

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:

- Headache and continuous fever above 102°F
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Darkness
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or stool
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Flash floods leave trail of destruction in Ramban, loss worth crores



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APR 21 (KNO)

Flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst in Ramban have left a trail of destruction behind and have brought life to a grind-

ing halt. Three people lost their lives in Baghana village after their house collapsed. Several shops and vehicles were also swept away. Many people were left stranded along the national

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Ramban cloudburst tragedy

CM reaches 'Ground Zero,' assures all possible support to victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN/SRINAGAR APR 21, KNO

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reached "Ground Zero" at Ramban to assess the damage caused by the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst.

Talking to the reporters after taking stock of the situation, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency said, "All the possible support will be provided

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



I am not a Pakistani, can't answer questions on behalf of Army General: Dr Farooq

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 21, KNO

Stating that he is not a "Pakistani" and cannot speak on behalf of an Army General, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday blamed the neighbouring country and their agents in J&K for promoting drug abuse in the region.

Replying to a query about Pakistan Army chief's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency said, "I am not a Pakistani and cannot speak on behalf of a Pakistani general. Please direct your enquiries to him."

Responding to a question about Pakistan's alleged involvement in pushing narcotics into J&K the National Conference President said, "We know about it. It is not a new thing. There are people among us who are part of



it and we need to strongly crack down on these agents and punish them for pushing our youth to the brink."

He also called for concerted efforts to combat the drug menace. "There are people who are involved in this and are selling drugs here. We must bring them down and give them the harshest punishment possible. They are jeopardising our future," Dr Farooq said.

Termining drug abuse as a big menace, Dr Farooq said, "Our children are being ruined by it. Our future is falling into darkness because of it. We have to wage a big

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Will request Centre to declare Ramban cloud burst tragedy as national disaster: LoP Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APR 21, KNO

Terming the recent cloudburst in Ramban as a "big disaster", Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Sharma on Monday said that the tragedy deserves to be declared a national disaster by the Centre.

Sharma, accompanied by other BJP leaders, visited the affected areas to assess the damage caused by the sudden cloudburst and ensuing flash floods.

Speaking to reporters during his visit, Sharma,



"Three people have lost their lives in this calamity. Around 20 to 30 shops have been completely destroyed. We have come here to assess the situation and will soon submit a detailed report to the Government of India," he said.

Assuring the people of Ramban of full support, Sharma emphasized that the BJP will play the role of a constructive opposition. "We will ensure that the Jammu and Kashmir Government provides the requisite support to the people affected by

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

NH-44 remains closed, commuters opt for Mughal road to reach Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 21, KNO

With the continued closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) for the past two days due to landslides triggered by heavy rainfall, a large number of commuters have turned to the historic Mughal Road as an alternative route to reach Jammu.

The closure of the vital highway has disrupted the movement of vehicles, especially trucks carrying essential supplies, causing significant inconvenience to travellers and transporters alike.

According to officials, the restoration work on



NH-44 is underway while efforts are being made to clear the landslide debris and repair damaged stretches of the road.

"Men and machinery have been pressed into service, and efforts are on to restore traffic at the earliest," said an official from

the Traffic Department.

In the meantime, the Mughal Road, which connects Shopian in South Kashmir with Poonch in Jammu region, has witnessed a noticeable increase in traffic volume. An official told KNO

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Health authorities on high alert as traffic diverted to Mughal Road amid NHW-144 closure

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 21, KNO

In light of the closure of National Highway NHW-144 (Jammu-Srinagar) via Ramban, authorities have diverted all vehicular traffic through the Mughal Road. As a precautionary measure, a high alert has been issued for all health institutions located along the alternate corridor—from Sunderbani to Bhimber Gali and Dehra Ki Gali.

Acknowledging the potential for a surge in patient inflow, accident cases and emergency referrals due to increased traffic, health authorities have directed all healthcare facilities along the Mughal Road to remain fully operational 24x7 until further notice.

"In view of the closure of National Highway NHW-144 (Jammu-Srinagar) via Ramban, all vehicular traffic has been diverted through the Mughal Road. Consequently, all health institutions located along the Mughal Road corri-

dor—from Sunderbani to Bhimber Gali and Dehra Ki Gali—are hereby placed on high alert and directed to remain fully functional on a 24x7 basis until further orders," reads the circular issued by CMO Rajouri, a copy of which is available with the news agency.

The directive aims to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services and emergency response readiness amid rising vehicular movement.

Accordingly, all types of leaves, including casual,

earned, and station leave for medical officers, paramedical staff, drivers, support staff, and administrative personnel, are cancelled with immediate effect, it mentions.

As per the circular, maternity leave will be permitted as per existing norms. "Block Medical Officers (BMOs) concerned are instructed to ensure adequate manpower deployment through rotational rotation and ensure that night duty

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Weather turns pleasant after 3-day wet spell

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 21, KNO

After three-day wet spell, the weather conditions improved on Monday across Jammu and Kashmir while the hailstorms continued to wreak havoc in multiple areas across South Kashmir causing further losses to the fruit growers and orchardists.

According to the news agency, Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather conditions

have improved today, but some areas have witnessed thundershower activity including Ramban and Banihal.

However, he said that there is no forecast of any major weather activity till the end of this month, but added that light weather activity on April 24 evening or April 25 cannot be ruled out.

The KNO has received the reports that the hailstorm continued to occur in multiple areas

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CS reviews flagship urban development schemes across J&K



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Chief Secretary, Atul Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review different urban development schemes and programmes being implemented across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Commissioner, SMC; Commissioner, JMC; MD, Housing Board; MD, NULM along with other senior officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the scale and scope of urban transformation under H&UDD. He emphasized timely

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

GV Sandeep Chakravarthy assumes charge as SSP Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 21, KNO

Dr. G.V. Sandeep Chakravarthy, IPS, on Monday assumed charge of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar.

"Upon his arrival at the District Police Headquarters, Chakravarthy was warmly received by senior police officers. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was presented in his honour," the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Final Electoral Rolls published after SSR 2025:ECI

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Election Commission of India has described as baseless the allegations regarding discrepancies or irregularities in the final electoral rolls after completing the Special Summary Revision, asserting that the Commission is committed to ensuring free and seamless elections with focus on transparency in the entire process.

The final Electoral Rolls published on 6th

and 7th January 2025 following the countrywide Special Summary Revision (SSR) has witnessed an unprecedented level of acceptance, with very few first or second appeals filed under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

These appeals pertained to corrections under Section 22 and inclusions under Section 23 of the Act.

As per the data released by ECI, this comprehensive exercise covered nearly 10.5 lakh polling

booths across the country and was conducted with the active involvement of 13.87 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by the political parties, spanning 4,123 Assembly Constituencies nationwide.

The absence of any large scale appeals indicates a broad consensus and acceptance of the updated electoral rolls by all stakeholders. Accordingly, the Electoral Rolls published post-SSR in January 2025 are now to be treated as undisputed.

It may be recalled that the SSR 2025 exercise was conducted with particular emphasis on States and Union Territories slated for Assembly Elections after the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reiterated its commitment to free, fair, inclusive and transparent electoral processes. It views the smooth completion and acceptance of the SSR 2025 as a major step forward in strengthening the foundations of democracy.

As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the whole exercise was conducted meticulously with not a single first or second level appeal reported in the Union Territory. This accuracy and proficiency ensured in the SSR for J&K is testament to the commitment of Election Commission of India towards ensuring a transparent and efficient electoral process, while upholding the sanctity of a democratic system.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, chaired a significant meeting today here to meticulously review the arrangements for the upcoming annual Kheer Bhawani Mela 2025 at Tulamulla Ganderbal.

At the outset, detailed discussion was held on various crucial aspects like lodging facilities, sanitation measures, barricading, establishment of a joint control room, healthcare provisions, parking arrangements, route planning, signage placement, security, availability of essential commodities, and uninterrupted power and water supplies, among other allied arrangements, essential for the



smooth conduct of the event.

DC emphasized the importance of seamless coordination among the concerned departments to ensure the successful conduct of the Mela.

Directives were issued to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, adequate transport facilities, robust security measures, provision of fire tenders, medical facilities, and sanitation

in and around the temple premises.

The Municipal Council Ganderbal was specifically tasked with ensuring proper sanitation along the approach road to the temple, along with the installation of dustbins at strategic locations. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) was directed to ensure the availability of all essential commodities, including

kerosene and LPG.

Furthermore, instructions were given to the officers to ensure that devotees are provided with requisite facilities, with meticulous attention to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience.

Additionally, the Executive Engineer I&FC was directed to undertake dredging and de-weeding of Tulamulla Nallah before the commencement of the Mela.

Distt admin Ganderbal continues IEC campaign under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 21

In continuation of its intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns under the UT-wide Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, today organized a mega awareness programme at Panchayat Haran Tulbagh.

The event witnessed active participation from officials of various departments including Social Welfare, Health, and Police, alongside representatives of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), civil society members, social workers, and the general public.

A major highlight of the



programme was a thought-provoking cultural performance by the Cultural Wing of DIPR, J&K, featuring a skit centered on drug abuse prevention. The performance effectively depicted the destructive

effects of addiction on families and society, while calling for united community action to uproot this social evil.

The event also featured interactive awareness sessions conducted by a panel

of experts and resource persons from different departments.

Medical professionals from the Health Department sensitized the gathering about the root causes of addiction, including depression, peer pressure, curiosity, family trauma, and feelings of inferiority. They underlined the significance of timely intervention, emotional support, and rehabilitation in addressing substance abuse.

Speakers during the programme stressed the need for a community-driven, collective approach to effectively tackle the rising challenge of drug addiction. Participants were motivated to become active change-makers and advocates for a drug-free society within their own communities.

JKEDI District Centre hosts 6-Day Management Development Program for MSMEs in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 21

The District Centre of the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) commenced a 6-day (30-hour) Management Development Programme (MDP) for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) today at JKEDI Poonch. This initiative is part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The program was officially inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tahir Mustafa Malik, marking a significant step towards enhancing the capabilities of local entrepreneurs.

Supported by the World Bank, the RAMP scheme aims to strengthen the performance of MSMEs across the Union Territory. It focuses on improving



market access, promoting technology adoption, enhancing financial inclusion, and building capacity while fostering collaboration between central and UT-level institutions.

The training program has attracted participation from 20 local entrepreneurs, providing them with practical insights into business management,

operational efficiency, and institutional support mechanisms. The participants will engage in interactive sessions with domain experts and officials from relevant departments, gaining valuable knowledge and skills.

Present at the inauguration were District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Sh. Shabir Hussain Shah, Project Man-

ager Sh. Iftikhar Bashir, and other officials from various line departments.

The MDP under the RAMP scheme represents a strategic initiative towards developing a self-reliant MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. This aligns with JKEDI's ongoing commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic development in the region.

Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan programmes held in Jammu panchayats, schools

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

As part of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, awareness events were held today across Jammu district to combat drug abuse.

A program was organized at Martyr Major Arvind Bazala HSS, RS Pura under Principal Neelam Gupta. Speakers included Dr. Anupriya (Health Department), Tara Chand (ZEPO), Intshtam-ul-Haq (Police), Priyanka Sharma, DharamPal Sharma and Tripta Kattal who presented Dogri poetry. Student Akul Lalotra delivered a speech, while Abhi and Sanjeev performed a dance promoting a drug-free life.

Attendees took a pledge to support the Nasha Mukta Bharat initiative. Officials from Excise, Social Welfare, School Development



Committee, ZEO RS Pura and Rural Development were present.

Kalan also hosted an awareness program under Vice Principal Sohan Singh Chib. Dr. Gagandeep Kour

discussed drug effects and medical distinctions. Sohan Singh explained drug types and rehabilitation centers. Rawan Kumar spoke on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, while Chetna shared helpline numbers.

Tara Singh Choudhary, Ex-Vice Sarpanch, emphasised the role of sports in preventing drug abuse. Students presented a skit and a video about drug abuse was screened.

The event saw participation from about 100 people, including students, teachers, volunteers and residents from Sai and Nikowal Panchayats.

Similar awareness events were conducted at 18 panchayats in Jammu district today.

Empowering MSMEs: JKTPO hosts RAMP Workshop at Udyog Bhawan Jammu to Empower Local MSMEs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

In a notable effort to strengthen the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector in Jammu and Kashmir, the District-Level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop was today held at Udyog Bhawan, Jammu.

The event was a collaborative initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (SPIU for RAMP), in partnership with the District Industries Centre (DIC), Jammu.

The event marked the third in the series of district-level outreach workshops aimed at enhancing awareness and capacity building among MSMEs, key stakeholders, and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative—a flagship scheme by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The RAMP initiative is being implemented under the overall supervision of the Industries and Commerce Department of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) serving as the nodal agency. Sh. Sudarshan Kumar, Managing Director of JKTPO, has emphasized the transformative potential of the scheme,



stating that "under the leadership of Sh. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, JKTPO is committed to transforming the MSME landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. RAMP has the potential to be a game changer for our entrepreneurs, driving growth and innovation across the region"

The SPIU Team delivered an insightful presentation, highlighting the key interventions approved under the RAMP scheme for Jammu and Kashmir. These initiatives include the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration, enhanced packaging and promotion of GI/ODOP/DEH/unique products from the region, and the formation of producer companies/associations under cluster development programs. The scheme also features buyer-seller meets (BSMs) and reverse buyer-seller meets (RBSMs), the establish-

ment of the Jammu & Kashmir MSMEs Health Clinic, the J&K Ramp M&E Dashboard, and various entrepreneurship and skill development programs (ESDP). Additionally, it focuses on management development and upskilling of existing entrepreneurs (MDPs) and the expansion of digital financing options.

The workshop, chaired by Joint Director (Development), Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Ashok Kumar witnessed enthusiastic participation from a diverse array of stakeholders. Among the attendees were MSME entrepreneurs, industry associations, officials from the Department of Industries and Commerce, and representatives from various organizations including Handloom and Handicrafts, NABARD, Labour & Employment, the LDM of Jammu, Government Polytechnic Jammu, Cooperative

Societies, Project Managers and Functional Managers from DIC Jammu.

The SPIU consultants and departmental officials actively engaged with the attendees, addressing queries and reaffirming the UT Government's dedication to effective grassroots implementation of the RAMP scheme.

Further highlighting recent developments, it was noted that Management Development Programmes (MDPs) have been initiated in 15 districts of J&K by JKEDI from April 15, 2025, engaging over 300 participants. Simultaneously, the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir has launched a focused Awareness Drive across Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kulgam, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Baramulla to integrate unregistered enterprises into the formal economy.

DC Pulwama reviews NEET (UG) examination arrangements

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, APRIL 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, today reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming NEET (UG) Examination in a comprehensive meeting convened at the Administrative Complex Pulwama.

During the meeting, DC received a detailed briefing on various logistical and security measures being implemented at all designated NEET examination centres across the district. The session began with a presentation highlighting key aspects of the examination and the guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Centre Superintendents from the designated centres briefed the chair about their preparedness, including infrastructural and logistical arrangements, surveillance mechanisms and security protocols.

DC emphasized strict adherence to all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the transparency, integrity and fairness of the examination process.

Dr Qayoom stressed the importance of thorough frisking procedures and



directed that all training sessions for all invigilators to be conducted in batches to familiarise themselves with examination protocols. He also instructed that videographers assigned to various centres be trained to ensure standardised and proper recording of examination activities.

DC also instructed the concerned departments to ensure seamless transportation and the provision of other essential services

on the day of the examination. Underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination, he called for a collaborative effort to create a conducive environment for all appearing candidates. Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, ACR Pulwama, CEO Pulwama, Centre Superintendents and other district officers in addition to representatives of various Banks.

Rajouri Administration takes measures to ensure smooth traffic movement on BG, Mughal Road

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 21

In view of the rising vehicular movement and to ensure effective regulation of traffic on National Highway via BG route and the Mughal Road through DKG route, the District Administration Rajouri has taken a series of proactive measures.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma magistrates and traffic personnel have been deployed at key points, including the main diversion near Salani Bridge, BG, and other strategic locations. These steps have been taken to streamline traffic flow and prevent congestion, especially in view of increased travel through these routes.

To safeguard the health and well-being of commuters, health teams have also been activated on both the BG and DKG routes. These teams are equipped to provide immediate medical assistance in case of any emergency.

For any kind of assistance or emergency, a dedicated helpline number -01962260207 has been made operational and widely circulated for public convenience.

Div Com, IGP Jammu visit flood-hit areas of Ramban, review restoration, relief measures

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APRIL 21

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti today conducted an extensive visit to the flood-affected and landslide hit areas of Ramban district to assess the damages caused due to natural calamity.



region.

After discussing the action plan with the officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Div Com instructed them to work diligently to ensure speedy restoration of the traffic movement. He further directed the District Administration to provide necessary help to NHAI to facilitate the restoration work.

Highlighting the importance of a coordinated response, the Div Com instructed all departments to expedite restoration of water supply, power supply, and other public utilities. He emphasized prompt assessment of losses, assuring the public that the teams already deputed will conduct com-

prehensive assessment to ensure that genuine losses are recorded and compensated accordingly.

While interacting with the Divisional Commissioner, the local residents expressed gratitude towards the district administration for taking prompt action and real-time response during the peak of the natural calamity. They acknowledged that the swift intervention helped minimize the loss of lives and property.

The Divisional Commissioner also expressed deep sympathies with the family of the deceased and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to provide all possible support and assistance to the affected population.

Yuva DOOTs Training/ orientation programme held at Shopian



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 21

A comprehensive day-long training-cum-orientation programme for Yuva DOOTs was conducted today at the meeting hall of Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The event was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, who is also Nodal Officer Mission YUVA Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC emphasized the critical role of youth empowerment in promoting grassroots entrepreneurship.

ADD encouraged the Yuva DOOTs to become catalysts of change and assured them of full institutional support. He highlighted the need for youth-led development and community participation to build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the

district.

The training was designed to equip Yuva DOOTs with the skills and knowledge necessary to identify, support, and guide potential entrepreneurs within their respective panchayats.

Participants received extensive training on their roles as grassroots motivators, tasked with spreading awareness of various self-employment schemes and facilitating youth engagement at the village/ward level.

The training session emphasized the importance of key performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring the effectiveness of the initiative, ensuring that the Yuva DOOTs remain result-oriented in their approach.

A detailed overview of Mission YUVA and the Institutional Business Support Mechanism was presented by the Employment Officer (DECC),

Shopian.

The Career Counselling Officer shared the insights from the baseline survey conducted earlier to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential enabling the Yuva DOOTs to understand the scope and focus areas of their intervention. The training covered all relevant parameters including mobilization techniques, scheme benefits, documentation and reporting formats.

The interactive sessions held during the training fostered active discussions and allowed DOOTs to seek clarifications and share suggestions.

Resource persons, including DDM NABARD, DNO JKEDI also provided sector-specific guidance through PowerPoint presentations and live demonstrations of the Mission YUVA App/Portal, ensuring a hands-on learning experience for all participants.

Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competitions held at Sunderbani



JI NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, APRIL 21

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Sunderbani today organized Inter-School Zonal Level Boys and Girls Sports Competitions for U 14 and U 17 age groups, featuring the contests in Badminton, Table Tennis, Football, Cricket, and Yoga. The event was hosted here at Government Boys Higher Secondary School.

The tournament was inaugurated by Principal of the host school, Rakesh Sharma as the Chief Guest,

in the presence of Zonal Physical Education Officer Ram Murti, Lecturer Ajay Kumar Sharma, and all field staff of the Zone.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various schools of the zone, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. The event aimed to identify and nurture sporting talent at the grassroots level.

The event was successfully organized under the overall supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officer Sunderbani Ram Murti.

Adequate stock of essential commodities, fuel available in Kashmir Valley: Div Com

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 21

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Monday said that there is an adequate stock of essential commodities including LPG, Diesel & Petrol available across the Valley.

He stated that significant efforts are underway to repair and restore the National Highway to facilitate the movement of vehicles. Bidhuri maintained that restoration work is expected to be completed within four or five days while one way Light Motor Vehicles are allowed to ply on Mughal Road.

Div Com made these remarks while chairing a meeting of officers to evaluate the availability of essential supplies in the region and to assess damage incurred by orchardists.

Addressing the meeting, he underscored that there is enough fuel stock to last for over 12 days and urged citizens to refrain from causing unnecessary panic or queuing at petrol stations.

He said that the LPG stock is sufficiently available for 17 days, while the 10, 000 Kilolitres of petrol will suffice the require-



ment for 16 days and similarly 12500 Kilolitres of diesel are available in Valley.

Meanwhile, to address profiteering by some traders, the Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners to constitute joint teams to conduct thorough market inspections, while Superintendents of Police were asked to deploy personnel at petrol stations to discourage queuing by people.

Regarding damage to apple orchards from severe weather conditions, Bidhuri directed Deputy Commissioners to constitute joint teams to assess the extent of the damage caused by heavy

rains, strong winds, and hailstorms, and to submit their findings promptly.

Additionally, concerning the evacuation of stranded tourists, the Div Com instructed the SSP Traffic Rural and the DC of Shopian to prioritize the movement of tourist vehicles via the Mughal Road.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC; Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Directors of IMD, Health, Tourism, FCS&CA, VC LCMA, ULB, officers of various departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, School Education, Traffic, Transport, KPDC, I&FC, PHE, PWD etc.

GDC Vijaypur Champions "Our Power, Our Planet" with enthusiastic cleanliness drive on World Earth Day 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 21

Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur today echoed the global call to action for environmental protection by organizing a significant Cleanliness Drive within its campus to commemorate World Earth Day 2025.

The Cleanliness Drive, organized by the Eco Club (GREEN WARRIORS) and the NSS unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of waste management, hygiene, and environmental responsibility among the college community. Participants actively engaged in cleaning various areas of the campus, including gardens, pathways, and common spaces, collecting and properly disposing of waste.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal GDC Vijaypur, Dr. Ashu Vashisht, emphasized the significance of individual and collective efforts in preserving the environment. She stated that "World Earth Day serves as a crucial reminder of



our responsibility towards Mother Earth and the enthusiastic participation in today's Cleanliness Drive showcases the power we hold, as individuals and as a community, to make a tangible difference in creating a sustainable planet".

The event also included an awareness session where students were educated about the importance of waste segregation at the source, the harmful effects of plastic pollution, and sustainable practices that can be adopted in daily life. Volunteers highlighted the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle resources effectively to minimize the burden on the environment.

The successful execution of the Cleanliness Drive on World Earth Day 2025 underscores

GDC Vijaypur's dedication to fostering environmentally responsible citizens and contributing to a healthier planet. The spirit and enthusiasm displayed by the participants today serve as an inspiring example for others to join the global movement towards a sustainable future, recognizing that indeed, it is "Our Power, Our Planet."

The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator, NSS), Dr. Arti Sharma (Convener, Ecoclub) and co-coordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal. Other faculty members who motivated the students included Prof. Anita Jamwal, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat, Dr. Manoj Heer, Prof. Meetu Sharma, Prof. Sonia Devi and Dr. Noreen Jaral.

Poshan Pakhwada-2025 awareness event held at Gandhinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Gandh Nagar organised a Poshan Pakhwada 2025 Awareness program.

Joint Director Poshan J&K Vinod Behnal was the chief guest at the event, which was attended by beneficiaries of Anganwadi Centre Pregnant ladies, Nursing Mothers, Children (3-6 Years) along with Sanginis, Sahayikas and Supervisors of poshan project Gandh Nagar.

Awareness was generated through the medium of

cultural programmes based on four themes of Poshan Pakhwada 2025 which are the first 1000 days of child, popularisation of the Beneficiaries module of Poshan Tracker, Community sensitisation of Malnutrition Protocol and Addressing Childhood obesity.

Joint Director addressed beneficiaries and field functionaries on successful implementation of goals of poshan Abhiyaan Jan Andolan. CDPO Gandh Nagar sensitized the participants about the role of Community mobilization as well as community participation for successful

achievements of goals of Poshan Abhiyaan.

State Coordinator Poshan Tracker J&K, Ankush Sharma also graced the occasion. He sensitized Anganwadi workers on the theme of popularization of the Beneficiaries module of poshan tracker. Event marked enthusiastic participation by beneficiaries of Mission Poshan as well as field functionaries.

Event concluded with distribution of Poshan Kits to beneficiaries and presenting Certificates of appreciation to Sanginis by the Joint Director Poshan J&K.

DC Poonch conducts inspection of Mughal Road

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 21

In response to ongoing traffic disruptions and the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH 44) due to landslides and blockages triggered by heavy rainfall, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch Vikas Kundal and SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat conducted a comprehensive inspection of Mughal Road, a vital alternative route connecting the Kashmir

Valley with Jammu.

Accompanied by SDM Surankote, OC BRO, Tehsildar Surankote, traffic and other district officials, the team assessed the condition of the Road to ensure its viability for vehicular traffic.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway NH-44 has been severely impacted by landslides and flash floods, particularly in the Ramban district. This ongoing situation has necessitated the need for reli-

able alternative routes to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers.

During the inspection, DC Vikas Kundal interacted with passengers to ensure their safety and comfort. He assured constant monitoring of the road especially during adverse weather conditions and said that the relevant authorities have been directed to keep stand-by additional manpower and machinery to meet any emergency.

SDM leads drug awareness event at GHSS Chowki Choura



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

In a dedicated effort to combat substance abuse among youth, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ankush Hans today presided over a comprehensive drug awareness event at Government Higher Secondary School Chowki Choura. The initiative aimed to educate students about the dangers of drug use and empower them to make informed, healthy choices.

The event featured interactive sessions, expert talks and engaging activities designed to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of prevention. Students and faculty participated enthusiastically, demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering a drug-free environment within the school and the

wider community.

Addressing the gathering, the SDM emphasized the critical role of education in preventing substance misuse and encouraged students to serve as ambassadors for positive change. The event also provided information on local resources and support systems available for those seeking help with addiction or substance-related issues.

Tehsildar Parmod Kumar, NT Narinder Kumar, Principal Sat Paul, Dr Gurmeet Kaur, Incharge Police Post Vinay Kotwal also spoke on the occasion.

This initiative reflects the administration's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and public health, reinforcing the message that a drug-free future is possible through awareness, education, and community support.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Flash floods...

highway, while all the institutions in Ramban remained closed on Monday.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed as the debris from landslides and continuous shooting stones in Ramban could not be cleared, officials told the news agency, adding that it may take up to three days to restore traffic movement on the highway.

“We are working hard to clear the highway. If all goes well, we may allow one-way traffic within two to three days,” officials said, adding that no passenger vehicles are currently stranded on the highway. To speed up restoration work, NDRF, SDRF and local volunteers have been deployed for rescue operations. Heavy machinery, including JCBs and earthmovers from agencies like KRCL, CPPL, and DMR is working round-the-clock to remove debris and repair the damaged road.

The Indian Army, CRPF, and the civil administration have launched a joint operation to assist stranded people, deliver essential services and support ongoing repair efforts.

Over a dozen vehicles have been damaged, some buried under the debris. The rescue operations are continuing across the district.

Dozens of bridegrooms were seen walking on foot along the Jammu-Srinagar Highway due to the road closure. One groom walked 10 km to reach his bride after a landslide hit Ramban and adjoining areas. He was heading to Srinagar from Sangaldan Railway Station.

“I didn’t expect to travel on foot today, now I’m reaching by train. But it is reality,” he said.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, said that while the rain has stopped, assessment of road conditions in Ramban is ongoing.

“We are examining areas where cracks have developed and evaluating the overall stability of the road. A detailed assessment is essential before commenting on its condition,” he said.

He said that the district administration including the DC, SSP and teams from NHAI, SDRF, NDRF and other agencies, are actively engaged in restoration efforts.

“The weather has improved, assessments have begun, and restoration is in progress. The affected people have been identified and relocated to safer locations,” he said.

Relief requirements are also being assessed, and all damaged areas are under review to ensure proper support. “The DC and SSP teams are working round-the-clock with full support from the UT government,” Kumar said.

Regarding the reopening of the highway, he said, “It’s too early to give a timeline. Once the full extent of the damage is assessed and road stability confirmed, we can estimate when traffic will resume. Our teams are working to reopen it as soon as possible.”

He said that the damage is extensive, with sections of the road having sunk, retaining walls collapsed, and heavy mud accumulation. These challenges will take time to overcome.

However, alternative routes have been arranged. Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) heading to Kashmir are being diverted via Mughal Road, while Sinthan Top is open for LMVs from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Authorities are also considering allowing double-axle Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) on Mughal Road. “All teams are working together to ensure timely relief and maximum public support,” he said.

Meanwhile, the authorities said that all the government and private educational institutions including schools, colleges and technical educational institutions in Ramban district will remain closed on Tuesday in view of the inclement weather.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, in a post on X said: “In view of inclement weather and heavy rain causing flash floods, all Govt and Private Schools, Colleges & Technical Education Institutions of district Ramban shall remain closed on 22.04.2025. Stay indoors, stay safe!”

Pertinently, the officials had stated that 45 houses have got damaged completely and 250 have been impacted due to the inclement weather conditions. KNO

CM reaches ‘Ground...’

to the victims and efforts are on to restore the traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar-National Highway.”

“Several vehicles have come under the debris as the whole road has collapsed. The alignment of the road needs to be changed. The debris will be cleared and the vehicles under it will be removed,” he said, adding, “We are trying to complete the restoration work immediately.”

Replying to a query, the Chief Minister said, “It is not a national disaster but a local disaster. We will provide the compensation to sufferers and will also talk to the Centre in this regard.”

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister had told reporters in Srinagar that he had sent Deputy Chief Minister and two other local MLAs to the spot to assess the situation and efforts are on to restore the highway immediately.

Referring to the monetary relief being arranged for the sufferers, Omar had said, “Arrangements are being made for the relief while the PM relief fund and other funds will be tapped so that the people get compensation.”

Urging people to refrain from hoarding, Omar said, “I want to assure people that there is no shortage of essentials. The government and officials have been strictly directed to act tough against the black marketing and unnecessary price hike while police will also be involved to act against these persons and if needed, the arrests will also be made in this regard.”

He appealed to people to inform the government in case of black marketing.

He added that Srinagar-Jammu highway is presently closed, but if the need arises, Mughal Road will be used to bring the essentials.

Pertinently, three people including two minor siblings died on Sunday after the cloudburst hit Ramban area while the landslides also blocked the National Highway and also caused damage in the residential areas of the district, prompting the administration to launch rescue and relief operation. Several families were also shifted to the safer places.

‘WILL WAIT FOR SC VERDICT ON WAQF ACT’

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, while replying to a query, as per KNO, said that the Supreme Court has been authorized to review the actions taken by the Centre or any other government. “Didn’t we approach SC on Article 370 issue; the Parliament’s action was reviewed. Was not the emergency declared during Indira Gandhi’s tenure challenged in the court. Approaching the court to challenge the decision should not be given political color. The court has its own jurisdiction and the legislation has its own.”

“In Assembly we have done whatever we could have done and later we approached the court where we have got some relief for now.

There are no negative results, at least the SC while discussing the case has compelled the Centre to move backwards. For now, the interference of non-Muslims has been stopped and the self declared Waqf is not being stopped. Let the Supreme Court do its job, we will wait for its verdict,” he added. KNO

Will request Centre...

this disaster,” he added. Highlighting the expectations of the public from the PM Modi-led government, Sharma stated, “People have a lot of hope in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership. I want to assure them that both the Central and UT leadership of the BJP are fully committed to providing all possible assistance to the victims of this disaster.”

Pertinently the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst last week caused significant damage to infrastructure and livelihoods in Ramban and led to the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Authorities have launched relief and rehabilitation efforts as teams continue to assess the full extent of the destruction. KNO

NH-44 remains...

that hundreds of LMVs were allowed from Shopian towards Poonch today.

He said that traffic was allowed after getting green signal from BRO and efforts are on to allow HMVs on the road, adding that the efforts will be made to allow traffic from both sides on the road as restoration work on NH-44 may take some time.

Authorities have deployed additional personnel to manage traffic and ensure smooth passage along this route.

Commuters have expressed relief at having an alternate route available, though many voiced concerns over the narrow and winding stretches of the Mughal Road, which can pose risks, especially during bad weather conditions.

They have demanded that a tunnel must be constructed on the route at an earliest so that it can become an all-time alternative route.

Officials have advised commuters to plan after proper confirming the road condition and traffic plan only so as to avoid any kind of inconvenience. KNO

Health authorities...

rosters are prepared and strictly adhered to,” it states. Additional instructions include ensuring the availability of ambulances, emergency medicines, fuel, and other essential logistics at all times.

The directive called for the deployment of fully equipped Mobile Medical Teams along the Mughal Road within respective jurisdictions to provide immediate assistance to travellers and accident victims. “Any difficulty, shortage, or untoward incident must be brought to the notice of this office immediately. This order has been issued in the interest of public service and shall remain in force until further communication. Non-compliance will be viewed seriously and dealt with under the relevant service rules,” the circular adds. KNO

Weather turns...

of southern districts today for the third straight day, causing extensive losses to the fruit growers and orchardists.

For the losses, the government has already directed the district administrations in Kulgam and Shopian to assess the losses for the compensation.

It is worth mentioning here that the three-day wet spell led to the closure of many crucial roads including the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, which has witnessed massive damage and would likely take a few days to clear the debris and throw the road open for vehicular movement.

Furthermore, three people including two minor siblings have died in a landslide in Ramban area.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has stated that all concerned are advised to plan accordingly and follow the administration and traffic advisories.

The farmers have been advised to resume the farm operations from tomorrow (April 22) onwards, it reads, adding that since due to the continuous rain during the past 3 days, the possibility of landslides, shooting stones and rock fall at vulnerable places can’t be ruled out.

The advisory appealed people to stay inside and at safe places during thunder, lightning and gusty winds. KNO

I am not a Pakistani...

war against it, in a very strong manner. We must eliminate this menace completely.”

Calling the recent cloudburst in Ramban a “National Disaster” Dr Farooq Abdullah said, “It’s a major disaster; the whole village has come down. I am hopeful that the Government of India will take note of it and extend all possible support.”

He stressed the urgent need for rehabilitation of the affected families. “The victims will have to be resettled as they can no longer live there. Their homes and livelihoods have been washed away. The situation demands swift intervention,” he added.

“The cloudburst has not only caused loss of life and property but also severely impacted connectivity in the area,” he said, adding, “The tragedy has also disrupted the traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The highway has been affected again. Had the train service commenced people could have availed the facility.

Unfortunately the Prime Minister couldn’t inaugurate the train service due to the inclement weather.”

Calling for strategic infrastructural development, Dr Farooq also emphasized the importance of an alternative all-weather route. “One national highway is not enough. A tunnel should be constructed on the Mughal Road to provide a reliable alternative. It will ensure uninterrupted access, especially during natural calamities,” he said, as per KNO.

Dr Farooq also expressed confidence about statehood restoration. “We will get our powers and statehood back. It has been promised in the Parliament. It will definitely come.”

Asked about differences in the National Conference, especially after comments by Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, he said, “It is an internal matter.”

He, however, declined to comment on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s remarks abroad regarding the Election Commission. “Please do not ask me questions about Rahul Gandhi. I have no comments on it.”. KNO

CS reviews flagship...

execution, inter-departmental synergy and robust monitoring of all the schemes. He stressed that these reforms and infrastructure projects must translate into improved quality of life for urban residents across the UT.

He enjoined upon the concerned department to expedite the work on the utility projects like water supply under AMRUT and sanitation under SBM (U). He made out that these projects once completed would improve the living standards of the residents substantially.

The Chief Secretary had a detailed review of progress made on the ongoing flagship projects under the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT 2.0, PMAY-Urban, PM eBus Sewa, DAY-NULM, SBM 2.0, CITIIS 2.0 and other major initiatives of the department.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, gave a detailed outlook of the projects completed and the ongoing works across the cities and ULBs of J&K. She also apprised the meeting about the steps taken and those in pipeline to enhance the beauty and sanitation of urban areas of the UT.

About the Srinagar Smart City projects, CEO, SSCL, Owais Ahmad, informed that the works span infrastructure modernization, heritage restoration, mobility enhancement and public space improvement. He added that 161 projects worth budgeted cost of Rs 3634 crore have been taken in hand under Smart City Mission. Out of these, 11 works are being executed with a cost of Rs 203.47 crore. These included construction of Traditional Souq Market and Craft Centre at Batamloo, Jhelum Waterfront Development Phase-2, Gole Market -Karan Nagar Road Development, Development of Amenity Blocks, interpretation facility centre, cafe deck and viewing towers along Shalimar Canal.

Regarding Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), CEO, JSCL, Devansh Yadav, informed the meeting that a total of 127 projects were taken in hand at a budgeted cost of Rs 3581 crore. The ongoing 7 projects costing around Rs 529 crore included Tawi River Front Development, Oceanarium at Bag-e-Bahu, Complete Street Development from Canal Road to Talab Tilo and Waste 2 Wonder Park and others.

As part of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project (TRF), it was revealed that the interception and diversion of nallahs at both left and right banks has been completed.

It was further divulged that 100 AC eBuses each have been approved for both the cities under PM eBus Sewa (via Challenge Method). For the same, financial assistance from GoI to the tune of 100% for ‘Behind-the-Meter’ power infrastructure and 90% (up to Rs 20 Cr) for depot infrastructure is being provided by MoHUA.

Moreover, the DPRs for Jammu Depot Infrastructure (JSCL) has been framed costing around Rs 16.72 crore and for 6.6 MW power substation a DPR worth Rs 8.51 crore has also been formulated. Similarly, for Srinagar Depot Infrastructure a DPR of Rs 14.50 crore has been formulated besides DPR worth Rs 5.78 crore for Power sector has been made through the concerned agencies. All the DPRs have been approved by the Central Steering Committee, the meeting was informed.

With respect to progress on housing projects under PMAY-U, MD, Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, informed the meeting that under BLC Vertical (2021-24) 27,439 houses have been completed with a fund utilization of Rs 496.15 crore including a central assistance of Rs 40 crore released in Feb-Mar 2025.

Regarding PMAY-U 2.0 expansion, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with MOHUA stands signed to implement the scheme in all 78 municipal bodies of the UT. It was also given out that a baseline survey for identification of houseless individual/ families had also been initiated. To ensure that the benefit of PMAY reaches the section of people who don’t have permanent house to live in, a digital app had been developed to survey the urban areas. Additionally, the Master trainers were imparted training in all the districts and committees structured for verification and selection of eligible beneficiaries.

Regarding the financial assistance under PMAY-Urban 2.0, it was said that Rs 2.25 lakh as Central Assistance and UT share of Rs 0.25 lakh under BLC and AHP vertical of the scheme would be given to the beneficiaries.

Regarding progress on SBM-U 2.0 (Swachh Bharat Urban Mission), the meeting was apprised that a Material Recovery Facility for dry waste, compost/CBG plants for wet waste, facilities for C&D waste, bioremediation of legacy waste and STPs for Used Water Management for the two Municipal Corporations and 78 ULBs are under different stages of implementation. It was further added that all the 78 ULBs had been declared “Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher” by the GoI.

MD, NULM revealed that out of a total of Rs 61.77 crore received funds Rs 55.54 crore have been utilized, so far. She also gave out that a new mission Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana (Shehri) is under design to replace NULM with components like Livelihoods, Skilling, SHGs, Enterprise Promotion, Local Action for which the deliverables, timelines and institutional mechanism being finalized here.

On PMSVANidhi, it was said that against the target of 25,856 street vendors, 23,695 street vendors have been covered. First tranche of loan was given to 17,219

In J&K, sex ratio at birth rises to 921, infant mortality falls to 17: MoHFW annual report

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APR 21, KNO

Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as a quiet success in India’s public health transformation, making notable progress in child health, gender equity, infrastructure and regulatory enforcement. The recently released Annual Report 2024-25 of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare paints a promising picture of a region steadily climbing the ladder of healthcare development.

At the forefront is the UT’s achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR), years ahead of the 2030 deadline, the report accessed by the news agency, reveals.

With a U5MR of 17 per 1,000 live births, Jammu & Kashmir is among the few regions in the country to meet this milestone early. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has dropped to 17, while the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) stands at 12, and the Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (ENMR) at 8 – all pointing to improved maternal and child healthcare services across the UT.

These health outcomes are reinforced by targeted interventions under schemes like the National Health Mission, which has enabled the establishment of Special Newborn Care Units, District Early Intervention Centres, and Mother and Child Health Wings. The rollout of eSanjeevani telemedicine, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and health screening programs has extended healthcare reach into remote corners of the valley and the Jammu region.

Gender equity in birth outcomes also saw improvement. As per Sample Registration System (SRS) data from 2018-2020, Jammu & Kashmir’s sex ratio at birth** has increased to 921 females per 1,000 males, up from 918 during 2017-19. While modest, this upward trend indicates the beginning of a cultural and healthcare shift towards valuing the girl child.

Crucially, this progress comes alongside effective enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 – a law designed to prevent sex-selective practices. As of June 2024, 841 diagnostic centres are registered across J&K. Only one court case is currently ongoing, and five machines have been seized or sealed – a low violation rate that reflects better monitoring and compliance. J&K is also among the 22 States/UTs that have adopted online platforms for clinic registration and record-keeping under the Act, ensuring greater transparency.

Infrastructure development adds another strong pillar to the story. The under-construction AIIMS in Vijaypur (Jammu) is being developed at a cost of Rs 1856 crore and will house 750 beds along with a 100-seat MBBS programme and a 60-seat nursing programme. Additionally, a new Nursing College has been sanctioned under the Centre’s initiative to set up 157 such colleges co-located with medical colleges. The foundation stone for this institution in J&K has already been laid, strengthening the pipeline of trained healthcare professionals.

The digital health ecosystem in the UT is also expanding. With the adoption of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), residents of J&K are now part of a unified, tech-enabled healthcare platform – from outpatient registrations to feedback systems like Mera Aspaatal, to mother and child tracking through the RCH Portal.

As Jammu & Kashmir continues on this trajectory, it offers a compelling model for health progress through a combination of smart infrastructure, digital innovation, and proactive policy enforcement – all while ensuring no region is left behind. KNO

applicants, 2nd tranche to 7611 and third to 2,952 and letter of recommendation to 22,504 applicants.

The meeting was apprised that a revamped online Building Permission System is also under rollout, to be ready within 2 months.

The meeting also discussed the Srinagar Water Transport project initiated for Inland Waterways from Anantnag to Wular Lake via Jhelum and Dal Lake. For the same partnership with Kochi Water Metro for peer learning and strategic support is being finalized. Moreover, the tendering for infrastructure and operations is also underway, as was given out in the meeting.

GV Sandeep Chakravarthy...

details available with the news agency revealed. Similarly, in a brief and formal ceremony, the outgoing SSP, Imtiyaz Hussain officially handed over the charge new SSP Chakravarthy.

Following the assumption of charge, SSP Chakravarthy chaired an introductory meeting with officers of the district police.

During the interaction, he stressed on public-centric policing, proactive crime prevention, and community engagement.

He urged officers to work with dedication, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility to uphold peace and strengthen public trust.

The officers assured their full cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining law and order under the leadership of the new SSP. KNO

Final Electoral Rolls...

appeals following the publication of the electoral rolls is a testament to the transparency, inclusiveness and robustness of the SSR process. With active participation from political parties through their Booth Level Agents, we are confident that the electoral rolls published in January 2025 reflect a high level of accuracy and public trust,” said a representative of the Chief Electoral Office (ECI).

KVK Shopian organizes awareness/Seed Distribution programme for tribal farmers of Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 21

Awareness cum seed distribution programme for tribal farmers of District Shopian under project 'Outreach of Technology & Distribution of Farming Tools, for economic upliftment of ST & Low-Income Farmers' sponsored by TSP-ICAR in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian was organized today here at Shopian.

The initiative aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods through the transfer of technology and distribution of quality seeds and tools.

The event was graced by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Shabir Ahmad Kullay, as the chief guest, and the Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as the guest of honour. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal farmers across the district.

In his address, Shabir Ahmad Kullay praised the efforts of SKUAST-K and KVK Shopian in reaching out to tribal farming communities and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening rural livelihoods through targeted technological



interventions.

Prof. Rehana Habib Kant, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, highlighted the importance of such outreach programmes in transferring advanced agricultural knowledge and technologies at the grassroots level, and emphasized the university's role in capacity building and rural development.

Earlier, the programme commenced with an address by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Programme Coordinator KVK Shopian, who

outlined the key objectives of the programme.

Prof. Javeed Ahmad Mugloo, Principal Investigator of the project, stressed the importance of empowering tribal farmers through scientific interventions. He encouraged the farmers to make effective use of the seeds and tools provided to them. The programme culminated with the distribution of high-quality potato seeds to tribal farmers, aimed at supporting them for the upcoming sowing season.

Week-long Management Development Program under RAMP commences at JKEDI Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today launched a week-long (30-hours) Management Development Program (MDP) at its District Centre, Jammu under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Sher Singh who emphasized the vital role of entrepreneurship in local economic development

and employment generation. He urged the participants to make the most of the program and appreciated JKEDI's efforts in strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Jammu Rajesh Kotwal briefed the participants about the objectives of the World Bank supported RAMP scheme, which aims to enhance MSME competitiveness through improved market access, digital enablement, skill development, and financial inclusion.

The MDP is being attended by 20 local MSME units and focuses

on practical business management skills, operational efficiency, and institutional support. Participants will engage with domain experts and resource persons from relevant departments.

JKEDI Course Team including Monika Salaria, Rupali Choudhary, and Humaira Nazir were also present at the inaugural session.

This initiative is a step towards building a resilient and growth-oriented MSME sector in J&K, in line with the goals of the RAMP scheme.

DDC reviews status of Work on KWAR Dam Top to Pullar Road Project



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 21

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed the status of work on KWAR Dam Top to Pullar village road project after a local delegation from Puller Village called on him, here today.

The delegation apprised the DC of pending work on 600 meter and sought his intervention for facilitating the completion of the pending work.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the authorities from the KWAR Hydro Electric Project (HEP) and

the PMGSY authorities to conduct a joint visit and submit a comprehensive estimate ensuring appropriate road grading within two days.

The DC assured the delegation that the pending work would be taken up and completed in a time-bound manner, prioritizing the needs and convenience of the general public.

The meeting was attended by the HOP KWAR HEP, S.K. Giri; Assistant General Manager KWAR HEP, Rishi Sharma; DGM Geology CVPPL and several residents from the village of Pullar.

Aijaz Asad reviews RDD schemes in Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 21

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Monday conducted a comprehensive review of departmental schemes in Shopian district.

The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; Assistant Commissioner Development, Manzoor Ahmad; District Panchayat Officer, District Informatics Officer, Block Development Officers, Assistant Engineers, and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, Secretary reviewed the status of Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Project UNNATI, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), and UT Capex and assessed targets and achievements of the district under these schemes.

Secretary held detailed deliberations with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other staff of the department instructing them to focus on achieving the targets set for various schemes.

He emphasized optimizing the functionality of 94 community compost pits constructed in the district.

Secretary directed Block Development



Officers (BDOs) to train communities in efficient compost formation and explore market linkages to generate income from organic waste. "These pits should transition from mere structures to sustainable income sources for panchayats," he said.

Highlighting the functionality of Amrit Sarovars, Secretary stressed their maintenance and transformation into community leisure spots. "Regular cleaning and aesthetic development of these water bodies will boost local tourism

and provide recreational spaces," he said, urging collaboration with Panchayats.

Secretary called for prioritizing durable rural assets under MGNREGA and UT Capex to ensure long-term benefits.

On waste management, he mandated scientific segregation protocols and utilization of existing rural infrastructure for efficient disposal. "Door-to-door collection must align with segregation practices to achieve Swachh Bharat's ODF-plus goals," he added.

Reviewing the construction of Panchayat Ghars, Secretary directed resolving pending land disputes to expedite work.

For PMAY-G, he reinforced the need for stringent verification of new registrations to prevent discrepancies and ensure timely disbursement of payments to beneficiaries.

Secretary reiterated the department's commitment to "equitable and eco-sensitive development," urging officials to leverage schemes for enhancing rural livelihoods and infrastructure.

DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta assured coordinated efforts to meet targets, stating, "Shopian will emerge as a model district in sustainable rural transformation."

Assistant Commissioner Development presented a detailed overview of progress across flagship programs.

Achievements under MGNREGA highlighted the creation of rural infrastructure, while PMAY-G's success in housing delivery and new registrations was reviewed. Project UNNATI and IWMP's role in livelihood generation and watershed management were also discussed.



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 21

A special training programme on 'Eco Clubs for Mission LIFE' was successfully conducted at Boys Higher Secondary School Shopian.

The event was organised in four sessions for the zones of Shopian, Keegam, Vehil, and Imamsahib.

The training was held in connection with the upcoming Earth Day and

focused on the formation and strengthening of Eco Clubs in schools, aligned with the goals of Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

A key session introduced Digital Skills, particularly the generation of QR Codes for trees and flora, promoting a blend of environmental awareness and technology.

All Eco Club in-charges from the district actively participated in the training.

Progress on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana reviewed at Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. At the outset, DC was briefed about the status of applications uploaded on the national portal and the ongoing installation of solar rooftop systems under the scheme.

While taking stock of the progress, DC directed officers of KPDCG Ganderbal to intensify awareness and publicity efforts to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach maximum consumers. He instructed them to widely circulate a step-by-step



guide detailing the entire process from registration, vendor selection, bank linkage, to installation and commissioning so that citizens can avail the scheme with ease.

Emphasizing the importance of financial facilitation, DC asked the LDM Ganderbal to ensure seamless access to loan services by assisting interested applicants in the registration process and linking them with banks.

To expedite the pace of implementation, DC instructed the Executive Engineer KPDCG Ganderbal to set specific targets for AEEs, ensuring visible progress on the ground.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer KPDCG Circle Ganderbal, Executive Engineer KPDCG Ganderbal, AEEs, JEs, and other concerned officials.

Dy CM interacts with Jammu Flour Mills Association

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today convened a meeting with Jammu Flour Mills Association to take stock of their issues and concerns for speedy redress.

The Association expressed concern over the crippling impact of Punjab Government's Mandi fee on wheat procurement, severely affecting the flour mills in Jammu and Kashmir. They sought the intervention of Dy CM in resolving this issue of grave concern at the earliest.

The representatives of Jammu Flour Mills Association apprised the Dy CM that the government of Punjab has levied addition-



al 6 percent of Mandi fee which included Mandi tax, Arthia Commission and other taxes, above the MRP for the Millers from outside the states of Punjab. They said that it has created extra burden on the Jammu Millers as they have to purchase the wheat at higher rates which automatically results in higher prices of Atta, Maida, Suji, Dalia, Bran and other wheat

derivatives. Responding to the issues raised by the Association, the Dy CM assured that the legitimate issues of flour mills would be resolved on priority basis.

The Dy CM reiterated that government is committed to support its local industry and will take every possible step to make them flourish.

SOP Committee Relief meeting held at Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 21

In order to accelerate the relief distribution process, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, today chaired a meeting of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Committee, here.

The meeting discussed the evaluation of pending relief cases and ensuring timely support to eligible beneficiaries.

A total of five cases were presented out of which four cases were approved for payment, while one was found ineligible as per norms.

On the occasion, ADC highlighted the importance of swift relief distribution to mitigate the hardships faced by affected individuals. He instructed the concerned departments to streamline procedural workflows and ensure that genuine beneficiaries receive assistance without unnecessary delay.

EDITORIAL

Climate chaos rings alarm bells!

In a matter of just a few days, the serene landscapes of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh were turned into scenes of chaos and destruction. Unseasonal snowfall, torrential rains, violent hailstorms, and gusty winds left a trail of devastation—triggering landslides, damaging highways, destroying apple orchards, and tragically claiming lives. The Meteorological Department had forewarned of this intense spell from April 18 to 21, but the scale and abruptness of the events underscore a growing and more ominous reality—climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is here, and it is reshaping the very environment and economy of the Himalayan region. What was once considered a predictable climate cycle in Kashmir is now increasingly erratic and alarming. From the hottest April day in Srinagar on April 15 at a scorching 30.4°C to a devastating hailstorm just days later that flattened apple orchards in Shopian, the region is being tugged violently between weather extremes. These fluctuations aren't isolated blips; they are symptomatic of a deepening climate crisis. Experts have sounded the alarm, pointing to increased variability in precipitation, longer dry spells, hotter days, and dangerously cold nights. These extremes are not just statistical anomalies; they are existential threats. Farmers in Kashmir, especially those dependent on horticulture, are already feeling the brunt. Apple orchards, which contribute significantly to the region's economy, are increasingly at risk from sudden hailstorms and unseasonal frosts. The impact on infrastructure has been equally severe. In Ramban, parts of the vital Jammu-Srinagar highway were washed away due to landslides, leaving vehicles buried under debris. Such events not only paralyze connectivity but also highlight the fragile balance between human settlement and nature in mountainous terrain. At the core of this chaos is the unsettling behavior of Western Disturbances, exacerbated by abnormally high temperatures—6 to 11 degrees Celsius above average—before the weather turned. These temperature spikes destabilize incoming weather systems, creating conditions ripe for sudden and severe storms. But perhaps the most alarming fallout of this climatic shift is the accelerated retreat of glaciers in the Kashmir and Ladakh Himalayas. The result? An increase in the number of glacial lakes and the rising threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)—a catastrophic scenario for downstream communities. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive climate adaptation strategy—one that includes reinforcing early warning systems, investing in climate-resilient agriculture, protecting critical infrastructure, and most importantly, shifting to sustainable development models that respect the region's fragile ecology. Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are no strangers to the harshness of nature, but what is unfolding now is not natural in the traditional sense. It is a human-induced unraveling of the climate fabric. The stakes are too high for complacency. Policymakers, scientists, civil society, and citizens must come together—not only to mitigate future damage but also to adapt swiftly and smartly to the changing reality. The mountains are speaking. It is time we listen.

A digital revolution with roots in Todarmal's legacy

SHIVAJI SARKAR

In a landmark move echoing the ambition of Todarmal's legendary land reforms under Emperor Akbar, the Indian government has launched a transformative Farmer Identity Scheme. This reform marks a significant stride in the modernisation of Indian agriculture. By assigning a robust digital identity to farmers, the initiative aims to tackle long-standing challenges around accessibility, transparency, and financial inclusion—ushering in a tech-driven agricultural revolution.

With its wide range of benefits and user-friendly implementation, the Farmer ID has the potential to become a cornerstone of rural empowerment and sustainable agricultural growth in India.

Already, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, eligible landholding farmer families receive a direct financial benefit of ₹6,000 per year. The Kisan ID is used to identify these farmers and ensures that payments are made directly into their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. The move is expected to cut drastically administrative expenses.

Todarmal's land reforms are known as among the most expansive for measuring land, identifying locations, sizes, and other basic data. The first written patta to individual landowners was issued with precision in the subas of Avadh and Agra—present-day Uttar Pradesh. Though envisioned as a universal system, it faltered in Bihar and other regions distant from the Mughal capital.

In Bihar, entire villages were issued a collective patta, which has led to ongoing disputes. Even today, Bihar records the



highest number of land-related disputes—an issue that must be examined as part of the new digital system.

So far, the scheme has provided digital identities to about 7 crore landholding farmers—out of an estimated 26.3 crore total farmers. Only those who own land are being enrolled. However, agriculture is far more complex, and identifying all those involved—tenants, sharecroppers, agricultural labourers—remains a challenge.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has emphasised that the scheme ensures timely financial support, with payments made regularly.

The Aadhaar-linked bank account system ensures that the benefits are transferred directly, making the process simple and secure. Each registered farmer receives a digital Farmer ID, with their personal and agricultural data securely stored in a centralised database.

The Farmer ID serves as unique identification number for each farmer, the government says, enabling them to receive

targeted support and opening up a host of opportunities previously out of reach. More than just a number, the Farmer ID is set to become a gateway to financial aid, technological assistance, and efficient government service delivery in rural India. The government says that this ID ensures that farmers could directly access agricultural loans, crop insurance, input subsidies, and other government schemes—reducing the need for intermediaries and minimizing delays. It does not need the farmers to move to the patwaris and other land or district officers for authentication of documents as their land records are being digitally uploaded with other financial details.

Farmers no longer have to run to patwaris or district officers for documentation, as their land records and financial details are digitally linked and accessible through Aadhaar.

That is how the PM-KISAN pension scheme facilitates the ₹6,000 annual payout. Yet, some reservations remain.

Linking Aadhaar, PAN, and now land records raises concerns about data security and privacy. The government assures that access is permission-based and that data is protected—but apprehensions persist, especially given instances of financial fraud.

Land ownership further complicates matters. Many plots are jointly owned, sometimes by several people with fractional shares. It's unclear how these will be handled—whether there will be joint IDs or other mechanisms.

Clarification is needed on how pattas will be digitised for such cases.

Even the exact number of farmers remains uncertain. According to the 2011 Census, India had 26.3 crore farmers—11.8 crore cultivators and 14.4 crore agricultural labourers. But definitions vary across government surveys, including the Agricultural Census, NSSO, and Periodic Labour Force Survey. Moreover, the data is outdated.

A key observation from 2011 was the decline in the percentage of the workforce engaged in agriculture—from 58.2 percent in 2001 to 54.6 percent in 2011. A more recent NABARD survey noted that average landholding sizes fell by 31 percent between 2016-17 and 2021-22.

There are e-NAM registrations as well. The number of farmers registered on the e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform is on the rise, indicating an increasing number of farmers participating in modern market practices. As of March 2025, nearly 17 million farmers were registered on e-NAM, with Uttar Pradesh leading in registration numbers.

The agricultural workforce was shifting from cultivators to labourers. An important change,

according to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), is shifting of 50 lakh hectares of land from farms to roads. Its social and economic impact has yet to be studied since 2019.

The land ownership is also not simple. The Agriculture Census considers any land used for agriculture, even if it's not owned by the person using it. A large percentage of farmers in India are small and marginal, typically owning less than two hectares of land.

In 2020-21, agriculture employed more than half of India's workforce and contributed 20.2% to the country's GDP. India is the world's second largest producer of food grains, fruits, and vegetables, tea, farmed fish, cotton, sugarcane, wheat, and rice. Many of these have differing farm patterns.

A critical area is the sharecropping or leasehold farming. The Farmer ID is not supposed to include them. This could be a lacuna.

The agriculture sector in India has the second largest land in the world. It includes land-based farmers. Variation is too wide. It includes crop; Livestock; Dairy and Poultry farmers. There are also Truck farmers, who grow a variety of vegetables for sale in local markets.

Apart there are fishermen engaging in fishing for commercial purposes aquaculture or fish farmers and recreational/sport fishers. Though activities differ, there are overlaps as well. How these categories be listed, if some or many of them, want to be registered as farmer is not clear.

The move may be good but there are various dimensions that need to be sorted out for having the ID as an effective tool. **(The writer is a veteran journalist. Views are personal)**

Gandhi's morality and Ambedkar's modernity

RAJDEEP PATHAK

As India advances through the transformative era of 'Amrit Kal', in celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and envisioning a Viksit Bharat by 2047 under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it becomes essential to revisit the multifaceted narratives of its freedom struggle. Though united in opposition to colonial rule, the independence movement was marked by diverse and often conflicting visions for the future nation. Central to this internal ideological discourse was the profound and enduring engagement between two towering figures—Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar.

Their intellectual confrontation over caste, untouchability, and the foundational principles of Indian democracy transcended individual differences, revealing two fundamentally distinct approaches—Gandhi's moral and spiritual call for societal reform and Ambedkar's insistence on structural, legal, and institutional transformation. This critical debate not only shaped the trajectory of modern India but continues to resonate deeply in contemporary discourses on social justice and democratic reform. Whereas in colonial India, caste discrimination was not only a social evil but a systemic instrument of oppression, both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar recognised this, but they approached the problem from fundamentally different perspectives. While Gandhi symbolised a moral and spiritual appeal to Indian society to transform itself, Dr Ambedkar demanded structural, legal, and institutional change for the emancipation of Dalits.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi envisioned an India grounded in self-sufficiency, moral rectitude, and the vitality of its village republics. A committed reformer, Gandhi worked within the existing Hindu social framework, aiming to transform it through love, service, and moral awakening



rather than structural dismantling. He showed particular concern for the upliftment of the oppressed castes, whom he called 'Harijans' or 'Children of God,' emphasising their inclusion through spiritual and social reform. In Young India (1921), he asserted, "I do not believe that inter-dining or inter-marriage is the final test of removal of untouchability. It is the spirit of service, of uttermost self-sacrifice, that can alone purify us."

Gandhi's belief in the innate goodness of individuals and the transformative power of selfless action informed his campaigns for temple entry and participation in public life for the Harijans. While deeply empathetic and morally driven, his reformist approach sought to purify and evolve Hinduism from within, rather than reject it.

In stark contrast, Dr B R Ambedkar, born into the very margins of caste-based exclusion, viewed the caste system as an inherently violent and oppressive structure that required total eradication. As a jurist, economist, and principal architect of the Indian Constitution, Ambedkar's critique was radical and systemic. In his seminal yet undelivered address 'Annihilation of Caste' (1936), he thundered:

"Caste is not merely a division of labour; it is also a division of labourers...this unnatural divi-

sion of labourers into watertight compartments, further graded one above the other." Ambedkar's path to liberation centered on the complete dismantling of caste and the acquisition of social and political power for Dalits. The divergence in their approaches became particularly stark during the debate surrounding separate electorates for the Depressed Classes. The British, in the 'Communal Award of 1932', proposed granting separate electorates, a move Ambedkar saw as crucial for ensuring the political representation and empowerment of the marginalised. He argued that without such safeguards, the depressed (read marginalised) classes would remain perpetually subservient to the Hindu majority. As he stated to Gandhi during their historic Poona Pact negotiations, "We must have our own men elected by our own votes. Only then can we hope to have our grievances redressed."

However, Gandhi vehemently opposed separate electorates, viewing them as a divisive force that would fragment Hindu society and hinder the larger nationalist movement. He undertook a fast unto death in protest in Yerwada Jail—a powerful (moral) weapon that put immense moral pressure on Ambedkar. The resulting 'Poona Pact' of 1932, while securing reserved seats for the 'depressed classes' within

the general electorate, was seen by many as Ambedkar's followers as a compromise forced upon them under duress. As Gail Omvedt (American-born Indian sociologist and human rights activist), notes in her book "Dalits and the Democratic Revolution", "The Poona Pact, while giving more reserved seats than the Communal Award, tied the Depressed Classes to the Hindu fold in a way that Ambedkar had desperately tried to avoid." At the core of the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate was a divergent understanding of caste and social justice. Gandhi saw caste as a social construct that could be reformed without destroying Hinduism.

He wrote in Harijan (1933) that "Caste has nothing to do with religion. It is a social custom which has crept into Hinduism... It must go if Hinduism is to survive." Ambedkar, on the other hand, viewed caste as the essence of Hinduism. Ambedkar's stance was rooted in a deep understanding of the scriptural justification for caste. Their disagreement was, thus, not merely political but epistemological—a clash between faith-based reformism and rationalist reconstruction. French Political Scientist and Indologist with a specialisation in South Asia, Christophe Jaffrelot argues in his book "India's Silent Revolution: The Rise of the Lower Castes in North India" that Ambedkar's ideas provided the intellectual and political framework for the assertion of Dalit identity and the demand for social justice.

Post-independence India sought to harmonise the contrasting yet complementary visions of Dr B R Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi. As Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, Dr Ambedkar institutionalised the principles of justice, equality, and secularism. His leadership led to constitutional provisions such as Article 17, which outlawed untouchability, and the introduction of affirmative action through reservations in education and employment for

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These measures signified the state's proactive role in addressing and dismantling historical injustices and caste-based discrimination, in alignment with Ambedkar's transformatives.

Vision of social democracy Simultaneously, Gandhi's ideals continued to shape the moral and political foundation of the Republic. His emphasis on non-violence, village self-governance, and inclusive nationalism influenced rural development policies and underscored the importance of social harmony. Yet, the persistence of caste-based discrimination—manifesting in economic disparities, social exclusion, and violence—reveals the inadequacy of legal instruments alone in uprooting entrenched social hierarchies.

The continuing relevance of the Ambedkar-Gandhi discourse is evident in debates on caste census, reservation, and Dalit activism (read consciousness), emphasising the unfinished quest for an inclusive and egalitarian India. Dr Ambedkar's warning in his last speech to the Constituent Assembly remains chillingly relevant.

He said, "Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic." His emphasis on "constitutional morality" and not merely "public opinion" is a reminder that democratic structures need constant nurturing. Mahatma Gandhi, too, emphasised inner transformation and moral self-restraint as essential to democratic functioning.

The Gandhi-Ambedkar debate remains a vital and ongoing discourse, symbolising India's struggle for justice and equality. Dr B R Ambedkar's anniversary reflects a movement for dignity and rights, while Gandhi's ideals inspire ethical, sustainable living aligned with the SDGs. It is important to look at whether as a progressive society, we are moving in the right direction.

(The writer is a programme executive Gandhi Smriti Sansthan. Views are personal)

COAS General Upendra Dwivedi pays tribute to Com from 18 JAK RIF Naib Subedar Baldev Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 21 APR 2025

In a poignant and deeply personal tribute, General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), paid homage to Naib Subedar Baldev Singh of 18th Battalion the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (18 JAK RIF), who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while deployed at the formidable Kumar Post on the Siachen Glacier—the highest battlefield in the world.

The wreath-laying ceremony was conducted at Shradhanjali Sthal,

Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt, where the Army Chief laid a wreath on the mortal remains of the valiant Junior Commissioned Officer. This was not merely a ceremonial gesture, but a heartfelt farewell by a former comrade-in-arms.

Naib Subedar Baldev Singh was enrolled into the 18 JAK RIF in 2002 during Operation Rakshak in the Kashmir Valley. He first came in contact with General Dwivedi in October 2003, when the present COAS took command of the battalion. At the time, Naib Subedar Baldev Singh was serving



in Delta Company. Recognising his potential and spark, the Commanding Officer nominated him for specialist duties in the Battalion's Signal Platoon. The COAS, as then CO 18 JAK RIF, personally

mentored Baldev Singh as an Infantry Signaller. The young soldier accompanied the CO in numerous operations, displaying unwavering professionalism, courage, and dedication. Over time, Baldev Singh rose through the ranks and was promoted to Naib Subedar about a year ago. The bond between the two soldiers, built on mutual respect and shared hardships, grew into a familial relationship, making the loss all the more profound and personal. Naib Subedar Baldev Singh tragically lost his life on 20 April 2025, while

serving with the Signal Platoon at Kumar Post in the treacherous terrain of the Northern Glacier, Siachen. He will always be remembered as a cheerful, brave, and highly motivated soldier whose commitment to duty and professional excellence were deeply valued. The Indian Army stands in steadfast solidarity with the bereaved family during this hour of grief and salutes the indomitable spirit and devotion to duty of Naib Subedar Baldev Singh. His legacy of sacrifice and service will continue to inspire generations of soldiers.

Reyaz Ahmad Bhat takes charge as Technical Advisor in Jal Jeevan Mission

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 21ST 2025

Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Bhat today assumed charge of Technical Advisor, Kashmir in Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jammu & Kashmir. Mr. Bhat assumed the charge after his elevation as Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, J&K and subsequent posting vide Government Order issued in this regard.

1 J&K Girls Bn organizes Lecture on Cyber Security and Demonstration on Fire Fighting at NTA Nagrota



JI NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA: 21 APR 2025

1 J&K Girls Battalion NCC, Srinagar, organized a lecture on Cyber Security on April 21, 2025, as part of its Annual Training Camp held at NTA Nagrota.

The session featured distinguished speaker Sh. Mohd Yassen Kichloo, Senior Superintendent of Police (Crime) and CICE, Jammu and Kashmir, who delivered an engaging and insightful lecture. Drawing on his extensive expertise, he addressed key aspects of cyber security, including current threats, preventive strategies, and the importance of digital awareness. His talk was well-received and proved to be highly informative for the cadets in attendance. The lecture aimed to raise awareness about the growing challenges of cybercrime and its far-reaching implications in the digital era.

Sh. Kichloo delved into various dimensions of cyber security, including emerging trends in cybercrimes, safeguarding sensitive data, and the ethical use of digital platforms. Using real-world case studies, he offered insights into the practical challenges

faced by law enforcement and highlighted innovative solutions. The speaker also emphasized the intersection of traditional disciplines like botany and forensics, inspiring researchers to adopt secure digital tools for data analysis and collection.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC girl cadets who are participating in this camp from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. A dynamic Q&A session further enriched the interactive discussion, making the event both informative and impactful.

The Camp Commandant Col SP Tiwari felicitated Sh. Kichloo and remarked, "This session has empowered our cadets with essential knowledge about cyber security, promoting a culture of digital responsibility."

Another practical demonstration from Fire and emergency services was organized the same day for the NCC cadets of Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) spreading awareness, promoting rapid response & strengthening service for society.

Farooq Abdullah pays glowing tribute to Bodh Raj Bali on his 23rd Death Anniversary

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference today paid rich tributes to senior party leader and former Minister Bodh Raj Bali on his 23rd death anniversary at a solemn function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

Party President and former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah led the floral tributes and remembered Bodh Raj Bali as a leader of rare stature who dedicated his entire life to public service.

"Bodh Raj Bali was a leader par excellence whose contribution to the development and upliftment of the people of Jammu & Kashmir remains unparalleled. His unwavering commitment to the poor, marginalized, and underprivileged will always be remembered with pride and respect," Dr. Abdullah said.

The Party President further recalled Bali's pivotal role in the establishment of Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. He also served as the Chairman of Jammu Central Cooperative Bank before becoming a Minister, dedicating himself selflessly to the service of the people throughout his public life.

"Bodh Raj Bali left an indelible mark on the party cadre through his dedication and relentless efforts in strengthening the National Conference at the grassroots level.



The best tribute we can offer him is to work for the people and make the party a vibrant force across Jammu and Kashmir," he added. Dr. Farooq Abdullah urged party workers to stay connected with the people and serve them with utmost sincerity. He asserted that the present National Conference government under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people through inclusive governance and developmental initiatives.

Earlier, Prayer of all religions was performed in memory of Late Shri Bodh Raj Bali.

The others who also paid floral tributes to Late Shri Bodh Raj Bali : Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Ajaz Jan Honble MLA Poonch Haveli, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Babu Rampal former minister, Abdul Gani Malik former minister, Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Bimla Luthra

former MLA, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President Jammu YNC, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Th. Yashu Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Ramparshotam Sharma District President Udhampur Rural, Sunil Verma District President Udhampur Urban, Rajni Devi Working Provincial President Women Wing, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU, Waris Gill President Christan Cell, Satpal Karlopiya former Corporator, Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Dr Vikas Secretary Central Zone, Rakesh Sharma Phalwan, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar, Sapna Gill, Nitish Goswami, Aattal Singh, Zamir Quersh, Asha Mehra, S. Sewak Singh, Jai Singh, Ashanand, Som Raj Taroch and others.

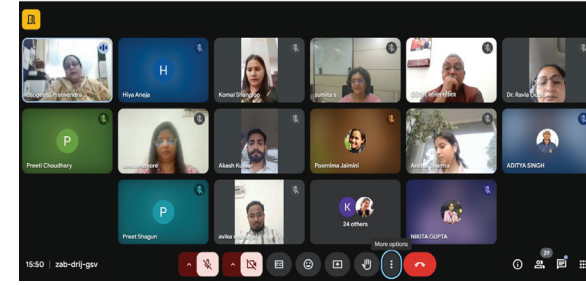
PRSI Jammu Chapter hosts webinar on 'Navigating Ethical Use of AI in the Age of Digital PR'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Jammu Chapter, organized an insightful webinar titled 'Navigating Ethical Use of AI in the Age of Digital PR' as part of the nationwide initiative to mark National Public Relations Day 2025. Bringing together communication professionals, media educators, and media students from Government College for Women, Parade, University of Jammu, IIMC Jammu, and other parts of the country, the webinar explored the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) particularly in the public relations sector, and its ethical implications. On the occasion, Dr. Ajit Pathak, National President, PRSI, released the latest edition of the official newsletter 'Harmony.'

The webinar featured two distinguished speakers—Ms. Sumita Singh, Deputy General Manager (Corporate Communication, CSR), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, and Prof. Sangeeta Pranvendra, Faculty at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.

Ms. Sumita Singh underscored the efficiency of AI in tasks ranging from drafting press releases, translating speeches to automation, and analytics, but cautioned against blind reliance. "Human



intelligence, creativity, and empathy cannot—and should not—be lost to AI," she said, posing a critical question: "Is the technology driving us—or are we driving it?" Raising concerns about privacy, copyright, misinformation, and the lack of regulatory guardrails, she stressed the urgent need for clear protocols and responsible usage. "AI remains in an experimental stage, with no defined boundaries of application or geography. The buck stops with communication professionals," she added.

Prof. Sangeeta described technology as inherently paradoxical—developed by humans yet often threatening to overpower them. "AI is now performing the jobs of different individuals, teams, agencies and platforms such as media monitoring, trend forecasting, audience targeting, and content optimization. But are we ready to handle the crises it may bring - such as those related to biases, originality and accountability? Do we have the necessary legal, societal and institutional support

in place?" she asked as she stressed the importance of maintaining human oversight, ensuring ethical AI procurement, and promoting digital literacy across the communication sector. "Transparency in AI usage is no longer optional—it is essential," she emphasized.

The webinar commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Anil Saumitra, Chairperson, PRSI Jammu Chapter, who spoke about the transformative potential of AI in communication and the evolving responsibilities of PR professionals. Dr. Ravia Gupta, Assistant Professor, IIMC Jammu and Member, PRSI Jammu, followed with the significance of National PR Day.

The session was moderated by Ms. Komal Shangglo, Joint Secretary, and Ms. Hiya Aneja, Treasurer. Mr. Opinder Sharma, Vice Chairperson, Ms. Harry Wallia, Dr. Ramiyash Bhardwaj, and Mr. Akash Kumar handled the event organization, while Dr. Preeti Choudhary, Secretary, concluded the session with a formal vote of thanks.

Shri Kaal Bhairav Dham Trust distributes educational materials to GHS Qasim Nagar, Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

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

As part of the event, the children received books and other essential learning supplies aimed at encouraging their interest in education and supporting their academic journey. Trust members emphasized that this initiative is a step towards empowering underprivileged children by providing them with the tools they need to succeed. They also assured that

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

Martyr Major Arvind Bazala BHSS RS Pura organizes inspiring IEC campaign against drug abuse

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 21

RS Pura, April 21: An impactful IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign against drug abuse was held today at Martyr Major Arvind Bazala Government Boys Higher Secondary School, RS Pura, aimed at raising awareness among students and the local community about the perils of substance abuse.

The event witnessed the esteemed presence of Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), RS Pura, Sh. Subashchander, Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO), RS Pura, Sh. Tara Chand and the former Vice Chairman of RS Pura Municipality, Sh. Kishore Sharma who graced the occasion as chief guests. The programme was held under



the dynamic chairmanship of Principal Smt. Neelam Gupta and Vice Principal Smt. Rachna Tomar.

A significant number of students, parents, and faculty members actively participated in the campaign. Representatives from various government departments, including

the Police, Medical, Rural Development, and Social Welfare Departments, were also in attendance, reflecting the collaborative spirit required to combat the growing menace of drug addiction.

The highlight of the event was an enlightening lecture by Sh. Rahul Dev

Raina, Senior Lecturer of the institution, who lucidly addressed the grave issue of drug abuse. He elaborated on the psychological and physical ill-effects of narcotic substances, early warning signs of addiction, and urged the students to pledge themselves to a drug-free life, encouraging them to "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

Adding further depth to the programme, Dharampal Sharma (Master) and Smt. Priyanka Sharma (Teacher) also delivered motivational addresses. Speakers from the participating departments provided valuable insights and reiterated the importance of early intervention, community support, and youth engagement in eradicating drug-related issues. The event was ably anchored by Smt. Kanchan Deep

Kour, Teacher, while Sh. Dheeraj Singh, Lecturer, served as the Nodal Officer, overseeing all arrangements for the programme.

The function concluded on a solemn and patriotic note with a vote of thanks delivered by Smt. Kantasmalpur, Teacher, followed by an oath-taking ceremony where students pledged to abstain from drugs, and the singing of the National Anthem. Such awareness campaigns are of paramount importance in today's time, playing a crucial role in sensitizing the youth and strengthening societal resolve to eliminate the drug menace from the roots. GHSS (Boys) RS Pura remains committed to nurturing not only academically sound but also socially responsible citizens.

Tourism boom fuelled by peace, development in Kashmir brings new opportunities for youth: Suri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 20

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri said that Jammu and Kashmir proudly celebrates the historic premiere of the film Ground Zero, starring Emraan Hashmi, in the picturesque Kashmir Valley. This landmark event marks a significant milestone in the region's resurgence as a hub for tourism, filmmaking, and cultural activities, driven by the transformative policies and programs of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Raman Suri said that for decades, Jammu and Kashmir, once a crown jewel of Indian cinema and tourism, faced the

scourge of militancy and separatism, deterring visitors and filmmakers alike. However, the last ten years have witnessed a remarkable turnaround. The Union Government's resolute measures to eradicate terrorism and separatism have restored peace and stability, creating an environment conducive to growth and prosperity. As a result, the Valley is once again resonating with the sounds of "Lights, Camera, Action!"

He said that the premiere of Ground Zero, extensively shot in the breathtaking locales of Kashmir, is a testament to this transformation. The event, held yesterday in Srinagar, not only showcases the region's scenic beauty but also sends a powerful message to the



nation and the world: Kashmir is open, vibrant, and ready to reclaim its status as a premier destination for filmmakers and tourists.

The Union Government's policies, including robust infrastructure development, promotion of new tourist destinations, and enhanced security measures, have catalyzed an unprecedented surge in tourism. In 2024,

Jammu and Kashmir welcomed over 2 crore tourists, shattering previous records and establishing the region as a year-round destination.

Raman Suri said the tourism sector, a cornerstone of the local economy, has directly benefited from high-profile events like the Ground Zero premiere, which amplify the Valley's appeal on a global stage. The government's focus on developing lesser-known destinations, coupled with initiatives like the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar in 2023, has further elevated Kashmir's profile. These efforts have created a ripple effect, generating employment opportunities and empowering local communities, particularly the youth.

The BJP executive member added that return of Bollywood to Kashmir is a significant cultural milestone. The Valley, once a favorite backdrop for iconic films, is now witnessing a revival of its cinematic legacy. The premiere of Ground Zero is just the beginning. The BJP envisions a future where Kashmir becomes a hub for film shoots, musical concerts, and other cultural extravaganzas, fostering an ecosystem that nurtures creativity and talent.

This vibrant atmosphere is paving the way for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to explore and excel in their chosen fields. From filmmaking and performing arts to hospitality and entrepreneurship, the opportunities are boundless. The Union

Government's initiatives, such as skill development programs and startup schemes, are empowering young Kashmiris to pursue their passions and contribute to the region's growth.

The BJP commends the Union Government's unwavering commitment to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a beacon of peace, progress, and prosperity. The end of militancy and separatism has unlocked the region's immense potential, and events like the Ground Zero premiere are a harbinger of a brighter future. We anticipate more such initiatives, including musical concerts, film festivals, and cultural events, that will further boost tourism and create new avenues for employment and self-expression.

GDC Vijaypur organizes Career Counseling Session for Students



J1 NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, APRIL 21

Career counseling cell, Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur successfully organized a Career Counseling Session aimed at guiding students towards informed career choices and enhancing their professional development. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students.

The session was inaugurated by the Principal of GDC Vijaypur, Prof.

(Dr.) Ashu vashisht, who emphasized the importance of career planning and the role of such initiatives in shaping the future of students. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Mamta Gupta and Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Convener and Co-convener, Career Counselling cell, GDC Vijaypur) in their address encouraged students to explore diverse career opportunities and equip themselves with the necessary skills to thrive in a competitive world.

Health Awareness and Character Building Programme organized at Naveen Shiksha Kendra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

A powerful and inspiring Health Awareness and Character Building Programme was successfully organized yesterday at Naveen Shiksha Kendra (NSK) by the Indian Yoga Association (IYA)—a nationally renowned organization dedicated to the promotion of yoga—and Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI).

NSK has long been dedicated to uplifting underprivileged children by providing quality education, books, and uniforms, especially to those from slum areas.

The programme was conducted under the able guidance of Shri Suresh Samyal (Dogra Sb), General Secretary of Swera NGO, which manages NSK



High School. The event was seamlessly coordinated by Ms. Rajni Rozi, Principal of the school.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman of IYA and President of VKMI, led an interactive and motivational session. He emphasized the importance of building a strong foundation for students based on four key pillars: Discipline, Good Conduct (Sadaachaar), Yoga, and Focus on Studies.

One of the event's most engaging highlights was a "Lead and Follow" motivational poem that resonated deeply with the students. The poem encouraged truth, honesty, discipline, and healthy habits, inspiring students to become role models of positive change:

"Let truth be the essence of my life, honesty my guiding light.

Whatever I promise, I must fulfill, lighting hearts with kindness and

will.

With discipline, my path will clear; with hard work, success draws near. Wake on time, eat and write, let a healthy body keep the mind bright.

Practice yoga every day, to feel energized in every way.

Let's walk the path that's pure and right, earning blessings in every sight.

Each student here is a precious gem, let's shine bright and be an emblem."

The event also featured the distribution of nutrition items to students and staff. This generous contribution—especially fruit juice packets—was made possible by Mr. Sanjeev Parihar, Founder President of Social Reform & Charitable Organisations, Kishtwar, in collaboration with Dabur India Ltd.

Adding further value to the programme were Mr. Yash Pal Sharma, Life Coach & Trained Yoga Teacher, and Shri Ashok Bhat, Office Secretary of the Confederation of Voluntary, Social and Charitable Organisations.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Principal Ms. Rajni Rozi, who appreciated the sincere contributions of all guests, organizers, and students.

Indian Army organizes Volleyball Tournament for Local Youth at Kesri, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI 21 APR 2025

In a continued effort to foster youth engagement and promote a healthy, active lifestyle, Indian Army at Samote organised a four-day Volleyball Tournament for local youth at Kesri Hill. The event was aimed to inspire young boys from the region to take up sports and channel their energy into positive pursuits. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams representing youth of nearby villages with high voltage matches. The event drew strong support from the local community. All participating teams were appreciated for their spirited performances and



players were felicitated for their contribution towards making the event a grand success. A total of 127 local residents attended the tournament making it a memorable and suc-

cessful event. Such positive engagement channelizes the energy of the youth in a positive direction, boosts competitive skills and resists them from falling into the traps of anti-national and anti-social elements. Youth and locals of the area expressed their sincere gratitude towards the Indian Army for conducting Volleyball Match for youth at Kesri Hill and taking this noble initiative towards effective youth engagement.

Two-day Mahapanchayat of daily wagers started at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU APR 21

Today, a two-day Mahapanchayat of daily wagers started, in which daily wagers from different departments including PHE, PWD, Forest, Safai KaramChari, 10+2 lectures and Home Guards and others are participated. On the first day of the Mahapanchayat, BJP MLA, Sh. Balwant Singh Mankotia expressed his support and stated in his speech that he understands the pain of daily wagers and stands with them. He also mentioned that during the assembly session, he and all the other MLAs of his party presented the issues of daily wagers to the government.

Mankotia said that the daily wagers who are fighting for their demands agree with every demand and request the government to pay attention to their demands.

On the occasion, Zorawar Singh Jamwal also take part this Mahapanchayat and gave extended support to JKCLUF. Jamwal said that he will always stand with JKCLUF for the cause of daily wagers. He said that political leaders should rise above party politics and pay attention to these people



because they have been demanding their rights for many years.

Tanveer Hussain (President JKCLUF) are fighting for their demands. For how many years this fight is being fought from the streets to the civil secretariat and it is hoped that now the government will do justice to us. Every political party has assured us that they are with us and every party that was in opposition and in power, our demands were the same even today. We demand from you that you understand our pain and together find a solution for us.

Our demands are:
1) Implements of Minimum Wages Act.
2) Regularization Policy.
3) The portal should be

opened again for those who have been working in the department for many years but could not get into the online process.

4) There should be a policy for over age workers and workers who die in service.

5) Pending salary should be released.

6) Implement of Safai Karamchari Act.

7) Representatives of Daily Wagers should be included in the Committee formed by the UT govt. on the issue of Daily Wagers.

8) The order of the Supreme Court which was passed on 11th March 2015 in favour of Home Guard should be implemented in JK UT. The order of CAT & High Court should be implemented, those who

have been removed without notice should be taken back.

9) Justice should be done to those who have given land to the Department.

10) DPC was held in JKPDCL in 2019 but its orders have not been implemented yet.

11) The outstanding salary should be paid and the charges for 25 days should be paid on time (Forest Department).

Those who were present this programme including Pardeep Sharma, Devinder Singh, Pawan Kumar, Imran Prary, Tariq Rasool, Subash Chander, Dhani Ram, Kamala Sharma, Dyal Singh, Rajni Jamwal and others.

Dr Farooq urges youth to embrace Sports, Education, shun growing menace of drug abuse

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former Chief Minister, today inaugurated the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament at MAM Stadium, Jammu. The tournament is being held under the theme 'Say No to Drugs' and aims to channel the energy of the youth towards constructive and healthy activities.

Organized by Tejinder Pal Singh, Provincial President of J&K Youth National Conference, the cricket tournament is part of a broader campaign to combat drug abuse among the youth of the region. In today's opening match, Majid 313 faced off against Trikuta Cricket Club in a thrilling 20-over encounter that marked the commencement of the week-long tournament, which will conclude on April 26.

While inaugurating the tournament, Dr. Farooq Abdullah interacted with the players and appreciated their enthusiasm and spirit for the game. He encouraged the young participants to stay focused on sports and education and avoid the menace of drug addiction that is increasingly



affecting the younger generation. Dr. Abdullah also appreciated the efforts of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman for his dedication and commitment to the anti-drug campaign.

On this occasion Rattan Lal Gupta Advocate Provincial President JKNC said there is a dire need to divert the energy of our youth towards sports, culture, and education. Tournaments like these play a crucial role in engaging young minds in meaningful and disciplined pursuits. He further adding that community-led efforts are key to defeating the drug menace.

Ajaz Jan Honble MLA from Poonch Haveli also said that such initiatives are essential in shaping a brighter future for the youth. He emphasized

that sports not only promote physical fitness but also instill discipline, teamwork, and a sense of purpose, which are vital in steering young minds away from drug addiction.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman informed that this cricket tournament has been organized as a significant part of an ongoing awareness campaign against drug abuse. The primary objective is to motivate young individuals to embrace a healthier lifestyle, stay away from harmful substances, and engage in constructive activities that contribute to their personal growth and well-being, he added.

The opening day saw an overwhelming response from local youth, sports enthusiasts, and community members, who hailed

the initiative as a step in the right direction.

The Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament will continue with daily matches till April 26, culminating in a grand finale and felicitation ceremony for the winning team.

Prominent among those who were present include : Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Vice President Central Zone, Nitish Goswami, Vishal Parihar, Zamir Quersh, Atal Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Gorav Bhagat, Kousar Malik, Jaseen Malik, Akhil Mehra, Raman Verma, Hameed Choudhary, Muzamil Malik and others.

CU Jammu organizes Three-Day Workshop on Molecular Biology Tools and Genome Editing

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

The Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, under the visionary leadership and patronage of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, successfully organized a comprehensive three-day workshop on "Molecular Biology Tools and Genome Editing, to enrich students' and research scholars' knowledge base and laboratory skills. The workshop witnessed active participation from various biotechnology disciplines and was a blend of theoretical lectures and intensive hands-on sessions.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session graced by Chief Guest Prof. Yashwant, Registrar, CU Jammu, Prof. Ashwini Nanda, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, CU Jammu, and Heads and Faculty from different departments of CU Jammu. The workshop co-convenor, Dr. Shelly Sehgal, CMB, introduced the chief guests to the participants.

Prof. Yashwant, Registrar, CU Jammu, highlighted the pivotal role of

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in advancing the field of molecular biology. He underscored their growing significance in addressing contemporary challenges in biomedical and agricultural research. Prof. Yashwant Singh further encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration with the Department of Computer Science to enhance the understanding and effective application of AI-driven technologies in molecular research. Prof. AK Nanda highlighted the role of hands-on training sessions in the skill development of the students and congratulated the CMB faculty and students organising the pertinent workshop.

Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Director, Centre for Molecular Biology, and convenor of the workshop, provided an overview of the three-day hands-on training session focused on molecular biology tools. The session aimed to equip participants with practical skills relevant to current biotechnological applications. He emphasised the importance of experiential learning in strengthening foundational and advanced concepts in molecular



biology. Over three days, participants engaged in a series of interactive lectures, demonstrations, and practical sessions conducted by experts from reputed institutions and research organisations. The practical component of the workshop was a major highlight, designed to offer participants real-time exposure to crucial molecular biology techniques. Key hands-on training sessions included Isolation and culturing of microbes from soil samples, Blood smear preparation and blood grouping, DNA isolation from blood and yeast samples, and quantification techniques, Gel electrophoresis and PCR techniques, Plasmid isolation and bacterial transforma-

tion, Guide RNA designing and in silico CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing strategies, Haemocytometer-based cell counting and analysis. These sessions were carefully curated to ensure participants gained practical proficiency and a better conceptual understanding of modern molecular biology tools used in research and diagnostics.

The training program witnessed enthusiastic participation from in-house scholars and various esteemed departments/institutions such as Central University of Himachal Pradesh, University of Jammu, Government Women College, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Vidai Labs, and Central University of Jammu.

The workshop was further enriched by the presence of eminent guest speakers, whose lectures provided valuable insights into cutting-edge research and emerging trends. The notable speakers included Dr. Mritunjay Suar, Professor and Director General R&D, KIIT School of Biotechnology, Bhubaneswar, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "Changing the Mindset: Creating an Innovative-Enabling Ecosystem", inspiring attendees to approach science with creativity and entrepreneurial vision, Dr. Raghuvir Singh Tomar, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, spoke on "Epigenetic and Metabolic Regulation of Cellular Copper Homeo-

stasis", shedding light on the complex molecular mechanisms governing trace element regulation, Dr. Samer Singh, Centre of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, discussed "Prospecting Plants for Antimicrobial Activity - Identifying Anti-Bacillus anthracis Activity", emphasizing the significance of plant-based bioactive in combating infectious diseases, Dr. Admas Berhnu Berisso, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Biomedical Sciences, University of New Hampshire, USA, delivered an engaging session on "Metagenomic Analysis of Heat-Distributed Soil Microbial Com-

munities", introducing participants to advanced metagenomic tools and microbial ecology.

The successful execution of the three-day hands-on training workshop was made possible through the dedicated efforts of a highly committed organizing committee that included, Convener: Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Director, CMB, Co-Organizing Secretary: Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, CMB, Co-Convenor: Dr. Praveen K. Mehta, CMB, Co-Convenor: Dr. Shelly Sehgal, CMB, Co-Convenor, Dr. Audesh Bhat, CMB, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Sudhir Singh, CMB, Workshop Coordinator, Dr. Fareeda Akhter, CMB, Workshop Co-Coordinators: Research Scholars, M.Sc. Students and the Office Supporting Staff, their collective planning, seamless coordination, and tireless commitment ensured the smooth conduct and remarkable success of the workshop. The synergy between faculty, scholars, students, and administrative staff was truly commendable and instrumental in delivering a high-impact academic experience.

The valedictory session

marked the successful culmination of the workshop, which was presided over by the Head of the Department of Botany, CU Jammu, Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Head of the Department of Zoology, CU Jammu, Dr. Ashok K Yadav. They appreciated the efforts of CMB in conducting the workshop for students. The summary of the workshop was presented by the co-convenor of the workshop, Dr. Praveen Mehta, Associate Prof., CMB, CU Jammu. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, appreciating the depth of the sessions, the quality of instruction, and the balance between theory and practice. The vote of thanks was presented by the organising secretary of the workshop, Dr. Sudhir Singh, Assistant Professor, CMB, Jammu, and thanked all the stakeholders and the university administration for their support provided. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, congratulated the CMB faculty members and Director, CMB, for organising skill-enhancing workshop for participants and encouraged them to conduct such a comprehensive workshop in the future as well.

Jasrotia inaugurates Hatli road improvement project

J NEWS SERVICE
JASROTA, APR 21

In a significant development for the Jasrota constituency, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia today kick-started the improvement and upgradation of the 12-kilometer Hatli Road, valued at Rs 25 crore. The ceremony was attended by prominent Sarpanchs from the region, including Bopinder Sharma, Dhyansingh, Dilawar Singh, Romesh Singh, Balbir Singh, Lekh Singh, Karnail Singh, and Omkar Singh. The Sarpanchs present at the ceremony expressed their gratitude to MLA Jasrotia for prioritizing the development of the Hatli Road. They acknowledged his efforts in bringing much-needed infrastructure projects to the region and pledged their support for his initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said that



project aims to enhance the connectivity and infrastructure of the Hatli Road, benefiting thousands of residents and commuters in the region. The upgraded road is expected to stimulate economic growth, facilitate trade and improve access to markets, hospitals, and other essential services. MLA Jasrotia's initiative demonstrates his commitment to public welfare and development, addressing the long-standing demands of the local community.

Jasrotia observed that improvement of Hatli road is expected to have a positive impact on the region,

including upgraded road will reduce travel time, improve road safety and enhance connectivity between villages and towns. The project will create new economic opportunities, stimulate local businesses and attract investments to the region. The upgraded road will improve access to healthcare, education and other essential services, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents, added Jasrotia.

Jasrotia maintained that inauguration of the Hatli road improvement project marks a significant milestone in the development of the Jasrota constituency.

BJP's efforts to prioritize infrastructure development and public welfare have been widely appreciated by the local community. The project is expected to bring numerous benefits to the region, improving the lives of thousands of residents and commuters, said Jasrotia.

Jasrotia reiterated that he has taken a solemn pledge to address each and every grievance of the Jasrota constituency, ensuring that every penny from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and central government-sponsored funds is utilized for the development and prosperity of the region. I am committed to listening to and resolving the grievances of the people, working tirelessly to address their concerns and improve their quality of life. He has assured that every penny from the CDF and central government-sponsored funds will be

used judiciously, prioritizing projects that benefit the maximum number of people and promote overall development in the constituency.

MLA Jasrotia's vision is to transform the Jasrota constituency into a model of development and prosperity, providing opportunities for growth and progress to its residents. He has emphasized the importance of a people-centric approach, ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the local community are at the forefront of his development initiatives. MLA Rajiv Jasrotia's pledge to address grievances and utilize funds effectively for development has been welcomed by the people of Jasrota constituency. His commitment to transparency, accountability, and people-centric governance has brought positive change and prosperity to the region.

DPS Jammu choir wins 1st prize at Dogri Sur Sarvshresta Tara competition



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 21

In a proud moment for Delhi Public School Jammu, the school's talented choir students secured 1st Prize along with a cash award of 5100 at the Dogri Sur Sarvshresta Tara Competition held today at MAM College, Jammu. The prestigious event was organized by the Senior Citizen Support Service Club, Village Chowadi, Jammu, a unit of Lajwanti Medical Trust, with the aim of preserving

and promoting Dogri language and culture through musical expression.

The competition saw participation from 12 reputed schools across the region, including Jammu Sanskriti Kathua, Ved Niketan, Dogra Academy, Model Academy, Perfect Foundation Secondary School, Siras Higher Secondary School, Sanskriti School Jammu, K.V Nagrota, Govt Higher Secondary School, IDPS Sunjwani, and DPS Jammu. The DPS Jammu choir team showcased exceptional talent

and cultural authenticity, earning high praise from the panel of distinguished judges: Yash Paul Yash (renowned writer and composer), Prof. R.D. Sharma (Retired HOD, Commerce Department, University of Jammu), Sudheer Mahajan, and Captain Lalit Sharma. The choir was trained and prepared by Ms. Mukti Oberoi, and accompanied by Mr. Anil Baru, both of whom played a pivotal role in guiding the students toward this achievement.

HDFC Bank Parivartan to empower 1,000 villages with access to clean, renewable energy solutions by 2025

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

As the world marks Earth Day 2025, HDFC Bank reaffirms its commitment to sustainable progress by announcing a significant milestone under its flagship CSR initiative, Parivartan. The Bank will enable access to clean and renewable energy solutions to over 1,000 villages across India by 2025—empowering rural and semi-urban communities through innovative solar-powered infrastructure, awareness, and local partnerships.

The Bank's work in renewable energy aligns with this year's Earth Day theme, Our Power, Our Planet, which calls for global acceleration of clean energy adoption. Under its pillar of Natural Resource Management, HDFC Bank Parivartan has installed over 61,655 solar streetlights across 22 states.

It has also launched a range of solar initiatives that are enhancing rural life—from street safety to drinking water, farming, food processing and livelihood enhancement.

Recognising that infrastructure alone is not enough, HDFC Bank has developed Solar Shiksha, an awareness initiative designed to demystify solar energy adoption in semi-urban India. Solar Shiksha addresses the lack of awareness, process barriers, and myths that often prevent adoption. The programme provides crucial education and practical demonstrations as well as information on government schemes and subsidies. By delivering educational materials in multiple regional languages, the program ensures accessibility and understanding across diverse communities.

To date, over 90 awareness workshops

have been held across states such as Goa, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh—impacting over 3,000 individuals across 450+ communities. The programme reaches schools, public hospitals, orphanages, farming groups and old-age homes—places where solar can directly improve quality of life. It promotes the adoption of a wide range of solar solutions, including solar pumps, panels, cookers, stoves, streetlights, and water heaters.

Speaking about its initiatives, Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy Managing Director, HDFC Bank, "At HDFC Bank, we believe that the path to a sustainable future lies in inclusive development. Our solar energy initiatives under Parivartan are designed to bring real, measurable change—lighting up streets and

homes, while also creating opportunities. By focusing on awareness, innovation, and community ownership, we are investing in a future that is equitable, resilient and green. On Earth Day, we reaffirm our commitment to scaling up such impactful models across India."

"We recognise that the democratisation of solar energy goes further than technological deployment," said Nusrat Pathan, Head - Corporate Social Responsibility at HDFC Bank. "Our commitment extends beyond infrastructure development, focusing on the creation of a knowledge-driven framework that enables long-term, community-led energy independence."

Some innovative solar projects include portable solar pumps for efficient irrigation, solar-powered piped water supply systems, solar-powered

food processing units that boost local economies, and solar heaters in homestays to enhance tourism income sustainably. These projects showcase the versatility and transformative potential of solar energy in diverse applications across the country.

In the extreme climate of Ladakh, the Bank is supporting climate-adaptive solutions like passive solar greenhouses, solar-heated homestays, and apricot processing units powered by solar dryers. These interventions are improving food security and boosting incomes in high-altitude, remote communities.

HDFC Bank Parivartan remains dedicated to building inclusive, resilient communities. On this Earth Day, the Bank invites all stakeholders to come together and unlock the full potential of Our Power, Our Planet.

Indian Army organizes Quami Ekta Meet for Local Youth at Adbes, Reasi



J NEWS SERVICE
REASI, 21 APR 2025

The Indian Army organised a Quami Ekta Meet for Local Youth at Adbes, Reasi. During the event local panchayat members, religious leaders and eminent personalities from the area were invited. The event saw positive

exchange of opinions and ideas amongst the participants towards security aspects and inculcating the spirit of religious harmony. Total of 14 civilians from various walks of life from areas of Adbes and nearby villages participated. The event also provided them with a platform to interact and

put forth ideas for development in the area and instil sense of security and confidence. The initiative would increase awareness about responsibility of every villager towards maintaining peace and security in the region and also strengthen connect between the Indian Army and Awam.

IIM Jammu inaugurates Eighth Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 21

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated the eighth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on 21st April 2025 at its permanent campus, Nyaya Classroom, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. Organized under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, this initiative reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and leadership development. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu graced the Inaugural Ceremony.

This unique residential training program, scheduled from 21st April to 25th April 2025, is designed to cultivate leadership capabilities among educators at various levels, creating a pool of potential leaders ready to drive generational transitions. Delivered by IIM Jammu's faculty, the program aims to help institutions

enhance their leadership potential. Participants introduced themselves and shared their reflections on the program, discussing their experiences and expectations. Present on the occasion were Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE &C), IIM Jammu, Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Program Director and Dr. Kapil Gumte, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed the participants and highlighted that the program, organized under the aegis of Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, is aimed at identifying and nurturing academic leadership. He emphasized that the initiative is designed to equip faculty members, especially early-career professionals—with essential leadership skills, fostering a pool of future-ready academic leaders and a positive institutional culture. He noted that the program serves as a valuable platform for peer learning, collaboration, and long-term professional networking. Stressing that



educational leadership is rooted in continuous learning and self-development, he described teaching as a professional endeavor.

He underscored the importance of staying updated, moving beyond textbooks, and integrating emerging technologies. He encouraged participants to view tools like AI as opportunities to enhance critical thinking and classroom engagement. Highlighting the strength of case-based teaching—a cornerstone of IIM pedagogy—he spoke on its effectiveness in driving interactive, discussion-led learning. He reiterated for a symbiotic teacher-student relationship, where mutual influence creates a dynamic and positive

classroom environment. Emphasizing discipline in academia, he urged educators to be well-prepared, punctual, and consistent in delivery to earn students' respect. Reflecting on his transition from industry to academia, he shared that while the academic profession requires full commitment, it offers unmatched fulfillment and purpose. He encouraged participants to cultivate engaging learning spaces, commit to ongoing improvement, and actively contribute to enriching the teaching-learning ecosystem.

Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, EE &C, IIM Jammu, highlighted the program's focus on leadership development, real-

life challenges, and team building. He also provided an overview of Executive Education and Consultancy and IIM Jammu's journey. He emphasized the Institute's commitment to fostering collaborative learning environments that encourage active participation and experiential learning.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Program Director, IIM Jammu welcomed everyone and provided a brief introduction to the program. He outlined the objectives of the five-day program, emphasizing its focus on equipping faculty with essential leadership skills to enhance their academic journeys and foster impactful learning environments.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Kapil Gumte, Program Director, IIM Jammu followed by the national anthem. The eight-batch comprised of 18 participants from institutes across India and is fully funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The curriculum is structured into four key themes: leadership, communication, skill development, and recent government initiatives. Over five days, participants will engage in lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises, ensuring the active application of concepts. Following the inaugural ceremony, participants toured the institute's campus, gaining insights into its state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program aligns with the Malaviya Mission's vision of empowering educators and leaders to shape India's educational landscape, reinforcing IIM Jammu's position as a hub for leadership and innovation. The event was coordinated and executed by Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu

Airtel announces new features in its continued fight against SPAM

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21, 2025

Following the launch of its AI powered spam detection tool that flagged over 27.5 Billion calls as SPAM to its customers, Airtel today announced the introduction of two significant enhancements aimed at staying ahead of spammers.

Customers will now receive SPAM alerts for calls and SMS messages in their preferred Indian languages. This new feature will be available in ten vernacular languages, with plans to add more in the future. Airtel's AI-powered tool will now screen and alert customers to all SPAM calls and SMSes originating from international networks.

Once Airtel intensified its efforts to combat domestic spam calls, spammers resorted to exploiting foreign networks to funnel fraudulent calls into India. This alarming trend resulted in a 12% increase in overseas spam calls in the last six months. Airtel expects to nullify this growing challenge with its new feature.

Commenting on the initiative, Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said: "Customers and their feedback are at the heart of everything we do. After carefully analysing customer feedback, we have enhanced our solutions to better serve the linguistic diversity of India. Additionally, with the growing volume of SPAM traffic shifting to foreign networks, we have decided to expand our AI-powered tool to scan all SMS messages and phone calls originating from international numbers. Our dedicated team of engineers and



data scientists will continue to refine and enhance our offerings, ensuring we stay ahead of any and all emerging threats."

The upgraded AI-driven SPAM solution will now notify users about calls and messages from both domestic and international numbers in ten Indian languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Punjabi and Urdu. SPAM alert notifications using vernacular languages are only accessible to customers using Android devices. All these features continue to be free for customers and will get auto activated for all Airtel customers without them having to raise a service request.

Airtel's innovative, industry-first anti-SPAM tool, launched in September 2024, has been a game-changer for its customers, providing substantial relief from unwanted communications. According to Airtel, it has identified 27.5 billion calls until date, which translates to an impressive 1560 spam calls every second. Since its launch in September 2024, Airtel customers have also seen a 16% decrease in SPAM calls.

JMC DC South inspects Boria Basti Shelter Home, reviews welfare schemes

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

In line with the directions of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand today visited the Shelter Home at Boria Basti, Bahu, Jammu to review its functioning and assess the facilities being provided to the inmates there and interact with the inmates.

The visit was marked by the presence of Retired Judge and former Member of the J&K Public Service Commission, Subash Gupta, along with members of the Shelter Home's management committee.

During the visit, Deputy Commissioner (South) along with other dignitaries conducted a thorough inspection of the shelter and reviewed the arrangements made for the comfortable stay and well-being of its inmates. They interacted with the inmates and assured them that all necessary amenities would be provided to ensure a comfortable living environment.

During the review, several important issues were discussed, including the regular provision of ration, timely payment of electricity tariffs, monthly disbursement of staff wages, clearance of the access road to the Shelter Home, and the engagement of additional manpower to ensure cleanliness and sanitation in and around the premises.

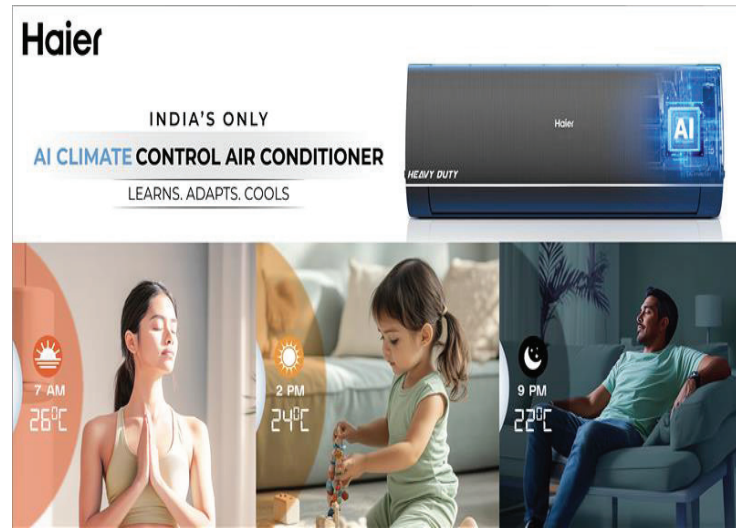
As per the directions of Commissioner JMC, all necessary measures have been put in place for smooth functioning of the Shelter Home, DC (S) maintained.

Haier India launches Gravity Series: India's Only AI Climate Control Air Conditioners with Fabric Finish

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 APRIL

Haier Appliances India, the No.1 global major appliances brand for 16 consecutive years, has unveiled the highly anticipated Gravity Series of air conditioners. As India's only AI Climate Control Air Conditioners with fabric finish, these innovative ACs seamlessly integrate intelligent cooling technology with fabric finish, setting new standard for modern home climate solutions. The Gravity Series is available in seven stunning color variants—Morning Mist, Moon Stone Grey, Midnight Dream, Galaxy Slate, Aqua Blue, Cotton Candy, and White—offering unmatched cooling efficiency while adding a premium touch to contemporary interiors.

Haier's Gravity Series AC features AI Climate Control, which intelligently adapts to user preferences for optimized comfort without manual adjustments. The AI Climate Assistant learns usage habits and fine-tunes settings in real time, while AI Electricity Monitoring



tracks power consumption in real time, helping you manage and control your electricity bills. Powered by cloud-based server and advanced AI ECO functionality, it continuously adjusts to maintain the ideal balance of comfort and efficiency while minimizing energy wastage. Unlike traditional ACs, this intelligent system minimizes manual adjustments and delivers a seamless and personalised cooling experience.

Haier has seamlessly blended art and intelligence in the Gravity Series

by integrating a fabric design with cutting-edge AI Climate Control Technology that complements modern home aesthetics. This fusion ensures that artistic expression and smart functionality work in perfect harmony. The Gravity Series is more than just a cooling solution—it is a statement piece that enhances the ambiance of modern homes while delivering superior comfort, energy efficiency, and an elevated home experience.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances

India, said, "At Haier India, we are committed to delivering products that seamlessly integrate innovation with lifestyle. The new Gravity Series is a reflection of this vision—an air conditioner that is as stylish as it is intelligent. With India's only AI Climate Control, this series redefines personalized comfort while ensuring energy efficiency. Built at our state-of-the-art Indian manufacturing facilities, this range is a true embodiment of our 'Make in India, Made for India' commitment—crafted specifically to meet the evolving needs of Indian consumers and climates."

The Haier Gravity Series 5-Star AI Climate Control Air Conditioner range is available starting at INR 51,990 and can be purchased through the Haier

website, leading e-commerce platforms, all major electronics stores and retail outlets across India.

Haier Gravity Series is Available in 7 Models:
HSU19G-MZAIM5BN-INV in Morning Mist | HSU19G-MZAIS5BN-INV in Moon Stone Grey | HSU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Galaxy Slate | HSU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Midnight Dream | HSU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Aqua Blue | HSU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Cotton Candy | HSU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in White.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES, SIDHRA, JAMMU

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the unemployed youth/interested persons of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir who intend to establish Fish Culture units under "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana" (PMMSY, 2024-2025) during the year 2025-26. Applicants can also apply for any feasible component(s)/units under PMMSY scheme (subject to availability of units) along with the approved units for 2024-25. The details of approved units are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Component	No. of units	SC Category	Unit Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Subsidy Component
1	Establishment of Biofloc unit	2	2	7.50	60% unit cost for SC category & 40% for Gen Category
2	Construction of Carp Unit	1	1	1.85	
3	Estab. Of Medium RAS unit	1	1	20.00	
4	Estab. Of Small RAS unit	1	1	7.50	

The applications complete in all respects may be submitted in the office of undersigned up to **15th of May 2025**. No application will be entertained after the expiry of the scheduled date.

Sd/-
Assistant Director Fisheries
Jammu

No.:- ADF/J/2025-2026/55-58
Dated:- 17/04/2025.

DIP/J-465/25
Date: 21-4-25

Ph.no. 0191-2458456
Fax no. 0191-2458465

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Jammu
Near Nehru Market Ware House Jammu

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, particularly AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) beneficiaries of Jammu Division, that additional foodgrains shall be provided free of cost to eligible AAY households from April 2025 onwards as per Government Order No. 25-JK(FCS&CA) of 2025 dated 02.04.2025, issued by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jammu.

The said provision is being made to augment the monthly food requirements of AAY households under the Public Distribution System. The additional allocation of free foodgrains shall be made as per the number of eligible family members in each AAY household. The entitlement is detailed below:

No. of Beneficiaries in AAY Household	Present Entitlement (in Kgs)	Additional Free food grains to be allowed (in Kgs)
1	35	0
2	35	0
3	35	0
4	35	5
5	35	15
6	35	25
7	35	35
8	35	45
9	35	55
10	35	65
Above 10	35	As per rationale above

All eligible beneficiaries are requested to contact their respective Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers to avail the additional quota of foodgrains as per their entitlement.

This initiative is aimed at strengthening food security and ensuring welfare of the most vulnerable households.

Sd/-
Director
FCS&CA Department
Jammu

No: 204/G/1071-1076
Dated: 19/04/2025

DIP/J-464/25
Date: 21-4-25

Dr. Vikas Sharma of SKUAST-J delivers lead lecture on cancer research in National Symposium, Meerut University

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

Dr. Vikas Sharma, S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Sharma and Pushplata Sharma, R/o Sector No. 3, Channi Himmat, Jammu highlighted the use of minor fruits from Jammu region in the management of cancer through lead lecture via power point presentation of his research paper entitled "Minor fruits of kandli belt of Jammu possesses in vitro anticancer potential against human cancer cells of breast, colon, lung and pancreatic origin". Dr. Sharma was speaking in National Symposium on "Next Generation Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock Farming: An Integration for Sustainable Development Goals (NGA-25)" organized by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology (SVPUAT), Meerut and Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences



(SIDAVES) at SVPUAT, Modipuram, Meerut, U.P. The National Symposium was attended by more than 200 delegates from different State across the country. Dr. Vikas Sharma also 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 by Padma Shri Dr. Vijai Singh, a renowned Plant Breeder of India at 3rd Annual Convention

of SIDAVES, 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.

Working as Professor in the Division of Biochemistry, FBSC., SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Sharma has guided 10 Ph.D and 07 MSc. students as a Major Advisor, he has published 119 popular articles in leading newspapers and magazines to aware the general public about medicinal use of Jammu botanicals and 80 full length research papers in refereed journals of National and International and International and International. He is doing research on bioprospection of medicinal plants from the last 08 years.

Cantabile launches its two new stores in Jammu

Wide range of men's, women's and children's clothing as well as accessories

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 21

Cantabile Retail India Limited, India's leading apparel manufacturer and retailer, has acquired Residency Road and Ponds. It has further strengthened its strong presence in Jammu by launching its two latest stores in Tillo. Opposite J&K Government Arts Emporium, Residency Road, Jammu, 1130 sq. feet area on ground floor. Spread over an area of 2580 sq. ft. on Talab Tillo Main Road, Opposite SBI Bank, these stores cater to the evolving fashion needs of the growing urban population. Since, Cantabile is already a menswear exclusive at Residency Road and running Women's & Kidswear exclusive stores, has now launched a new exclusive Men's & Accessories store with a fresh look and feel to enhance the ultimate customer experience. However, the Talab Tillo outlet has been designed as a family-wear store, offering stylish clothing options for every member of the household.

Commenting on these two new stores in Jammu, Deepak Bansal, Director, Cantabile Retail India Limited said- "We are excited to open a menswear and accessories outlet at Residency Road and Talab Tillo. We are pleased to expand our presence in Jammu by adding a family-wear store and launching two more outlets. Cantabile has received immense appreciation from customers in the mid-premium segment. A strong across India With presence, we are committed to further expand our retail business in the coming years. "This expansion reflects Cantabile's continued dedication to providing a better shopping experience and making modern fashion accessible across India." It is noteworthy that Cantabile Retail India Limited has shaped the fashion landscape since its inception in 2000. As a leading company in the clothing industry, Cantabile has produced a wide range of apparels for men and women. Contains a great collection of apparels as well as for kids. Over the past 24 glorious years,



Cantabile has evolved into India's leading family apparel brand, introducing menswear in 2000, womenswear in 2007 and a children's line in 2018. Innovation The company's commitment to 2023 continues with the launch of athleisure wear and shoes, complementing its diverse portfolio that includes shirts, trousers, denim, suits, blazers, jackets and more. Garments Moving forward, the company has also forayed into accessories from perfumes to wallets, ensuring a holistic shopping experience. Cantabile's products are available on Mantra, Ajio, Flipkart, Amazon, Nykaa and TataClick. You can also view the company's offerings directly on Cantabilishop.com.

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GGs College Principal Dr. Uppal conferred Global Peace Ambassador Award 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GIDDERBAHA (PB), APRIL 21

The Mahatma Gandhi Peace Foundation, a premier organization devoted to the global promotion of Gandhian philosophy, has conferred the prestigious Global Peace Ambassador Award 2025 upon Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, an eminent economist, visionary academician, and leading social reformer. This distinguished honor recognizes Dr. Uppal's exceptional efforts in propagating the ideals of peace, non-violence, and humanitarian values, both nationally and internationally. Currently serving as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha (Punjab), Dr. Uppal is internationally acclaimed for his pioneering contributions to banking,



finance, education, and rural development. Over the course of his illustrious career, he has remained a staunch advocate of inclusive growth, ethical leadership, and sustainable development – all hallmarks of Mahatma Gandhi's timeless philosophy. Dr. Uppal has consistently promoted the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi through both academic and social channels. Dr. Uppal has translated Gandhian thought into action-oriented solutions

that respond to the socio-economic issues of the 21st century. The Global Peace Ambassador Award 2025 is a testament to Dr. Uppal's lifelong dedication to the promotion of peace, ethical governance, and societal well-being. The Mahatma Gandhi Peace Foundation commended his efforts to integrate academic excellence with humanitarian action, positioning him as a global thought leader and a true custodian of Gandhian values. Dr. Uppal joins an esteemed group of global change makers whose work aligns with the vision of a peaceful and just world order, as envisioned by the Mahatma. His contributions continue to inspire students, researchers, policymakers, and citizens committed to building a society founded on ethical leadership, compassion, and inclusive progress.

Dr Rajeev Bhagat assesses Crop Loss in Vill Deoli after devastating fire

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BISHNAH, APRIL 21

In a display of immediate concern and solidarity, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, undertook an urgent visit to village Deoli today. The visit was prompted by a devastating fire incident that had ravaged approximately 35 to 40 acres of standing crops, inflicting substantial losses upon the local farming community.

The fire, which broke out under circumstances yet to be fully determined, swept through the fields, consuming the hard-earned produce of numerous farmers. The affected individuals included Arjun Singh, Prem Singh, Ram Pal, Yash Pal, Dr. JP Sharma, Sewa Ram, Subash Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Sat Pal, Sambhu Parshad, Sushma Devi, Chuni Lal, Pritam Lal, Charan Dass, Bishan Dass, and many others.

Upon reaching the village, Dr. Bhagat was met with scenes of desolation. The farmers, visibly distressed, recounted the harrowing experience of witnessing their livelihoods go up in flames.

Dr. Bhagat, demonstrating empathy and a keen understanding of the farmers' plight, patiently listened to their grievances and concerns. He acknowledged the immense hardship they were facing and offered words of solace, assuring them that they were not alone in their time of need.

The loss suffered by our farmers is deeply distressing," Dr. Bhagat stated during his interaction with the affected individuals.



"Their hard work and dedication, which sustain our community, have been dealt a severe blow. It is our duty to stand by them and provide all possible assistance to help them recover from this calamity."

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Dr. Bhagat immediately issued instructions to the revenue authorities to conduct a thorough assessment of the damage. He emphasized the need for a swift and accurate appraisal of the losses incurred by each farmer, ensuring that they receive appropriate compensation.

He further assured the farmers that he would personally follow up on their cases and ensure that they receive all the support they are entitled to. He also promised to take up the matter with higher authorities to seek additional relief measures, if required.

The farmers expressed their gratitude to Dr. Bhagat for his prompt response and his empa-

thetic approach. They appreciated his willingness to listen to their concerns and his commitment to providing them with assistance. The incident has highlighted the vulnerability of the farming community to unforeseen calamities. It underscores the need for robust disaster management mechanisms and comprehensive crop insurance schemes to protect farmers from such devastating losses.

The visit by Dr. Bhagat has not only provided immediate relief to the affected farmers but also instilled a sense of hope and reassurance. His actions have reaffirmed the importance of responsive governance and the crucial role of elected representatives in addressing the needs of their constituents, especially during times of crisis. The villagers are now waiting for the promised revenue assessment, and are hopeful that the compensation will be delivered as quickly as possible.

Chairman DLSA Samba chaired UTRC meeting



Samba, April 21 : District Legal Services Authority, Samba as per the directions of National Legal Services Authority conducted 2nd Under-Trial Review Committee meeting as per Schedule launched by National Legal Services Authority on 21st of April, 2024 for conducting UTRC meeting for the year 2025. The main objective of launch of this Schedule by NALSA is to enhance the efficacy and impact of the UTRC meetings by establishing a fixed quarterly schedule for UTRC meetings for the year 2025.

The meeting was chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman DLSA, Samba Sh. Ravinder Nath Wattal with the members of Under-Trial Review Committee

(UTRC) Samba. In the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Samba for consideration. The Committee considered 11 cases of UTPs/Prisoners out of which 1 Case was recommended for release.

The meeting was attended by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Samba, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba. Besides these the Superintendents of District Jail Kathua, District Jail Jammu and Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal Jammu also joined the meeting through Virtual mode and also Legal Aid Defense Counsels attended the meeting.

CDPO Gandhi Nagar organizes POSHAN PAKHWADA - 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

CDPO Gandhinagar organizes Poshan Pakhwada 2025 awareness programme. Joint Director Poshan J&K, Vinod Behnal was Chief Guest at the occasion.

Event was attended by various beneficiaries of Anganwadi Centres-Pregnant Ladies, Nursing Mothers, children (3-6 years) alongwith Sanginis, Sahayikas and Supervisors of POSHAN project Gandhinagar.

Awareness was generated through medium of cultural programme based on 4 themes of POSHAN PAKHWADA 2025 which are-

- 1) First 1000 days of child
- 2) Popularization of Beneficiary module of POSHAN Tracker
- 3) Community sensitisation of Malnutrition protocol
- 4) Addressing Childhood Obesity

Joint Director POSHAN addressed beneficiaries and field functionaries on successful implementation of goals of POSHAN Abhiyan Jan Andolan

CDPO Gandhinagar addressed participants about the role of Community mobilization as well as community participation, for successful achievements of goals of POSHAN Abhiyan State Coordinator POSHAN Tracker J&K, Mr Ankush Sharma graced the occasion.

He sensitized Anganwadi workers on the theme of Popularization of Beneficiary module of POSHAN Tracker.

Event marked enthusiastic participation by Beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN as well as field functionaries

Event concluded with distribution of POSHAN kits to beneficiaries and presenting of Certificates of Appreciation to Sanginis by Joint Director POSHAN J&K.

GCW Udhampur celebrates World Creativity & Innovation Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 21,

The World Creativity & Innovation Day was celebrated in Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur here on today by the Institution Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

The World Creativity & Innovation Day is a day dedicated to the spirit of creativity, progress, and transformation.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania motivated the students to think differently and come up with innovative ideas.

The session started with a welcome address by Dr.

Preeti Dubey, Convenor IIC. She encouraged the students to enhance their skill to be self-dependent. The aim of the event was to imbibe the spirit of bringing change among students, who are the future innovators. She emphasised the students to keep ignited the spark within them to think beyond boundaries, to collaborate, to create, and most importantly, to believe.

Ms. Oshseen, who is the owner of Oshseen Obsession and also an alumna of the college was invited to share her motivating story in the path from a student to a business owner. She emphasised on attained some skill and dedicat-

edly working on the path to achieve success.

The event was made successful by the support of the members of the Institution's Innovation Council(IIC) Prof. Rachna Bharti, Prof. Yash Paul, Prof. Pardeep Singh, Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj, Dr. Sarabjeet Kour Sudan, Prof. Parwinder Kaur.

The committee members are dedicated to support student ideas to make way from the idea to entrepreneurship. Principal appreciated the committee members and encouraged to conduct such events frequently to nurture the idea of Atam Nirbhar Bharat. The event ended by vote of thanks by Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj.

Naka laid near PCS Gandhinagar to restrict overloading of school going children

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 27

Continuing the planned enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with traffic laws and safety standards, today i.e on 21.04.2025, the Team RTO Jammu comprising of ARTO Tara Mani Sharma, MVI S. Jasbir Singh and MVI Surinder Kumar under the direction of Transport Commis-

sioner JKUT Vishesh Paul Mahajan and able guidance of RTO Jammu S. Jasmeet Singh laid down special naka near Presentation Convent School Gandhinagar Jammu to restrict the overloading of school going children and to obey the traffic rules by the driver's. Nearly 52 vehicles carrying school going children were checked out of which 18 were fined for various offences.

Health and Wellness Camp organized under Poshan Pakhwada at GDC Ramgarh

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 21

The NSS Unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare Samba, SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba, and Shakti Udhgosh Foundation, successfully organized a Health and Wellness Camp and a Yoga Session on the College Xapus as part of the ongoing Poshan Pakhwada initiative. The event was supported by the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, and aimed at spreading awareness about health, nutrition, and well-being.

As part of the health camp, free health check-ups including blood pressure, blood sugar and hemoglobin tests were



conducted by the medical team headed by Vinay Sharma, Paramedical officer.

The participants were also provided with free Ayurvedic medicines for common ailments, immunity boosting, and menstrual health. The Department of Social Welfare, Samba, felicitated the resource persons from AYUSH with mementos as a token of appreciation for their valuable contribution. Additionally, sanitary napkins were distributed to girl students by the Social Welfare Department, promoting menstrual hygiene awareness.

The programme was held under the guidance and support of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol and attended by Dr. Ruchi Thakur, District Mission Coordinator of SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba Mansi Abrol and Ritika Banotra, Gender Specialists.

The entire event was coordinated by Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS Nodal Officer, with support from faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, and

Anjali Jagmeet Kaur, a student of Semester VI, conducted the proceedings of the event.

The resource person, Dr. Mona Prashar Sharma and Dr. Roopsi Gupta, both Medical Officers from the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, delivered an informative lecture on Healthy Lifestyle Practices and Adolescent Health Issues in Girls, focusing on the importance of balanced nutrition, mental well-being, hygiene, and early detection of health concerns.

A rejuvenating Yoga Session was also conducted by Rajni Bala, Yoga Instructor, Directorate of AYUSH, where participants were guided through a series of yoga postures and breathing exercises aimed at reducing stress, improving focus and promoting overall health.

KVK Kulgam organizes Awareness/ Input distribution programme under TSP

J I NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 21

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kulgam in collaboration with TSP ICAR organized awareness cum input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan

300 tribal farmers of villages Devsar, Kund, Tangmarg and Yarikhah received 150 q of high yielding SKUAST-K released varieties of potato and Maize seed.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, was chief guest on the occasion, stressing the need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of seeds.

Explaining about the benefits of the potato and maize, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the varieties are climate resis-



less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions.

She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to

facilitate the farming community in the valley.

Prof. & Head KVK Kulgam, Manzoor A Ganai and Prof Javadi A Mugloo Head KVK Pulwama briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVKs in faci-

tating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/ awareness programmes.

They encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming. Scientists and technical staff of KVK Kulgam also attended the said awareness programme.

The programme was marked by interactive sessions, showcasing of farming practices, and a strong emphasis on promoting entrepreneurship in the agricultural and allied sectors.

Samba celebrates 7th Poshan Pakhwada with renewed commitment to child nutrition, health

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 21

The District Administration Samba today marked a significant milestone in its fight against malnutrition by organizing a high-impact celebration of the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada 2025. The event, held at the District Administrative Complex, brought together key stakeholders dedicated to improving nutritional outcomes across the district.

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the Chief Guest. Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Champa Devi attended as Special Guest, highlighting the administration's commitment to nutrition at the highest levels.

The District Programme

Office Poshan Project, under the expert guidance of DPO Dr. Subash Chander coordinated the event with support from Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs). The celebration saw enthusiastic participation from ICDS Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, and community beneficiaries from across the district.

This year's Poshan Pakhwada emphasized four critical areas that align with national nutrition goals.

First 1000 Days Initiative: Recognizing the crucial window of opportunity for child development, the program highlighted interventions targeting pregnant women, lactating mothers, and infants up to two years of age.

Digital Empowerment: The event showcased the enhanced Beneficiary



Module in the Poshan Tracker App, demonstrating how technology is revolutionizing nutrition monitoring and service delivery.

Comprehensive Malnutrition Management: Participants received training on the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Module, strengthening the district's capacity to identify and

treat malnutrition cases.

Obesity Prevention: The celebration introduced innovative approaches to promote healthy lifestyles among children, addressing the emerging challenge of childhood obesity alongside traditional malnutrition concerns.

In his address to the gathering, the DDC emphasized that nutrition

security is fundamental to achieving the district's development goals.

"The first thousand days of a child's life lay the foundation for their entire future," stated DC Sharma. "Our administration remains committed to ensuring that every child in Samba district receives optimal nutrition during this critical period. The dedication shown by our ICDS functionaries in implementing the Poshan Abhiyaan deserves the highest praise."

The DDC particularly highlighted the role of digital tools in enhancing nutrition governance. "The Poshan Tracker App has transformed how we monitor interventions and ensure accountability. I urge all stakeholders to embrace these technologies for greater transpar-

ency and efficiency," he added.

The event featured interactive demonstrations, informational displays, and testimonials from beneficiaries who have experienced positive outcomes through the Poshan Abhiyaan interventions. Anganwadi workers shared success stories of nutritional transformation in their communities, inspiring others to adopt recommended practices.

The celebration marks the beginning of a fortnight-long campaign that will see nutrition-focused activities across all anganwadi centers in the district. These include community feedings, growth monitoring camps, cooking demonstrations using locally available nutritious ingredients, and door-to-door awareness campaigns.

DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan conferred with PM's Award for Excellence in Public Admn



J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, has been conferred the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 17th Civil Services Day, celebrated on April 21, 2025, in New Delhi.

This award is one of the highest recognitions given to civil servants in India for exemplary and innovative work in public service delivery.

Ayushi Sudan was honoured in the category 'Holistic Development of

Districts' in recognition of her outstanding contribution in implementing transformative governance initiatives in the frontier district of Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir.

Her dedicated efforts in promoting inclusive development, enhancing citizen-centric services, education and strengthening grassroots democracy have significantly improved the quality of life in the district, particularly in remote and far-flung areas.

Meanwhile locals and public representatives of district Kupwara have congratulated Ayushi Sudan for her remarkable leadership making Kupwara a standout district.

J&K gears up for National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations on April 24

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 21

In preparation for National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on April 24, 2025, Director Panchayati Raj J&K, Sham Lal chaired a meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs) to finalize the modalities for the celebrations across the Union Territory.

Emphasizing the importance of grassroots democratic Institutions, the Director directed all ACPs to ensure that every Gram Panchayat convenes a Gram Sabha on April 24 to deliberate on key local governance issues, citizen-centric schemes, and developmental achievements.

"The National Panchayati Raj Day is not just a ceremonial event but a reaffirmation of our commitment to participatory governance and inclusive development," he said.

During the meeting, Sham Lal instructed officials to place special emphasis on structured dialogues at the Gram



Sabhas, especially focusing on Water management & conservation, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

To further enhance public awareness, Panchayat Bhawans have been instructed to display details of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) members, including their role and responsibilities. The State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) and District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs) were directed to coordinate with field officials to ensure seamless event execution.

Sham Lal also stressed the need to maximize community involvement, urging the participation of ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff and local residents

in Gram Sabha proceedings.

He said a robust social media outreach must be encouraged using hashtags such as #NationalPanchayatiRajDay2025 and #GramSabha, with officials instructed to tag the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's official handles for greater visibility.

The Director directed officials to maintain detailed records of all Gram Sabha proceedings, resolutions, and certifications, which are to be uploaded on the official platform meetingonline.gov.in. A major highlight of the event will be the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's address, for which necessary arrangements are being made in Panchayats across the Union Territory.

The NPRD 2025 celebrations aim to commemorate the legacy of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment while strengthening transparency, accountability, and community development through robust participation at the grassroots level.

PM National Apprenticeship Mela held at Government ITI Udhampur



J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 21

As per the directions of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India as well as Skill Development Department J&K, Prime Minister National Apprenticeship Mela was organized today in the Government ITI Udhampur

General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch inaugurated the mela as the chief guest. Around 100 pass outs of ITIs/other Institutes and about 100 prominent Industrial establishments of Udhampur participated in the Apprenticeship Mela.

Superintendent ITI Er. Ravinder Singh Bhatti welcomed the chief guest, representatives from DIC Udhampur and other dignitaries present in the programme.

He gave a detailed account of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme and as Assistant Apprenticeship Advisor also assured to extend every type of help to Industries/Establishments and potential apprentices in the registration and contract generation.

Representatives from the Office of General Manager DIC also sought the cooperation of the industry people in making the scheme a success by involving the youth of the area in their establishments and to impart their training as per their need or requirement to set an example for others to follow. They also exhorted the students to come forward and take the benefit of the Scheme.

Fareed Ahmed Sheikh spoke in length about the Apprenticeship Scheme

and stressed upon the youth to stay away from the menace of drug abuse and contribute towards development of the Nation by getting the best skill training as per their interest.

While speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appreciated Superintendent ITI Udhampur for putting in extra efforts to promote this youth friendly scheme in Udhampur District. He called upon the industry representatives to come forward and enrol maximum students as per their requirement to make this scheme successful in the district. He also called upon the students to take maximum benefit of this "Earn while you learn Scheme".

Supervisor, ITI Udhampur Sandeep Singh presented the vote of thanks.

Jal Shakti department elevates 25 Executive Engineers as SEs

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 22

J&K Jal Shakti Department, in the wake of an administrative exigency, has ordered elevation of 25 Executive Engineers as Superintending Engineers.

As per government order numbers 94-JK (JSD) of 2025 and 100-JK (JSD) of 2025, 25 Executive Engineers have been placed as Superintending Engineers on an incharge basis to overcome the shortage of over 90% vacancies at the level of SEs. These vacancies had been severely affecting the implementation of various water supply schemes on ground.

Earlier, Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, after reviewing the human resource scenario of the department, had directed for exploring the ways and means of elevating the Executive Engineers as SEs to overcome the shortage

of senior officers.

Rana, who has been regularly reviewing HR scenario in Jal Shakti department, has issued clear instructions for timely conduct of DPCs and greater coordination between the officers of Jal Shakti and recruiting agency to fill up all the vacancies on emergent basis.

On the directions of Minister, an accountability mechanism is being put in place to ensure that officers responsible for allowing mismanagement in the cadre of engineers in Jal Shakti are held accountable.

The elevations have been ordered in relaxation of rules as an administrative exigency has enabled the department to fill up 25 critical supervisory posts. These posts were crucial to implementation of important water supply schemes including the Jal Jeevan Mission.