nehvi (Vice President), Farooq Shalmari (General Secretary), Aijaz Ahmad Malik (Secretary),

Shabir Ahmad Khan (Press Secretary), Tawkeed, Ghulam Rasool, Farooq Ahmad Lone and Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh.

During the visit, Farooq Khan addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of standing by each other in times of sorrow. He emphasized the values of unity, compassion and collective strength that MI&FCEF and EJAC uphold as guiding principles. "In moments like these, our presence and support can be a source of comfort to those in pain. Solidarity is the truest expression of humanity," he said.

The entire delegation prayed for peace to the departed soul and extended unwavering support to Javid Ahmad Dar and his family.

# PBMS condemns Karnataka college incident

## Khajuria flays Religious bias, seeks strict action against officials involved in discriminatory act

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

In a strong condemnation of what it described as a blatant act of religious intolerance, the Poonchi Brahman Maha Sabha (Jammu & Kashmir) has strongly condemned an incident at Sai Spoorti PU College in Karnataka's Bidar district, where Brahmin students were allegedly asked to remove their Janu (sacred thread) before being allowed to sit for the Common Entrance Test (CET).

The Sabha termed the episode a grave violation of religious freedom and personal dignity. According to reports, several students were denied the opportunity to write the crucial exam after they refused to comply with the controversial directive. The



Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), responding to growing public outrage, has suspended the college principal Dr. Chandra Shekar Biradar and a staff member, Satish Pawar.

Pt. Ashok Kumar Khajuria, founder of the Poonchi Brahman Maha Sabha, asserted that the suspension of a few individuals was "grossly inadequate", and demanded stringent legal action against all involved, particularly naming the invigilator

Muddassir, who allegedly enforced the discriminatory order.

"Such actions have inflicted immense emotional and mental trauma on innocent students whose only fault was practicing their faith," Khajuria said in a public statement released Saturday.

Highlighting the significance of religious expression in a pluralistic society, Khajuria emphasized that peaceful religious practices should never become grounds for exclusion or humiliation, especially in educational environments meant to nurture equality, inclusion, and mutual respect. The organization has urged the Karnataka government and KEA to ensure redressal, either through a re-examination or the allocation of alternate government college

seats to the affected students, thereby safeguarding their academic prospects.

"No child should ever be made to choose between their education and their faith," Khajuria stressed.

In a broader appeal, the Sabha has demanded the immediate implementation of uniform guidelines across all examination centers nationwide to uphold and protect students' constitutional rights to religious freedom. It called for proactive steps to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.

Khajuria concluded with a reminder of India's enduring ethos of unity in diversity, stating, "The strength of our nation lies in its pluralism. Acts that threaten this harmony must be met with firm and decisive action."

# DGP J&K reviews operational preparedness in South Kashmir Range

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Nalin Prabhakar, IPS, concluded a comprehensive two-day tour of the South Kashmir Range. The purpose of the visit was to review the operational preparedness of the police and security forces in the south Kashmir range. It included individual operational reviews of Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, and Awantipora districts.

During the tour, the DGP also visited forward operational bases at Aripal



and the Special Operations Group (SOG) camp at Tral. The visit provided an opportunity to assess the on-ground security preparedness. The DGP's focus remained on strengthening the existing security grid, ensuring seamless coordi-


nation between different security agencies, and bolstering the counter-terrorism efforts in the region. He emphasized the importance of proactive measures and public friendly policing in maintaining peace and order.

# Sat Sharma, Ashok Koul expresses grief over Ramban Cloudburst tragedy

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, APR 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, expressed profound grief over the loss of lives and damage due to the devastating cloudburst at Seri Bagna area of Ramban district in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the tragic loss of precious lives.

Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, said that the incident also caused extensive damage to property and led to the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to landslides and flash floods. He said that the BJP extends heartfelt condolences to the affected families and emphasized the need for immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

**e-NIT NO. 05 of 2025-06 Dated 17-04-2025**

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Providing / fixing of tent items on item rate basis (per unit basis) for the year 2025-26 within jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur.	Stage Contract	600.00	10000.00	Upto 31.03.2026	"D"

The tenders shall be uploaded **upto 1800 Hrs**, on **01-05-2025** and shall be opened on the next working day in the Office Chambers of the **Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** in presence of duly constituted tender opening committee of this office.

**CRITICAL DATES FOR DOWNLOADING / UPLODAING THE BIDS FROM**  
<http://jktenders.gov.in>

1.	<b>Bid publishing date</b>	:	<b>17-04-2025</b>
2.	<b>Bid submission start date</b>	:	<b>18-04-2025 from 900 Hrs</b>
3.	<b>Bid submission end date</b>	:	<b>01-05-2025 upto 1800 hours</b>
4.	<b>Technical Bid opening date</b>	:	<b>02-05-2025 upto 1200 hours</b>

**Particulars of the articles to be supplied mentioned in the BOQ "Bill of Quantities".**

No: 494-500  
DT: 17-04-2025

Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Udhampur

**DIP/J-425/25**  
**Date: 19-4-25**

## 17th Junior National Super Seven Cricket Championship Concludes at M.A.M Stadium

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

The 17th Junior National Super Seven Cricket Championship concluded with great fervor and fanfare at the M.A.M. Stadium in Jammu, marking a significant milestone in youth cricket development across India.

Organized by Ridhima Sports Club India in collaboration with the Super Seven Cricket Federation of India, the event witnessed the participation of budding cricketers from various states including Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, NCR, Punjab, Puducherry, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Maharashtra.

The final match saw a thrilling face-off between NCR and Andhra Pradesh, with NCR clinching the title trophy through a spirited performance. Team



J&K secured the third position and was lauded for its commendable effort and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

The winning team, NCR, was awarded a cash prize of Rs 15,000, while Andhra Pradesh received Rs 12,000 as the second-place team. The home team, Jammu & Kashmir, was honored with Rs 10,000 for securing third place.

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony,

graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He was joined by several dignitaries including Charanjit Singh Raina, newly appointed Director of Citizen Cooperative Bank; Jasmeet Singh, State Coordinator; S. Jatinder Singh; Surinder Singh; Varyam Singh; Upendra Singh; and Ajay Sharma.

Addressing the gathering, Taranjit Singh Tony appreciated the young players for their passion, dedication, and team spirit. "Such tournaments play a crucial role in identifying and nurturing grassroots talent. I congratulate all the teams, especially the winners and runners-up, and urge the youth to continue striving for excellence in sports," he said. The senior Congress leader further emphasized that tournaments like these are not just about competition, but about feeding the Indian Cricket Team with fresh, homegrown talent. "This platform is a nursery for the future stars of Indian cricket," he added.

## Adv. Purnima urges Govt to ensure timely relief in Ramban cloudburst

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and devastation caused by the recent cloudburst and flash floods in Ramban district.

In a statement issued today, the senior BJP



leader said, "It is painful to see the destruction caused by nature's fury.

My thoughts and prayers are with the affected families in this hour of grief."

Adv. Purnima called upon the government to expedite relief operations and ensure that food, shelter, and medical assistance reach every affected household without delay. She also highlighted the need for permanent mitigation strategies, especially in high-risk zones. "Nat-

ural calamities are beyond our control, but a swift and sensitive response is our collective responsibility," she added.

Purnima Sharma also appreciated the efforts of local administration and volunteers who are working tirelessly on ground and appealed to the people to remain vigilant and cooperative during such emergencies.

## MLA Arvind seeks comprehensive relief measures for Ramban cloudburst victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta has expressed profound grief over the tragic cloudburst and subsequent flash floods in Ramban district, which claimed the lives of three individuals and caused extensive damage to public and private property.



Calling the incident "heart-wrenching," Arvind

Gupta extended his condolences to the bereaved families and urged the UT administration to swing into action with all available resources. He stressed the importance of intensifying search and rescue operations, as well as ensuring immediate rehabilitation of affected families.

Arvind also emphasized the need for a long-term

disaster management plan for vulnerable hilly regions like Ramban. "We must move from reactive to preventive strategies to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our people," he said. He appealed to party workers and civil society to extend help to those in distress and assured that the matter will be taken up at the highest levels for prompt redressal.

## National-Level Baisakhi event celebrated with cultural fervor at Abhinav Theatre

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

A vibrant celebration of Indian art, culture, and heritage marked the one-day national-level Baisakhi event held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. The event was jointly organized by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust and the Tourism Department, Northern Zone, and witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of dignitaries, artists, and cultural aficionados.

Padma Shri awardees Mohan Singh Slathia and Ramalo Ram graced the occasion along with Maj. Gen. G.S. Jamwal and Brig. V.S. Dheman. Renowned Kathak dancer Gauri Diwaker delivered a mesmerizing performance, while an engaging Dogri play Kunju Chanchalo was staged by Jakson. A special on-the-spot painting camp brought together eminent artists from seven states, celebrating the spirit of



unity in diversity through creative expression.

The event also saw participation from Seetharaman AD, General of Incredible India; SHO Rakesh Jamwal of Kacchi Chhawni; and noted cultural personalities including Amit Anand, Vijay Anand, Sonam Sikarwar, Sharmila Sharma, Suman Dogre, Rakhi Kumar, and Akram Khan. Students from DPS Jammu also actively took part in the festivities.

Anuradha Rishi, President of the Trust, extended heartfelt gratitude to all

dignitaries, participants, and supporters. She especially thanked Dr. Savita Wazir for her coordination efforts. She also thanked Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh of the Royal Dogra Family for her constant encouragement and support in promoting Dogra heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Rishi emphasized the Trust's mission to empower underprivileged children and youth from remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir through cultural engagement. "We are committed to connecting

the youth to their roots. Art has the power to transform lives, inspire humanity, and build a progressive society," she remarked.

She also highlighted the enduring legacy of Master Sansar Chand Baru, a pioneer in Pahari miniature painting and founder of the Dogra Museum, whose vision continues to guide the Trust.

Padma Shri Ramalo Ram and Mohan Singh both lauded the festival, underscoring the need for continued efforts to preserve and promote Dogra art and heritage. "It is vital that the government and society support such initiatives to inspire younger generations," they said.

The event concluded on a high note with Inspector Rakesh Singh Jamwal delighting the audience with a heartfelt song, encapsulating the festive spirit.

Students of DPS Jammu also participated in the event.

## M.K Ajatshatru Singh expresses solidarity with Ramban cloudburst victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Former minister and senior BJP leader, M.K Ajatshatru Singh has voiced serious concern over the widespread destruction caused by the cloudburst and flash floods in Ramban district.

Highlighting the critical situation, M.K Ajatshatru Singh said, "The havoc caused by the cloudburst in Dharamkund and the resultant death of three individuals is a grim reminder of how fragile life is in hilly terrains."

Ajatshatru Singh urged the government to immediately deploy relief and rescue teams, assess the damage in affected villages, and provide adequate compensation to those who have lost their homes and means of livelihood. "This is not the time for bureaucratic complacency. Relief must be fast-tracked," Singh stated.

The former minister called for a high-level



review of emergency response systems in all landslide-prone areas of Jammu and Kashmir. "Such disasters cannot be prevented, but their impact can surely be minimized with vision and preparedness," he added.

He also expressed solidarity with the cloudburst victims and their families, extending heartfelt condolences to those who lost loved ones and praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. "In this hour of grief, I stand with the affected families and urge the administration to leave no stone unturned in bringing them relief and support," he added.

## Ranvijay Singh expresses deep grief over Ramban tragedy

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

Ranvijay Singh, the great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, has expressed profound sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and devastation caused by the recent cloudburst and flash floods in the Ramban district.

In a statement issued today, Ranvijay Singh said, "My heart goes out to the families who have lost their loved ones in this unfortunate natural calamity. The incident in Dharamkund, where three precious lives were lost due to a sudden cloudburst, is deeply distressing."

He urged the administration to act with urgency and compassion. "Timely assistance and compensation must reach the affect-

ed families. Restoration of road connectivity and essential services must be the immediate priority," he asserted.

Paying homage to the victims, he reiterated the need for enhanced disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure in vulnerable regions like Ramban. "Our response systems must match the magnitude of such calamities to prevent further loss in future," he added.

## Cloudburst tragedy in Ramban Er. Rishi Kilam express grief, urges CM to provide urgent relief measures

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU APRIL 20

Veteran Social and Political Activist has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and widespread destruction caused by a devastating cloudburst in the Ramban district. The calamity has claimed the lives of three individuals, left over 100 houses damaged, and caused flash floods that led to the closure of roads and disruption of essential services.

In a heartfelt statement, Kilam extended his condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with the affected residents. "This is a heartbreaking moment for the people of Ramban. The scale of destruction is immense, and my thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost their loved ones and homes," he said.

Kilam has urged the district administration to take immediate steps to restore connectivity and essential services, including water and electricity supply, in the

affected areas. He specifically appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of Ramban to ensure prompt delivery of relief and compensation to the affected families.

"The administration must act swiftly to mitigate the suffering of people. Restoration of roads and basic amenities should be a priority, and all necessary support must be provided to those who have been hit hardest by this natural calamity," Kilam emphasized.

Kilam also called on government agencies and disaster response teams to remain vigilant and extend all possible assistance to prevent further hardship in the region.

Kilam appealed the honble LG and CM JKUT to provide financial assistance and arrange temporary shelter to the victims.

## BJP organizes 'Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan' across J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, APR 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir organized "Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" programmes at ten places across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary BJP & MLA, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Dr. Devinder Kumar Mnyal, MLA and General Secretary, Parmod Kapahi, Programme Incharge, Prabhari Rajeev Charak, District President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, District General Secretaries Suneet Raina & Ravikant Sharma were present in the "Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" programme organized at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sat Sharma, in his address, criticized Congress for consistently ignoring Bharat Ratna Dr.



BR Ambedkar and his contributions. He said that the Congress always practiced the politics of its suitability for its own benefits. He said that the Congress for decades practiced appeasement instead of empowerment and used the poor and needy as the vote bank to enjoy the power corridors.

He emphasized that the Modi government developed the PanchTirth to honour the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and to ensure that his life, practices and teachings reach the people.

The Modi government recognized the contributions of Dr. BR Ambedkar in a true way.

Dr. Narinder Singh, in his address, stressed that Congress twisted and weakened the Constitution for the 75 times, which were purely for its own benefits. He stressed that BJP is now working to strengthen Democracy and empower the people.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Mnyal, said that Congress fielded a candidate against Dr. BR Ambedkar and conspired to ensure that Baba

Saheb loses in the election. Congress also opposed him as the Chairman of the 'Constitution Committee' and even didn't let him do work freely as the Minister. Parmod Kapahi shared that the BJP is determined to take the legacy of Baba Saheb through these programmes.

Adv. Rajesh Gupta managed the programme.

Meanwhile, Parmod Kapahi, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, President BJP Minority Morcha, former MLC Charanjit Singh Khalsa, and others were

present in a programme organized by BJP Minority Morcha at community hall, Gangyal, Jammu.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Minister Bali Bhagat and others were present in a programme organized at Akhnoor.

BJP Vice-President & MLA Sham Lal Sharma, DDC chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi and others were present in a programme organized at Nowshera.

MLA Rajeev Jasrotia, MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan

and others were present in a programme organized at Basohli.

Dr. Darakhshan Andrab, Chairperson Waqf, District President Manzoor Wani and others were present in a programme organized at Anantnag.

Sajjad Kumar, Hakeem Ruhulla Ghazi and others were present in a programme organized at Budgam.

Ashok Bhat, Ch. Hussain Rather and others were present in a programme organized at Ganderbal.

Altaf Thakur, BJP Spokesperson, District President Farooq Ahmad Rather, district President and others were present in a programme organized at Kulgam.

Ali Mohd. Mir, Er Syed Showket Gayoor Andrab and others were present in a programme organized at Pulwama.

Sofi Yusuf, Ex MLC, Raja Waseem and others were present in a programme organized at Shopian.

# DC leads Rescue & Relief operations after devastating Rains, Flash Floods in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20

The District Administration Ramban has launched an extensive rescue and relief operation amidst devastating rains and flash floods that affected several parts of the district today morning.

Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary is personally monitoring the ongoing operations in the affected areas. Accompanied by SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh and other senior officers, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ground situation and coordinated with the specialised teams engaged in relief efforts.

Teams from the Police, SDRF, Civil QRTs, ARMY and other stakeholder departments and agencies, besides volunteers from the local NGOs are actively engaged in rescue and res-



toration operations across the affected areas.

Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the tragic loss of three lives, including two children and an elderly person, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He affirmed that rescue of precious lives and restoration

of the essential services are the topmost priorities of the District Administration.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the Administration is implementing Government directives with utmost urgency to intensify rescue operations and ensure the safety and welfare of the

affected people.

He appreciated the public response in adhering to advisories issued through social media and other communication channels, noting that people's alertness played a vital role in minimizing the loss of lives during the calamity.

While confirming that huge loss of property and damage to infrastructure has been reported from various parts of the district, he appealed to the public to avoid venturing into risky areas, including nalahs and landslide-prone zones, and to remain in safer locations.

The Deputy Commissioner also urged the public to rely only on authentic sources of information and refrain from spreading or believing in rumours.

# DDC inaugurates newly established Kisan Khidmat Ghars in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 20

To strengthen the delivery of agricultural services at the grassroots level, District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today inaugurated Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) established under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in five panchayats of Kanuayan, Dara Dhullian Lower, Bhainch, Sathra, and Ajate.

A total of 100 Kisan Khidmat Ghars have been approved for Poonch district under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme project 'Innovative Extension in Agriculture Approaches'.

These newly inaugurated centres are poised to serve as vital touch points for the farming community thus bridging the gap between the Agriculture Department and farmers paving further reinforcement of the extension framework in the district.

While 2 KKGs at Jhul-



las (Poonch) and Dharna (Mendhar) were established in the Phase-I, the remaining 98 are being set up in the Phase-II. The randomly selected 5 KKGs inaugurated today form the part of the second phase. These KKGs will act as one-stop facilitation hubs for the farming community offering timely and seamless delivery of agriculture-related services, including registrations on Kisan Sathi, Daksh Sathi

enrolment, e-KYC, soil health advisory, farmer and farm registration, scheme guidance, weather-based advisories, training support etc.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Development Commissioner commended the Agriculture Department for successfully operationalizing the Kisan Khidmat Ghars in the far flung and remote panchayats ensuring easy access to vital services for

farmers. He underscored that the initiative is not just about service delivery but also for promoting entrepreneurship and creating employment avenues for rural unemployed youth.

He encouraged the Krishi Udyamis to work with dedication and zeal as they serve as the first point of contact for farmers seeking agriculture services. He further instructed to facilitate the issuance of Input Licences of seed, fertilizer and pesticide to them on priority basis. This will enable Krishi Udyamis to operate as authorized input dealers at the doorstep of the farmers thereby promoting agri-based entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

The District Development Commissioner was accompanied by District officers of Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Departments. Sub Divisional Agriculture officer Poonch and concerned Agriculture Extension Officers were also present during the inauguration.

# AYUSH Pharmacist course introduced at ANMT School Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, APRIL 20

In a significant step towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the district, and in line with the priorities of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, AYUSH Pharmacist course has been introduced for the first time at the Ancillary Nursing & Midwifery Training (ANMT) School Ramban.

This pioneering initiative aims to create a skilled workforce in the field of traditional Indian medicine. Alongside the ten students enrolled in the newly launched AYUSH Pharmacist course, over 90 trainees from other healthcare streams including Female Multi-Purpose Health Worker (FMPHW), Medical Assistant, and Laboratory Assistant courses are also being introduced to the fundamentals of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.



cine.

According to Dr. Masood Iqbal Zargar, Senior Medical Officer AYUSH, who has been engaged as the AYUSH Lecturer at the ANMT School, this initiative will play a vital role in filling vacant positions of AYUSH Pharmacists at AYUSH Arogya Mandirs—previously known as AYUSH Dispensaries and

later as AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres.

"This initiative is not just about addressing manpower gaps," Dr. Zargar added, "it also aims to promote the ancient Indian System of Medicine, known for being natural, cost-effective, and free from harmful side effects—thus making it accessible and beneficial to the larger population."

# LMD imposes fine of Rs1.5 Lakh on manufacturer of animal feed for underweight packaging

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

The Legal Metrology Department (LMD) has slapped hefty penalty of Rs 1.5 lakh on a flour mill manufacturer for distributing underweight animal feed across markets in Srinagar.

According to LMD, the officials of the department during a routine inspection found discrepancies in the weight of packaged goods labelled as 25 kg with some packs falling short by 400g.

The department took immediate action under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 by seizing all underweight stocks.

The manufacturer while acknowledging the lapse provided a written undertaking to recall all such products from the market.

Speaking regarding the action, Anuradha

Gupta, Controller Legal Metrology stated that "Consumers trust the labels on their goods and it's our duty to ensure that the trust isn't broken". She emphasized on zero-tolerance against errant manufacturers and has directed field officers to take strict action against violators.

Meanwhile, consumers were also advised to stay vigilant to check the declared weights and use certified weighing machines available with the sellers to confirm accuracy at the time of purchase. In case of any complaint or non-cooperation by the traders, they have been asked to lodge their complaints with the department.

The department further urged all manufacturers and traders to comply strictly with legal standards or face penalties and legal consequences.

# Poonch admin issues public advisory in view of adverse weather forecast

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, APRIL 20

The District Administration Poonch today issued a public advisory in view of the adverse weather forecast.

"As per the Weather forecast update issued by the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar at 15:15 Hrs, light to moderate rain with intense showers at some places, accompanied by thunder, lightning and gusty winds, is likely to affect many parts of Jammu & Kashmir including District Poonch during the next 4 to 6 hours. In view of the prevailing weather situation, the general public is advised to follow the precautions to ensure safety. Public should Avoid unnecessary travel, especially towards hilly, landslide-prone, or flood-prone areas.

# Sakeena Itoo reviews performance of Samagra Shiksha

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting here today to review the performance of Samagra Shiksha.

The meeting was attended by Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakhwal; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid; Special Secretary, School Education department, Gulzar Ahmad Shabnam; other senior officers of Samagra Shiksha and school education department.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of ongoing works of Samagra Shiksha under different components. She also took detailed appraisal of the forthcoming plan for the year 2025-26.

Addressing the meeting, Sakeena called upon the officers for proper utilisation of funds, besides maintaining quality of works. She directed them for strict adherence of existing tendering protocols and maintaining transparency in allotting



tenders. She also asked them to give chance for local vendors in executing works under Samagra Shiksha through proper tenders.

Taking strong note of some works being allotted to some blacklisted agencies, Sakeena directed the officers that the agencies which failed to complete works in previous years on timely basis, shouldn't be re-allotted any kind of works afresh. She further directed the officers to submit a detailed report on tenders allotted in last some years in order to detect the wrongs committed and same can be corrected.

Referring to various components of Samagra Shiksha and their impact on overall good of education sector in J&K, Sakeena Itoo impressed upon

the officers for proper coordination of both the directors as well as project director in order to achieve the objectives. She highlighted that the foundational literacy, infrastructure development, and digital learning outreach can be maximised through the intervention of Samagra Shiksha.

Highlighting the importance of inclusive and equitable education, Sakeena Itoo urged the officers to prioritize girl child education, education for children with special needs (CWSN) and tribal and remote area outreach. "Our aim is to ensure no child is left behind," she stated.

The Minister also called for timely completion of ongoing initiatives like classroom digitization, smart lab establishments,

vocational training modules, and teacher capacity-building programs. She also emphasized community participation and parent engagement to strengthen the overall education ecosystem.

Acknowledging the strides made under the Samagra Shiksha, the Minister stressed on the need for accelerated and coordinated implementation of the newly approved initiatives for the year 2025-26. She asked the Project Director Samagra Shiksha to sought requirement from both the directors of school Education regarding interventions required.

Calling for regular monitoring of several works carried under Samagra Shiksha across J&K, Sakeena Itoo directed the Special Secretary School Education department to con-

stitute a committee with representatives of Administrative department, both directors of school Education and Samagra Shiksha who will go on ground to check implementation of different initiatives of Samagra on the ground. She asked them to conduct videography of the field visits and submit the report regarding same within fifteen days.

Later, the Minister also inspected the Vidya Samiksha Kendra at Teacher Bhawan here.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed about the functioning of centre by Project Director Samagra Shiksha.

She sought live demonstration of J&K Attendance Trend Dashboard, Weekly Practice Participation test, Teacher Attendance, Student Attendance and other features of the website.

The Minister, during the visit, directed the officers to use this centre for better utilisation and improvement of schools across Jammu and Kashmir. She asked them to utilise the feedback about various interventions of Samagra obtained through this centre for upgrading the required infrastructure across schools.

# Awareness prog on drug menace held at GHSS, Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, APRIL 20

An awareness programme on drug menace was organized today at Girls' Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, with the objective of sensitizing young minds about the growing abuse of drugs and its devastating consequences on individuals and society.

The event witnessed the participation of several prominent dignitaries and officers who spoke extensively on the pressing issue of drug addiction. The panel of officers included Station House Officer Baramulla, Rishabh Shukla, Army Officer Major Harris from the Indian Army, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Rupali, and Naveed Ajaz



Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Baramulla, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Rishabh Shukla emphasized the urgent need to tackle drug abuse at its roots, especially among the youth. He urged students to stay vigilant, make informed choices, and work as ambassadors of change within their communities. He highlighted the vari-

ous measures taken by the police and civil administration to curb the drug trade and rehabilitate victims.

Major Harris, representing the Indian Army, spoke about the psychological and social damages caused by narcotics. He motivated students to engage in constructive activities and strengthen their mental resilience through discipline and healthy lifestyle choices.

Rupali shared real-life case studies and data on how addiction impacts families and communities, particularly in conflict-prone regions. She appealed to the students to speak up against peer pressure and encouraged them to reach out for help when needed.

CEO MC Baramulla, Naveed Ajaz Khan, appreciated the initiative and reiterated the commitment of the Municipal Council towards promoting a drug-free environment in the town. He called for greater synergy between civic bodies, law enforcement, educational institutions, and the public to create lasting awareness and preventive strategies.

The programme also

featured interactive sessions where female students of the school actively participated by posing questions, sharing their views, and discussing the challenges faced by the youth in contemporary times. The dignitaries answered their queries and offered guidance on how to handle peer influence, anxiety, and other vulnerabilities that could lead to substance abuse.

The event concluded with a pledge by students and staff to remain vigilant, informed, and united against drug addiction. The school authorities extended gratitude to all the guests for their valuable insights and presence, reinforcing the collective resolve to safeguard the future of our youth.